

# FOUNDATION

BA (Hons) Architecture



**MANCHESTER SCHOOL  
OF ARCHITECTURE**

# WELCOME



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Congratulations on the results of your examinations and welcome to the Manchester School of Architecture [MSA] at The University of Manchester [UoM] and Manchester Metropolitan University [MMU]. We are really excited that you have chosen to join us in Foundation. Induction week will start on Monday 22nd September. You will need to attend three sessions in that week:

**Monday 22nd Sept  
14:00 – 15:30.** We will meet at Manchester Technology Centre (on Oxford Road, the entrance is just next door to Tesco). When you arrive, take the stairs, or lift to the 2nd floor and we will meet in Studio B. At this session you will receive information about how the course is structured, meet the other students in your year, as well as the tutors who will be teaching you throughout the year.

**Wednesday 24th Sept  
10:00 – 13:00** Venue To Be Confirmed. This will be an introduction to Academic Regulations, Studio Culture & Engagement, Future Me and an introduction to MSSA – our amazing student society. This will be in a large lecture theatre along with new BA1 students.

I am looking forward to welcoming you personally in September. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please get in touch with me using the below phone number or email. See you in September!

*~Emily*

**Thursday 25th Sept  
10:30 – 13:30** in Whitworth Hall (UoM). This will be an introduction to both Universities services, such as the libraries, Student Support, Student Union and Sport and much more! You will also get a chance to meet some MSA alumni and meet the other new students to the school.

Foundation at MSA is underpinned by a mantra that 'Architecture is for Everybody'. Your first year at Manchester School of Architecture is all about finding out what you bring with you and how you can develop your own way of working – what kind of Architect will you be?

We will focus on understanding your previous experience of 'space' and architecture, as well as your own individual outlook on the world. We want you to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding so that you can design the world you want to see.

A typical week for Foundation students will see you working in the studio on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays in a small tutor group, we will have short talks, hands on activities to help hone skills in drawing and model making as well as written and presentation projects. On all other days you will be working independently in the studio, the workshop and the city. Your time will be spent making, drawing, thinking and recording in directed sessions. We want to challenge you to be creative, and question the context of the spaces around you. Wednesday afternoons are deliberately kept free so that you can join a sports club or do some extra-curricular activities.

Try to get in the habit of carrying a small sketchbook with you to sketch and diagram as you begin to notice the details, artefacts and inhabitants of the city.

It is important to understand that you already have a vast resource of skills and knowledge within yourselves. The studio environment is one in which individual investigations and debate are as important as 'being taught'.

You will learn to use a variety of creative techniques over the year and to push the boundary of what you think constitutes architectural knowledge.

Most importantly, you should never be afraid to take risks and to go beyond what you think is 'required'.

Be prepared to work hard and to be challenged on your designs in studio sessions by working in ways which you might not understand at first. Do not be scared to think differently and to make a few mistakes along the way.

Most importantly, always remember,  
**Architecture is a Doing Word.**

# PPD

## PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This module will help you bridge the transition between School/ College and University, or if you have been out of education for some time it will act as a refresher. There will be a focus on skills such as time and workload management, confidence, referencing and writing. You will gain experience in researching past present and future issues surrounding architecture. As part of this module you will also be introduced to the discipline, profession and its wider context through placements, a study trip, talks and discussions.

# CPT

## COMMUNICATION & PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES

This module will introduce you to various methods of representation in 2D and 3D media. We will focus on techniques to assist you in communicating observations and ideas and you will be encouraged to test and try out a range of approaches. The majority of this module will focus on drawing and making by hand but it will include some training on computer software as well as learning the importance of presentation both visually and verbally.

# ACT

## ANALYSIS & CONCEPTUAL TECHNIQUES

We will introduce the design process as an iterative and non-linear practice in this module and will concentrate on decision making by testing and making. Discussions will be held on analytical methods and conceptual creation for the development of 3D form. Through a short design project you will connect representation and communication techniques with ideas and meaning. You will also get the opportunity to work with real-life clients as well as other architecture students as part of MSA LIVE.

