Key Facts Document
BA (Hons) Architecture

2025/26 Entry

UCAS Code:

K100

Length of course: 3 years full-time

Location of course: Manchester

Total Course Costs

Tuition Fees

UK and Channel Island students

Full-time fee: £9,535 for the 2025/26 academic year (subject to Parliamentary approval). Fees for subsequent academic years may increase for inflation to reflect increased costs of course delivery (up to a maximum of 10% per academic year) and/or changes in UK government regulation. Inflationary increases will be calculated by reference to RPIx (RPIx is a measure of inflation in the UK). Fee increases are subject to limits imposed by UK government regulation.

EU and non-EU international students

Full-time fee: £31,500 per year. Tuition fees will remain the same for each year of your course providing you complete it in the normal timeframe (no repeat years or breaks in study).

Additional information

A degree typically comprises 360 credits, a DipHE 240 credits, a CertHE 120 credits, and an integrated masters 480 credits. For courses that offer a placement year option that starts in September 2025, the tuition fee is £1,907 (subject to Parliamentary approval). For courses that offer a study year abroad option that starts in September 2025, the tuition fee is £1,430 (subject to Parliamentary approval). Placement Year fees and study abroad fees for subsequent academic years may increase for inflation to reflect increased costs of course delivery (up to a maximum of 10% each academic year) and/or changes in UK government regulation. Inflationary increases will be calculated by reference to RPIx (RPIx is a measure of inflation in the UK). Fee increases are subject to limits imposed by UK government regulation.

Additional Costs

Specialist Costs

Workshop and Materials

Although the units are the same for all the students, it is expected that they develop an individualised programme of study in relation to their interests, with practical investigations and developments supported by extensive machine and digital workshops, which have facilities and tools necessary for making and prototyping. General use of workshop facilities are not charged for. Materials are provided for machine and process inductions, however, further materials used when developing individual project work are not provided but are available for purchase at cost from workshop stores. Workshop and material costs are therefore variable and dependent on personal project ambitions connected directly to the size of the chosen site and the level of detail that they are exploring. Indicative cost of workshop materials £250.

IT and Digital

It is advised that students own a laptop for collating and developing written and visual research, for producing written submissions and presentations, and to facilitate flexible independent working. Subject specific CAD software is also required. Student discounts are available at most hardware vendors and software can be purchased at discounted rates:

- Indicative cost of Midrange Laptop PC: £700

- Indicative cost of High-End Laptop - £2000

- Indicative cost of Wireless Mouse - £10

- Indicative cost of External HDD storage (Backup) - £70

- Indicative cost of Cloud storage (Backup) eg. dropbox from approx. £7/month, icloud approx. £9/month

- Indicative cost of Revit - £free (student copy)

- Indicative cost of Auto CAD - £free (student copy)

- Indicative cost of Adobe Suite – £free (student copy)

- Indicative cost of Sketchup Pro - £46 per year

- Indicative cost of Rhinoceros - £160 – permanent licence (one off cost).

Specialist software and IT equipment mentioned above is available on campus in both the School of Architecture and Manchester Metropolitan University Library and is accessible remotely via our remote access systems when the buildings are closed. There are also laptops available on short term loan within the department, within the A+H Faculty and a large number available from All Saints Library to loan.

Due to the nature of the software being taught, we recommend a mid to high-end windows laptop for your studies. The MSA recommended laptop guide can be obtained by emailing ADD@mmu.ac.uk.

Print Costs

Student submissions are digital but there may be occasions were print is more suitable, especially for reviews with industry professionals. Indicative print costs – up to £500.

Compulsory Estimate: 2,400

Optional Estimate: 1,400

Placement Costs

Students may be given the opportunity to engage with a national or international study visit. There may be travel costs involved in pursuing personal lines of research, and students are encouraged to visit professional design events to inform their personal development. As such, costs will be dependent on the level and scope of each student's research activity. Indicative cost: up to £1000.

Other Costs

Students may wish to acquire good outdoor clothing, boots and other forms of protective equipment. Measuring devices, such as large tapes etc. could also be a useful part of an architecture students toolkit.

PSA (post the degree)

Through the Employability Team, students are also offered the possibility of joining the alumni community and to receive PSA (Professional Studies Advisor) support for the "year 4" or "year out" at MSA. Indicative cost: £40 per quarter.

