

School of
Architecture

Lancaster
University



Architecture

Undergraduate Degree

2025

Architecture at Lancaster

Lancaster University is one of the top universities in the UK. Building on our institutional reputation for excellence, the BA (Hons) Architecture programme was launched in 2020 and aims to be one of the UK's leading destinations for aspiring architects.

Our commitment to sustainability is the guiding principle behind our degree in architecture. Lancaster's world-leading lecturers and researchers are tackling some of the most pressing challenges in the built environment. From reducing urban pollution to developing ground-breaking building materials, we are passionate about architecture and its role in addressing major global issues such as the climate emergency.

This new course is fully up to date with the latest in architectural practice and is informed by our innovative design-led research into the future of the profession. You will find that working on live projects with real clients is integral to the course.

The Lancaster campus is an inspirational setting for studying architecture. The School of Architecture is housed in Bailrigg House, an Arts and Crafts manor house set in gardens and woodland on the edge of campus. Some of your teaching will take place in the BREEAM award-winning Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts building. You will have plenty of workshop time, including your own individual space in our purpose-built design studio.



Student work

Visit our online exhibition of student work.
www.lancaster.ac.uk/lica/degreeshow

2nd

**for Architecture
student satisfaction**
*Complete University
Guide 2025*

7th

**overall for
Architecture**
*Complete University
Guide 2025*

Your degree

The BA (Hons) Architecture programme is comprised of four main components: Design Studio, Architectural Technology, Architectural Humanities and Professional Practice.



Year 1

We will assume no prior knowledge of Architecture, but that you do share our enthusiasm and passion for the subject. Alongside lectures, seminars and workshops you will have one-to-one tutorials, plenty of opportunity for hands-on work in the studio and will get to know others on the course through project work and group work.

Architectural Design Studio 1A

One of the key skills of an architect is to be able to show clients their ideas for transforming space. In this module, you will learn digital and analogue techniques to represent architectural space and form, both measured and illustrative. You will develop hand-drawn skills for visual communication, including orthogonal drawing, and layout and annotation conventions.

Architectural Design Studio 1B

Architecture in its primary form is a mode of shelter. This Design Studio module will develop analytical survey skills, site analysis and observations, mapping the various dynamics and people relationships of a place towards a design proposal. You will explore materials and representative techniques to present both cultural and social understanding of spaces, but also their materiality and identity.

Architectural Technology

In this introduction to structural principles, materiality and tectonics, you will start to build up your knowledge of architectural technology, as well as wider infrastructure and technical elements. You will start to create building technology models and studies, and we will look at sustainable materials, passive architecture principles and lean construction.

Architectural Humanities 1

Architectural history is fascinating and we will explore the theory, culture, and design that has influenced architectural design past and present. Initially, we will look at architectural humanities principles from the first civilizations to 19th century. Later in the module, we will move on to the age of industrialisation, modernism and post-modernism discussing key moments in the late 19th and 20th century.

Summer School

In recent years, staff and students have worked together on design and build projects as part of an Architecture Summer School. The designs built have been displayed in a public exhibition that attracts the attention of architecture practices.

Opportunities such as these foster a strong collaborative approach to team work. They also provide important hands-on learning. You will get to know your tutors better and be able to freely discuss your ambitions, professional aspirations and future practice.





Year 2

Now that you have grasped the foundations and the fundamentals of Architecture, we will build up your knowledge and practical skills. Throughout this year, you will learn about and analyse contemporary architecture and emerging methods of construction and technologies.

Architectural Design Studio 2A

Competency in digital skills is essential for any practising architect. In this module we will be aiming to develop your skills in CAD, 3D modelling and rendering towards a professional level. You will learn about site and survey capture techniques, modelling, rendering and digital fabrication using industry standard software packages while also completing a design brief. This module includes a live project experience, where you will gain awareness of the participation process through design approach and explore communication skills in relation to fine arts.

Architectural Design Studio 2B

Every architect needs a sound knowledge of the building regulations for the country in which they are operating. Focusing on UK building regulations, in this module we introduce urban design principles and planning frameworks. Your project will be to create an urban masterplan, which should include consideration of social and cultural impacts. You will then take this further and focus on an urban building and specific building scheme. You will design a public building, part of which will be in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with RIBA (the Royal Institute of British Architects) for your building, design and construction process.

Advanced Technology and Professional Skills

The module will focus on contemporary construction technologies and provide an understanding of architectural technology and all the components associated with this. Active systems, energy efficiency systems and eco-technology will be some of the topics covered. The module will also provide an overview of the regulatory framework, including construction law, building regulation, contracts and administration. In addition to these professional contexts, you will learn about physical and material aspects of building elements through detailed models, which may include lighting and environment.