# STUDIO

## ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STUDIO

This final module culminates your design learning, analysis and communication practices covered so far. You will be challenged to create a brief in relation to specific context for a small scale building. This will give you the opportunity to develop a final architectural proposal and presentation. We will pay attention to ergonomics, concept creation, site readings, measurement and scale through project development.

# READING & EQUIPMENT

Architectural education combines drawing, model making, test modelling, photography, film making, sketching, experimentation, computer presentations, analysis and written work which all requires a lot of equipment.

We do not suggest you buy overly expensive materials and instead experiment with found objects and recycled basics, but there are some things which are worth investing in as follows:

## ESSENTIALS FROM DAY 1:

Sketchbook (A5 or A4)  
Mechanical Pencil and leads  
Drawing Pens (0.25mm, 0.35mm, 0.7mm)  
Metric Scale Rule (1:1 1:5 1:20 1:50 1:100 1:200)  
Tracing Paper  
Tape Measure

## GOOD TO HAVE / FUTURE PURCHASES:

Adjustable Set Square  
Sketching Pencils  
Notebook  
Cartridge Paper  
Model Making Grey Card  
Scrap Card  
Model Making Glue  
Cutting Mat  
Steel Rule  
Scalpel and blades  
Suitable Waterproof Clothing  
Calculator  
Laptop - PC or MAC  
External Harddrive for Backup  
Digital Camera/ Camera Phone

**SALE**  
Student discounts  
will be available at  
many shops once  
you enrol at both  
universities and  
get your student  
cards!!



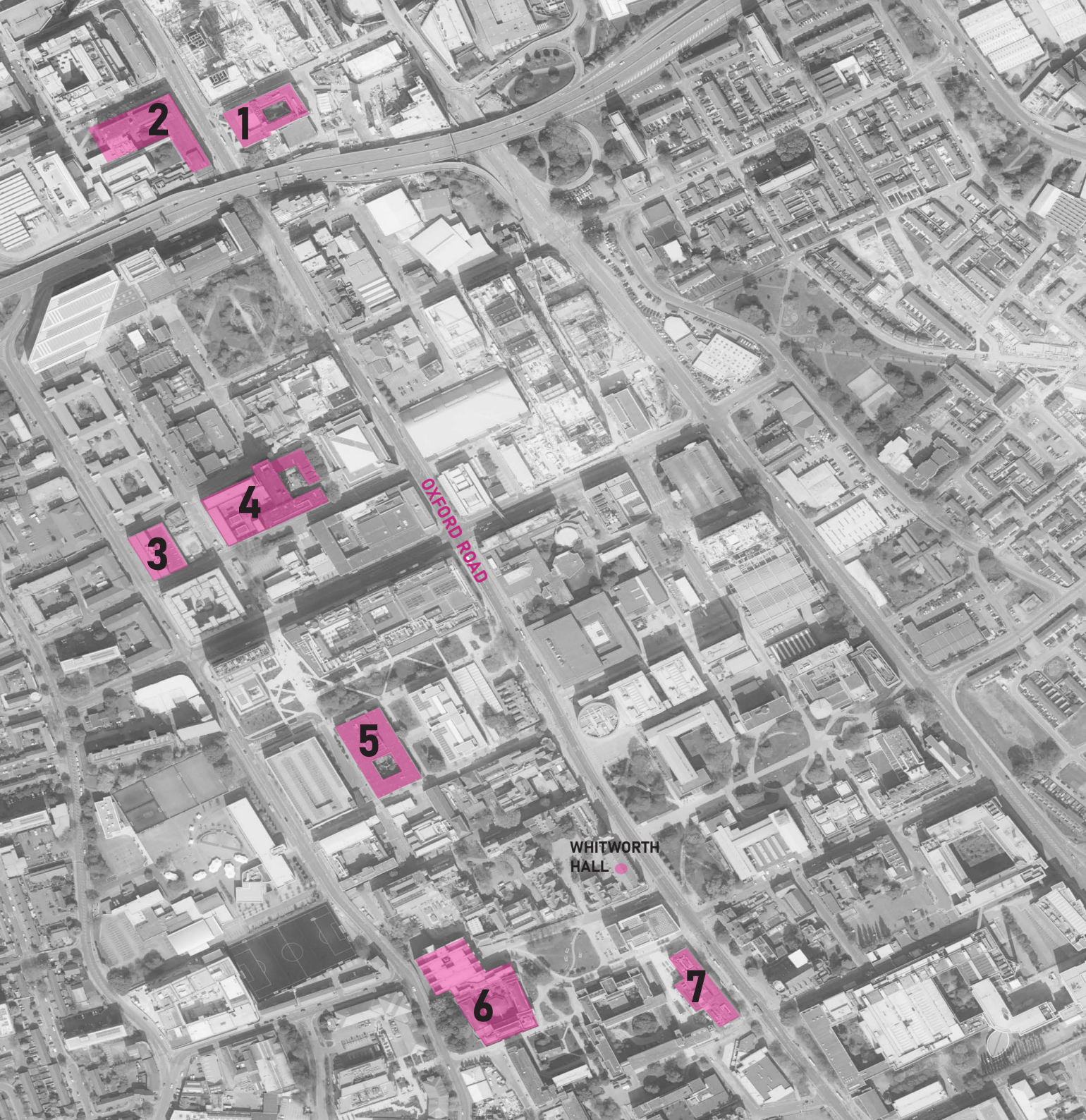
Specific reading suggestions will be provided for you along with each of your project briefs. There is no need to read these books cover to cover, but you will find them helpful for reference throughout your degree.

