

# ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS

With more than 2,000 students, the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at the University of Westminster is one of the largest providers of built environment education in the country.

We engage leading practitioners in the delivery of our courses, and have developed strong links with the various professions and future employers, leading to excellent employment prospects for our students.

Our courses are highly rated by employers. Our graduates have gone on to work with world class organisations including Zaha Hadid, Wilkinson Eyre, Hopkins Architects, Foster and Partners, Make architects, and Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners.

Our architecture studios are situated at the Marylebone Campus. In the studios there is a vibrant academic and creative studio culture, our fully staffed workshops are equipped with CNC, laser cutting and rapid prototyping equipment, and the computers have a wide range of graphics and design software. The opening of our new Fabrication Laboratory Westminster in April 2015 meant a major expansion of our already extensive workshops.

A wide selection of digital equipment has been added to the University's facilities, which now range from desktop 3D printing and CNC knife cutting, to large-scale CNC routing, CNC metal milling and robot fabrication to an already extensive suite of 3D printers and laser cutters in the Fabrication Laboratory Westminster. Our students have an environment where they can learn, make models and experiments at the cutting edge of digital design and fabrication.



Architecture and the Built Environment at Westminster is ranked among the **top 150** in the world.

[Source: QS World University Rankings by Subject 2017]



# ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN MSc

The global environmental and energy challenge facing current and future generations of architects and building professionals calls for a deeper understanding of the principles of environmental design, and their effective application into architectural practice worldwide. Over the last decades, environmental design as a subject area has developed, responding to new research and experimentation, both in academia and in practice. However, buildings claiming to be environmentally conscious do not perform to the expected standards, still heavily contributing to global CO2 emissions and often providing unsatisfactory comfort conditions to occupants.

The same can be said for the existing built environment which is largely outdated and underperforming, requiring urgent implementation of effective retrofit strategies. This is due to a lack of comprehensive performance prediction and feedback protocols, which are still not common practice in architectural design.

## Course content

On this course, you will take a fresh critical look at this subject. Here you will gain the knowledge and tools to make informed design decisions based on post-occupancy feedback and performance analysis, towards a new paradigm of environmental architecture, which is environmentally and energy conscious, yet sensitive to the contextual and socio-cultural landscape we live in.

You will learn environmental design methods which relate to the various stages of architectural design. You will be able to evaluate existing buildings and design new ones following a combined bioclimatic and building occupant focused approach. In the core design modules you will follow an evidence based design approach where the acquisition of specialised software and analytical tools will be directly applied to an evaluation or design project.

This interdisciplinary and international course will provide you with skills that can be applied to diverse building typologies and global climatic, environmental and contextual issues. On completion of this course you will have a thorough understanding of the principles and methodology of environmental design and will develop critical thinking skills to challenge established practices. You will hold the knowledge and the practical tools to better understand existing buildings for retrofit and to design new ones – positively driving change in this field and moving towards a truly environmentally conscious architecture.

**Length of course:** one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September

**Location:** Central London (Marylebone)

**Faculty:** Architecture and the Built Environment

**Course fees and funding:** see course web page and [westminster.ac.uk/fees](http://westminster.ac.uk/fees)

**Entry requirements:** see page 216

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: [westminster.ac.uk/architecture-and-environmental-design-msc](http://westminster.ac.uk/architecture-and-environmental-design-msc)

The course covers both the wider contextual and sustainable approach to environmental design, and the more technical aspects of environmentally and energy conscious building design and performance. As well as taught modules, you will take design-based modules where you will apply quantitative and qualitative analysis to the study of existing built environments and to new design projects.

## Core modules

### Semester One

- Evaluation of Built Environments
- Principles of Environmental Design
- Theory and History of Environmental Design

### Semester Two

- Environmental and Energy Modelling

### Semester Two and Three

- Thesis Project

## Associated careers

This course will give you skills which can be used both in architectural practice and in environmental design consultancy. The research issues explored in your final thesis project could also lead to further research and an academic career through the path of a PhD degree in a number of related fields.



# ARCHITECTURE MA

Situated in the progressive intellectual milieu of London, the Architecture MA offers a flexible programme of study and a unique opportunity to pursue advanced postgraduate research combining high-level theoretical investigation with innovative design approaches.