Course Content

Year 1

Introduction

You will start with a series of small projects where you will accumulate knowledge about the body in space and the design of small enclosures for specific activities. These studio-based projects are supported by a skills programme where the essentials of drawing, modelling and software based representation are taught. History and theory is taught through lectures and seminars, and you will write reports and essays based on desktop studies and building visits. Technology learning involves the production of case studies and models to demonstrate an awareness of the materials and detailing of buildings.

Core modules

Design 1: Thinking by Making

This module introduces architectural design through a series of practically applied, theoretically grounded projects. Within each project, an iterative design approach intends to focus on communicating an architectural proposal. The emphasis of this module will be on drawing, model-making, and other means of production (collage, video, photography, etc) to foster processes that are new to you at this stage, and to build confidence and architectural aptitude within small peer groups. Formative study skills activities provide a sandpit to test and experiment before exploring their use in a summative design project.

Architectural Context

This module addresses the core knowledge of the history of architecture and offers a global perspective on the most pressing issues for the built environment, understanding that there are multiple histories and narratives, placed within socio-political contexts, attached to global histories, technological developments, and the current climate emergency.

Design 2: Shaping Concepts

The advancement of critical, inventive, and active thinking is one of the central approaches in this design studio. Each project begins with direct experience to ground concepts of architectural space, programme and material intervention in the city and incrementally builds a knowledge base, with an increasing scope for independent learning and individual response to various architecture briefs, which extend your
architectural vocabulary and introduces new architectural considerations to explore, resolve and communicate.

Architectural Production

This module introduces the ways architecture is produced from a technological, environmental and social perspective. Through a series of workshops, it introduces the

technological contexts for architectural design and develops your skills in analysis, technical design methodologies and visual representation. It will also introduce you to concepts of participatory action research and design and collaborative working practices. You will take part in MSA Live projects to identify, develop and demonstrate the application of participatory design methods and collaborative practice, using real-world situations.

Year 2

Introduction

You will build upon your design knowledge through a series of interrelated projects that develop the context for architecture as a social and cultural act as well as one that is concerned with technology. History and theory courses can be chosen as you begin to define your own path as an architect. In technology, a specific focus on the ecological and environmental aspects of the profession forms a significant part of the course.

Core modules

Design 3: Transforming Places

This module explores contemporary concerns relevant to architectural culture, within a given context with the potential for transformation. This module addresses global issues relating to architecture through the medium of a small to medium site within a local context to consolidate previously acquired skills and knowledge.

Architectural Integration

This module emphasises your own design abilities integrating technology and environment, and the ethical and moral implications related to practice, providing a holistic approach to architectural production that links technological performance with social awareness. You will deepen your knowledge and understanding of the environmental, material, and technological contexts, while increasing your cognitive understanding of the basic principles of ethical planning and building.

Design 4: Activating Places

This module gives you an opportunity to deal with issues of global concern, by adding a more overtly client and thematic overlay to tectonically-driven studies of built form. This module provides you with an opportunity to approach a site that is less constrained by physical context and invites you to explore design through alternative modes of thinking, such as spatial agency or other theoretically-driven approaches with the aim of activating a multi-layered built environment.

Architectural Ecosystems

This module expands your focus towards a pragmatic approach to architectural objects and the city, looking at networks (of people and things) that constitute the built environment and beyond, looking at the wider responsibilities of architecture within the sphere of urban studies and with a specific focus on sustainable environmental technologies (passive and active) and considers the design implications of climate emergency. It also looks at a wide range of urban artefacts and develops new methods of understanding their complexity, and the impact beyond the bounds of its own sites.

Year 3

Introduction

You will be guided to direct your own learning and, in an atelier-based system, define your own projects which are underpinned by the application of history and theory into your design studio activities. You will have a choice of history and theory courses and can select technology case studies from a given set. You will have more autonomy in Year 3 and therefore have more authority over your own work, which will give you confidence and assuredness as you prepare for the professional environment.

Core modules

Design 5: Strategy

This module empowers you to apply and demonstrate your accumulated knowledge from the previous two years, alongside knowledge gained from the other modules of BA3. It provides methodological themes and contextual lenses for you to propose a design position and proposition. You must demonstrate an awareness and response to the contemporary issues of context response and social engagement.

Architectural Positions

In this module, you have an opportunity to choose a topic of interest from a range of electives. Taught in small groups and aligned to the ongoing research interests of MSA staff, the electives are a collection of tightly-focused investigations into a specific aspect of architectural humanities. This research-led teaching is delivered through innovative methodologies and helps you foster your position in the contemporary debates.

