Interview with Portfolio

If you are successful in your application to study Architecture at Lancaster University, you will be invited for an interview. Subsequent to your interview, we may make you an offer. We request that you bring a portfolio of your creative work with you for the interview. The interview itself should last no more than 30 minutes. You will be asked to bring your portfolio into the interview and talk through it. You may also be asked general questions about your application. There will be an opportunity at the end for you to ask questions about the course. Please read your interview letter carefully to understand the full events and timings of the day.

Portfolio

Your portfolio will give us an understanding not only of your representational and creative skills, but also your critical thinking. The portfolio can be any size, but should contain at least seven pieces of your own creative work (this is the minimum expected content only). The document should contain a selection of your work that you think best demonstrates both your creative skills and the way you look at the world around you.
What Should Your Portfolio Contain?

Students apply to the Lancaster School of Architecture with a variety of skills, having studied a number of different subjects: it is not always the case that applicants have studied art at A-level for example, nor is this necessary.

Work that demonstrates your ability to think in three dimensions and your ability to use different media is encouraged. We are not interested in seeing lots of drawings of buildings at the expense of any other work. If you choose to represent buildings in your portfolio it may be useful to note why you have chosen a particular building or a particular view of it.

You may wish to experiment with techniques that you have not used for some time or are, as yet, unfamiliar with. You may wish the portfolio to gather, select and critically edit the work you have produced at school, college / sixth form, or in personal projects.

If your strengths lie in a particular field, think of how you can use this in an innovative and appropriate way – for example you may not feel comfortable with drawing freehand, and want to produce a model that is then photographed in a particular way.

Remember that we will be looking at a large volume of portfolios and a distinctive approach, or work that shows a clear insight into the subject matter, will stand out.

What is vital is that all work submitted is original, i.e. it is all your own work.
Types of Work Suitable for Inclusion in Your Portfolio - Several pieces of work (minimum)

Work suitable for inclusion as part of your portfolio may include:

- Animation (still only)
- Building design and space design
- Ceramics (images of pottery, sculptural)
- Collage (digital, paper, fabric, mixed media)
- Creative writing
- Drawing (pen, pencil, charcoal of objects, buildings, people, etc)
- Fashion design (images of clothing, making of clothing)
- Film (still or short films)
- Graphic design (poster, magazine, flyer, book)
- Jewellery (design or images of finished pieces)
- Model-making and maquettes (images only)
- Painting (watercolour, oil, acrylic; figurative, abstract)
- Photography (Buildings, places, people)
- Product design (development sketches, finalised designs, prototypes)
- Screen printing
- Sketchbooks
- Sculpture (images at small or large scale; wood, metal, plastic, clay, etc.)
- Still photography (to highlight compositional skills and or observational skills)
- Textile design (2D pattern design, creation of fabrics, 2D and 3D weaving)
- Theatrical work (stage set design, lighting, costume, furniture, building)
- Typography (font design, lettering layout)

You may choose to include several pieces in just one of the formats of work listed above, or alternatively several different formats of work - this is up to you.

We ask you not to bring models and physical pieces with you to interview - please take photos of any models for inclusion in your portfolio.
Presentation of your Portfolio

Your work should be easy to look through and it should be clear what each piece is.

The size of your portfolio is at your discretion - portfolios ranging in size - from A4 sketchbooks up to AO folios - in all different types of media - paper, card, film; all are acceptable. The size, media and presentation of the portfolio is up to you. Your portfolio does not need to be contained in a folder, but you may wish to consider how you will collect your sheets together for the interview.