The Department of Architecture provides first-class facilities such as state-of-the-art digital design/fabrication equipment and a team of lecturers and researchers deeply immersed in the very latest developments in architectural design, theory, historical research, and technology. The course is part of a suite of Masters aimed at graduates looking to further their education and enhance their employability by acquiring new knowledge and skills.

Focused on architectural research, the course also offers a firm grounding for those seeking to pursue further research and/or an academic career.

## Course content

The Architecture MA is wide-ranging and flexible course, facilitating alternative modes of study and a range of options, including the choice of either a written or design-based thesis. The programme also allows for specialism through its three designated pathways: Architecture (Cultural Identity and Globalisation); Architecture (Digital Media) and Architecture (History and Theory). Alternatively, you can also create your own pathway, under the heading Architecture MA, by selecting and combining relevant modules that meet your individual requirements.

The range of optional and specialist modules offered allows you to develop your individual learning trajectories through the in-depth study of specific subject areas, involving theoretical components as well as practical applications.

A series of theory rich modules will stimulate you to analyse current trends in architecture, design theory and practice on the basis of your research and critical judgement, and use these insights to produce high quality written work in a scholarly manner. In parallel, a set of design-oriented activities encourages you to develop your artistic, aesthetic and intellectual vision through the use of different media, in order to produce individual proposals with a high level of spatial, material and formal resolution.

**Length of course:** one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September

**Location:** Central London (Marylebone)

**Faculty:** Architecture and the Built Environment

**Course fees and funding:** see course web page and [westminster.ac.uk/fees](http://westminster.ac.uk/fees)

**Entry requirements:** see page 216

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: [westminster.ac.uk/architecture-ma](http://westminster.ac.uk/architecture-ma)

## Core modules

- Research and Positioning
- Thesis Development and Major Thesis Project

## Pathway/option modules

### Semester One

- Critical Issues in Architecture
- Programming and Computational Design
- Theories of Identity

### Semester Two

- Applied Animation
- City Cultures: Conceptual Design for Complex Cultural Contexts
- Ethnographic Ways of Knowing: Critical and Creative Explorations of Site
- Introduction to Design Computing
- Picturing London
- Site and Motion

## Associated careers

The Department of Architecture is consciously international in its educational thinking and academic links, and its graduates are amongst the most sought after anywhere in the world. The flexibility offered within the course is intended to extend your creative abilities and enhance your employability and performance as design professionals. Typical employment destinations for Architecture MA graduates include architectural practice but also other design disciplines, media and the arts. The course may also form a platform for continuing study with a career in academia or research.



## INTERIOR DESIGN MA

This course promotes a dynamic and speculative approach to the design of interior spatial environments and values research that seeks to challenge traditional methodologies.

It gives you the opportunity to pursue your particular issues of interest in interior design or specialist areas of three dimensional design, through concise and focused study.

### Course content

You will cover a range of issues, both theoretical and practical. Design modules deal with contemporary issues in a variety of interior design typologies, including retail, exhibition, gallery, performance and speculative efforts broadly described as installation.

Careful studies are made in the pursuit of a fresh approach to their design resolution, through analogous and figurative studies, as well as comparison using suitable contemporary exemplars. The thesis can be undertaken as a design project, a dissertation or a piece of research – effectively a hybrid, both a project and a written summary or theoretical proposition.



**Length of course:** one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September

**Location:** Central London (Marylebone)

**Faculty:** Architecture and the Built Environment

**Course fees and funding:** see course web page and [westminster.ac.uk/fees](http://westminster.ac.uk/fees)

**Entry requirements:** see page 216

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: [westminster.ac.uk/interior-design-ma](http://westminster.ac.uk/interior-design-ma)

### Core modules

- Decoding the Interior
- Interior Design Case Study
- Introduction to Design Computing
- Major Thesis Project
- Retail Design
- Thesis Development

### Associated careers

Former graduates from the Interior Design MA practise in a variety of areas of design. These include interior design, exhibition design, set and lighting design, retail and product design, and interior conservation, as well as multidisciplinary and traditional architectural and design practice. The MA may also form a platform for continuing study with a career in academia or research.