Design 6: Resolution

This module empowers you to apply and synthesise your accumulated knowledge, creating a critical design position and proposition, and a clear endpoint for your degree. The output is a rigorously tested project, including a synthesis of spatial, structural and construction skills, showing your maturity in terms of knowledge integration, innovation, and personally driven professional-built initiatives. The module is designed to get you

ready for a close professional future and the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to develop and enhance your career readiness.

Entry Requirements and Criteria

These typical entry requirements may be subject to change for the 2025/26 academic year. Please check back for further details.

UCAS Tariff points / Grades required

GCE A-levels - grades AAA or equivalent

A mixture of science/maths and humanities/arts subjects is preferred, but not essential.

Art or Fine Art A-levels are particularly welcomed; however please note applicants with three arts-based subjects (for example Art, Graphics and 3D Design, or Art, Photography and Design and Technology) will not be considered.

General Studies is not considered.

Pearson BTEC National Extended Diploma in either Construction or Engineering – grades DDD

Pearson BTEC National Diploma in either Construction or Engineering – grades DD, in combination with A-level grade A

Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in either Construction or Engineering – grade D, in combination with A-levels grades AA

Please note, BTEC Art and Design will not be considered either on its own or in combination with A-levels

Access to Higher Education Diploma in either Humanities subject areas or Construction or Engineering - Overall 60 credits are required with 45 at Level 3 awarded at Distinction level

T level - We do not accept T Levels as entry onto this programme

Specific GCSE requirements

GCSE English Language and Mathematics at grade C or grade 4. *Equivalent qualifications may be considered*

International Baccalaureate points

36 points overall with 6, 6, 6 in higher level subjects

Portfolio

Yes

Interview

No

IELTS score required for international students

6.5, with writing 6.5 and no components below 6

Audition

No

Additional Requirements

Applicants will have to demonstrate their creative and visual awareness by the submission of a digital portfolio and a written statement (via a blog) on request. We also consider other factors, such as other educational achievements, life experience and skills on an individual basis.

Further Remarks

For further details on the digital portfolio and written statement requirements please see the MSA website.

Accreditations, Awards and Endorsements

Teaching Excellence Framework 2023-2027
https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-tef/tef-2023-ratings/ We have received an overall gold status in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), meaning we're rated as an outstanding university for our student experience.
Award

Assessment Weightings and Contact Hours

10 credits equates to 100 hours of study, which is a combination of lectures, seminars and practical sessions, and independent study. A 3 year degree qualification typically

comprises of 360 credits (120 credits per year). During the course, you are likely to be required to engage in collaborative projects, group work activities and to give presentations to your peers/tutors. Some or all of this work may be formally assessed, depending on the course you are studying. The exact composition of your study time and assessments for the course will vary according to your option choices and style of learning, but it could be:

Study

- Year 1 40% lectures, seminars or similar; 60% independent study
- Year 2 40% lectures, seminars or similar; 60% independent study
- Year 3 40% lectures, seminars or similar; 60% independent study

Assessment

- Year 1 100% coursework
- Year 2 100% coursework
- Year 3 100% coursework

Additional Information about your Course

Placement Options

Teaching Staff

Your studies are supported by a department of committed and enthusiastic teachers and researchers, experts in their chosen field.

We often link up with external professionals too, helping to enhance your learning and build valuable connections to the working world.

Details of departmental staff can be found at: http://www.msa.ac.uk/staff/

Programme Review

Our programmes undergo an annual review and major review (normally at 6 year intervals) to ensure an up-to-date curriculum supported by the latest online learning technology. For further information on when we may make changes to our programmes, please see the changes section of our Terms and Conditions at www.mmu.ac.uk/terms/changes.

Important Notice

This online prospectus provides an overview of our programmes of study and the University. We regularly update our online prospectus so that our published course information is accurate. Please check back to the online prospectus before making an application to us to access the most up to date information for your chosen course of study.

Confirmation of Regulator

The Manchester Metropolitan University is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS). The OfS is the independent regulator of higher education in England. More information on the role of the OfS and its regulatory framework can be found at officeforstudents.org.uk.

All higher education providers registered with the OfS must have a student protection plan in place. The student protection plan sets out what students can expect to happen should a course, campus, or institution close. Access our current Student Protection Plan at www.mmu.ac.uk/study/student-protection-plan.