**Delany, M. & Gorman, A. Studio Craft & Technique for Architects.**  
**Silver, P. & McLean, W. Introduction to Architectural Technology**  
**Lewis, K. Graphic Design for Architects**

These are available as a book bundle exclusively from the BLACKWELLS in Manchester for a **discounted price**. They also offer FREE delivery!



# MCR MAP



**1 : MANCHESTER TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**  
Studios // ADD lab // Design Chats //  
MSA Gallery // Maker Space // Printers  
// Staff

**2 : MMU LIBRARY**  
Library // Books // Journals  
Magazines // Maps // Computers

**3 : MMU UNION**  
Student Union Advice Centre  
Union Shop // Art Supplies // Paper  
Pens // Paints // Modelmaking Card

**4 : LOWRY + CHATHAM BUILDING**  
Workshops // Make More store  
Computes // AV Store // Digital Lab  
Printers // Scanners  
Art Cafe // Roof Terrace

**5 : HUMANITIES BRIDGEFORD STREET**  
B.15 Workshop // Model Exhibition //  
Computers

**6 : UOM LIBRARY**  
Books // Journals // Research  
Maps // Archives // Periodicals

**7 : UOM UNION**  
Student Committee // Freshers Fair  
Debate // Support // Community

# CHECKLIST

# NOTES

- ☐ Attend Welcome Talk on Monday 22nd September in Manchester Technology Centre, Studio B
- ☐ Collect Hello Pack from Emily containing timetable, briefs, induction info etc
- ☐ Attend the Introduction to Central University Services on Wednesday 24th Sept in Whitworth Hall
- ☐ Attend the Introductory talks including info on MSSA on Thursday 25th Sept in Whitworth Hall
- ☐ Enrol and Collect University of Manchester Student Card
- ☐ Enrol and Collect Manchester Metropolitan University Student Card
- ☐ Attend MMU workshop inductions at the Chatham workshop (we will take you over!)
- ☐ Attend UoM workshop inductions in B.15, Humanities Bridgeford Street (we will take you over!)
- ☐ If you don't have one already, register with a Doctor (GP) in Manchester
- ☐ Find your closest shop and buy some food supplies
- ☐ Pick up/ buy a sketchbook
- ☐ Join the MSA Foundation WhatsApp





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*Cover photo: Paul Grogan Photography*