Architectural Humanities 2

Continuing from your first year module, we will explore a range of perspectives on contemporary architectural practice. You will be asked to think about the role of the architect, for example in relation to post-war urbanism, digitisation and smart cities. This will be brought to life through visits to sites of particular interest.

Year 3 | Final Year

Your final year is designed to expand and stretch your critical thinking through practical project work at an advanced level. You will be asked to explore the future of architectural practice and to consider new ways of designing and living.

Architectural Design Studio 3A

We will challenge you in this module! You will be asked to consider a site and a global problem and to come up with a solution. The problem is likely to be topical such as the climate emergency, work force automation, data security or the ageing population.

You will need to create a brief, present a feasibility study, and use your problem-solving skills and strategies to implement a responsive urban and architectural solution. You will be using digital and analogue media, as well as physical modelling. The activity could include responding to a competition or call for tender, consultation with residents/users, as well as site visits where appropriate. You will need to assess feasibility, using your design skills and contextual knowledge, and consider a range of strategic, functional, legal and technological issues, as well as getting into detailed technical aspects in your design. You will then present your project using a variety of media and appropriate techniques.

Architectural Design Studio 3B

In the second half of the final year Architectural Design Studio module, you will complete a major project. This forms part of the graduate portfolio that demonstrates your readiness for practice and further postgraduate study on a Master of Architecture (Part 2) qualification. This major project will present a comprehensive, fully detailed design project for a building with interior space up to 1500 sqm in size, and will cover aspects of communication, realisation and resolution with a fully integrated technology design report.

Professional Practice

Building on professional development in previous Design Studio and Architectural Technology components, this module delivers a series of lectures and seminars designed to consolidate your understanding of professional practice, in the context of the range of possibilities for architects. You will study RIBA professional publications, aspects of building regulations, planning applications, site appraisal, building control application and architectural practice management.

Architectural Humanities - Future Practice

The final Architectural Humanities module will develop and explore a specialist topic in design cultures and futures. You will explore cases from historical and contemporary points in the built environment, concerning your graduate portfolio and developing interests. This will be informed through lectures in research skills and research methods, alongside 1:1 dissertation tutoring.

Integrated Technology and Practice

In this module you will demonstrate your understanding of the regulatory compliance, contractual risks and ethical considerations that are involved in design work. You will prepare risk assessments for your own design and a report on the regulatory and professional compliance of your design. In the second part of the module, the focus is on the structural, technological and sustainable integration and resolution of your design studio work. You will produce a second report covering the strategies you have used in your design, such as sustainable approaches, construction methods, and technical and material specifications.



Degree show work by Patrick Donnelly, nominated for RIBA President's Medals 2023

Lancaster University School of Architecture

Our School of Architecture allows you to explore the future of architectural practice through experimentation and world-leading research. You will develop skills and knowledge that will enable you to be agile and ethical in your practice, and ready to meet the challenges posed by contemporary global problems such as climate emergency, work force automation, data security and the ageing population.

Our design studios and surrounding environment will provide space to reflect, debate and create. Lancaster's green campus features woodland and ponds, and is situated close to the Lake District World Heritage Site. It is a perfect location from which to investigate the global climate emergency, and to test alternate means of working and living using the apparatus of sustainable and lean construction.

We are uniquely positioned on a campus that offers gems such as the Ruskin Library, the Lancaster Environment Centre, and the new Lancaster Health Innovation Campus. On the coast nearby is the proposed second Eden Project, due to open in 2026. The School's areas of interest are framed by our unique geographic location.

The three concerns underpinning everything we do at Lancaster School of Architecture are Future Practice, Digital Crafts and the Climate Crisis.

Future Practice | Issues such as future cities and rapid urbanisation, changing societal and family structures and patterns of working, new materials and accelerating digitalisation necessitate a new kind of architectural professional, equipped to address such challenges.

Digital Crafts | Digital fabrication, agile production, rapid prototyping, disruptive technologies, advanced manufacturing, learning-by-doing and the maker movement: we teach our students about these ideas and encourage them to become future pioneers.

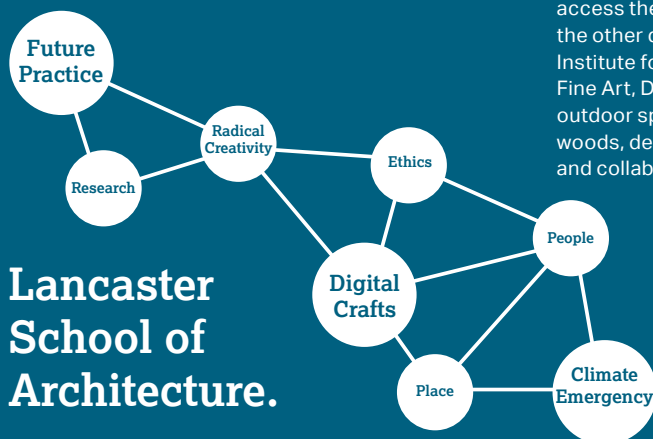
Climate Emergency | Addressing the climate crisis is an imperative. Climate change is seamlessly integrated into everything we teach and we strive for it to become utterly normalised so as to be part of our everyday conversation in studio, all the time.