For students who take the course and are interested in further study, we offer suitable applicants the opportunity to study for an MPhil/PhD degree, not only through the traditional research mode, but also through a PhD by design route.

## MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (MArch) (RIBA PT II)

The MArch (Part 2) is a long-established and well-respected course that is prescribed by the ARB and validated by the RIBA to give exemption from the second stage of professional education. The emphasis of the course is on innovative design work, and on developing a caring and critical approach to the study and practice of architecture.

The course fosters diversity of choice, interpretation and approach, whether in design projects or more academic research. The former focuses on sophisticated design programmes (in formal, technical, professional or urban terms) that demand rigour and self-criticism. The latter focuses on your major dissertation, an extended piece of specialised research into architecture and its historical or theoretical contexts.

The course has three main objectives: to develop your design ability through project-based experimentation; to present an evaluation and critique of your coursework within a broad cultural context, and in light of technical, economic and legal constraints; and to promote the articulate explanation and representation of quality and value in design projects.

### Course content

The 'studio' environment is central to the teaching of architecture, and all design projects are carried out within its context.

Design Studio projects do not aim to mimic proposals in the commercial world, but to take advantage of their setting within the academic world to offer a learning vehicle, which, while informed by the world outside, allows for exploration of values, and experimentation with processes. A broad range of design projects are offered – and a broad range of responses encouraged.

The level and nature of outcomes for Design Studio Year 1 modules are intentionally different to those in Design Studio Year 2, even though students from both years work alongside each other. Alongside design is a series of seven discrete subject-led, non-studio modules (four in year one, three in year two) clustered together as 'Architectural Reflections I & II'.

**Length of course:** two years full-time, starting in September

**Location:** Central London (Marylebone)

**Faculty:** Architecture and the Built Environment

**Course fees and funding:** see course web page and [westminster.ac.uk/fees](http://westminster.ac.uk/fees)

**Entry requirements:** see page 216

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: [westminster.ac.uk/master-of-architecture-riba-part-2](http://westminster.ac.uk/master-of-architecture-riba-part-2)

### Core modules

- **Architectural Productions I** (Design and Research 1, Design and Research 2)
- **Architectural Productions II** (Design Hypothesis, Design Thesis)
- **Architectural Reflections I** (Digital Design, Critical Practices, Applied Technical Studies 1, History and Theory)
- **Architectural Reflections II** (Dissertation, Applied Technical Studies 2, Strategic Report)

### Associated careers

Most students who complete the Master of Architecture with ARB/RIBA Part 2 Exemption progress on to working in architectural offices, and, subsequent to taking the Part 3 Examination, become registered architects. Some students progress to take Masters or PhD degrees, and then go into research and/or teaching.

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills.



# ARCHITECTURE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (RIBA PART III)

This third and final adjunct of architectural education is designed to take place during the second period of mandatory practical training after the completion of the Part 2.

The course can be completed in 12 to 24 months, according to employment circumstances. Graduates of the course receive a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice in Architecture and can apply for registration with ARB, and for Chartered membership of the RIBA.

## Course content

The Diploma is the final part of an architectural student's professional training and the culmination of a minimum of seven years' education and professional development.

The content of the course and each module builds on the professional experience and knowledge that you will have gained over this period.

**Length of course:** one year part-time, starting in September

**Location:** Central London (Marylebone)

**Faculty:** Architecture and the Built Environment

**Course fees and funding:** see course web page and [westminster.ac.uk/fees](http://westminster.ac.uk/fees)

**Entry requirements:** see page 216

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: [westminster.ac.uk/architecture-pg-pte-diploma-professional-practice-riba-part-3](http://westminster.ac.uk/architecture-pg-pte-diploma-professional-practice-riba-part-3)

## Core modules

- Architectural Practice Management
- English Law, Regulations, Contracts and Procurement
- Professional Case Study
- Professional Development and Experience

## Associated careers

The Diploma in Professional Practice in Architecture is a professional qualification leading to registration as an architect with ARB and professional membership of the RIBA.

Students who have successfully completed the course have obtained senior positions or taken greater responsibility in architectural practice, developed their own architectural practice, and also gone on to work overseas. Former students have also developed specialism in construction law.

The Diploma may also form a platform for continuing study in academia and research and may lead to study for an MPhil/PhD degree.