Five additional themes underpin the above concerns:

- + Radical Creativity enables us to be highly creative, innovative and socially aware in our work.
- + Ethics: we are becoming a more unequal society and so applied ethics is integrated in our professional practice.
- + People are at the heart of the design process and human-centred design is part of all our teaching.
- + Place: our unique setting helps us to address issues of place, landscape and context.
- + Research: our teaching is informed by our innovative research.

Our facilities

As well as an individual working space in our studios, you will access our workshops which provide facilities for model-making at various scales, encompassing hand tools and digital fabrication equipment including 3D printers, CNC routers, and laser cutters. Digital facilities include laser scanning, visualisation equipment and large-scale printing. A new IT lab gives access to the full Adobe Creative Suite and other specialist software. In addition, you will be able to access the workshops and specialist facilities used by the other disciplines that are based in the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts (Film Studies, Fine Art, Design and Theatre). Our Forest Lab is an outdoor space to explore construction skills in the woods, delivered in the spirit of fun, exploration, and collaboration.



Lancaster
School of
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Your future career

Work placements and professional experience

We offer the option to conduct a work placement as part of your second-year module, Architectural Design Studio 2B. We also typically organise extra-curricular activities, including a summer school, competitions, exhibitions and placement opportunities. You can also take our four-year Architecture (Placement Year) degree. Whilst this placement does not qualify as part of the official requirements to become a registered architect, it remains excellent professional development.

Professional accreditation

Architecture in the UK is a regulated profession which means that you must be registered with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) to practise using the title 'architect'.

There are three main routes to registration, but typically, if you are studying in the UK, you will:

- + take a three-year full time first degree in architecture (often referred to as 'Part 1')
- + followed by a year of appropriate professional experience
- + then a two-year full time second degree or diploma in architecture (often referred to as 'Part 2')
- + followed by a further year of professional experience
- + then the Professional Practice Examination – or 'Part 3'

You would need to have all three qualifications in order to apply for registration together with a minimum of 24 months appropriate practical training experience.

Lancaster's BA (Hons) Architecture is the first stage (Part 1) of the three-stage process of professional qualification as an architect in the UK. We also deliver the postgraduate Architecture (Master of) which forms the second stage (Part 2) of professional qualification.

The BA (Hons) Architecture is accredited by the ARB (Architects Registration Board) and RIBA (the Royal Institute of British Architects). It forms the first part of the professional path to becoming an architect.



Your career

Many students continue to postgraduate study in order to continue the route to becoming a fully qualified architect. However, a range of professional careers are open to those who have completed Part 1 and these include:

- + Architectural Technician/Assistant
- + Architectural Visualisation
- + Landscape Architecture
- + Interior Architect / Spatial Design
- + Urban Designer



I did a month-long placement over summer with HPA Architects in Lancaster, supported by the University. It was an eye-opening experience to the differences between being on a course at uni and doing the job itself, but I loved it! It was such a different experience to be working on live projects, meeting clients and going to networking events. I now have an ongoing relationship with the practice and feel much more informed about what to look out for in my applications this year.

Katie Philips, BA (Hons) Architecture

Recent graduate, and founder of the University's Architecture Society

Entry requirements

Architecture	BA (Hons)	3 years	K100	AAA, plus portfolio and interview
Architecture (Placement Year)	BA (Hons)	4 years	K101	AAA, plus portfolio and interview
Architecture (Study Abroad)	BA (Hons)	4 years	K102	AAA, plus portfolio and interview

Subject entry requirements | No specific A level or BTEC subjects required. Find out more about why we value diverse subject backgrounds: www.lancaster.ac.uk/lica/architecture/a-levels

Interview and portfolio | Prior to offer, you will be invited to an interview (online or in person) where you can share your ideas via a portfolio. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/lica/architecture

Further information | For information on other entry qualifications such as BTECs and International Baccalaureate, as well as fees, scholarships and any additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

TEA Talks

Technology, Environment and Architecture


We currently run a series of informal talks on themes related to our concerns. Taking place on campus, each event includes multiple short talks. Recent topics have included Climate Emergency, Carbon Footprints, Net Zero and Passive House. Find out more and view previous talks on our website:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/lica/architecture/tea-talks



Get in touch

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Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2025-26 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2024). The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the courses as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. In exceptional circumstances that are beyond the University's reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), we may need to amend the programmes and provision advertised. However, in this event, the University will take reasonable steps to minimise the disruption to your studies. You are advised to consult our website at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. More information on limits to the University's liability can be found in the Student Contract at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms. Further legal information may be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice

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