

CARDIFF  
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL  
CAERDYDD

# WELSH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Undergraduate  
degree programmes





Welsh School of Architecture  
Ysgol Pensaernïaeth Cymru

We hope that the diversity and richness of the Welsh School of Architecture experience is reflected in the illustrations in this brochure and we would like to thank and acknowledge the very wide range of contributors for providing the pictures.

**Welsh School of Architecture**

**Cardiff University**

Bute Building  
King Edward VII Avenue  
Cardiff CF10 3NB  
United Kingdom

**Telephone:** +44 (0)29 2087 4430

**Email:** [architectureadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:architectureadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk)

**www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture**

**linkedin.com/school/welsh-school-of-architecture-cardiff-university/**

**twitter.com/WSofArchi**

**facebook.com/welshschoolofarchitecture**

**instagram.com/WSofArchi**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some of our teaching, learning, research and services may need to change at short notice to ensure we fully adhere to the relevant government guidance. Please consult our website for details on how any changes may affect your studies in the 2022/23 academic year.

The distinctiveness of this school lies in a combination of a strong tradition of architectural education, an international reputation for research excellence, a highly diverse community of staff and students and our location in Cardiff.

Cardiff is an affordable and friendly capital city, offering easy access to other cities in the UK, as to Europe and beyond. It also offers diverse physical, social and cultural contexts that we can explore in our teaching and research.





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## Disclaimer:

This brochure will provide you with more details of our programmes. We hope that they will give you more than just a flavour of what we have to offer you. However, we are always ready to answer any questions you may have, by post, telephone or email, or when you come to Cardiff for a visit. You will find the appropriate contacts at the end of this brochure.

## Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2022/2023 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in July 2022. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website [www.cardiff.ac.uk] before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Any offer of a place to study at Cardiff University is subject to terms and conditions, which can be found on our website [www.cardiff.ac.uk/offerterms] and which you are advised to read before making an application. The terms and conditions set out, for example, when we might make changes to your chosen course or to student regulations. It is therefore important you read them, and understand them.

If you are not able to access information online please contact us:

**Email:** enquiry@cardiff.ac.uk | **Telephone:** +44 (0)29 2087 4455

**Your degree:** Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.



# Welcome



**Architecture is a fulfilling and creative pursuit. As a practice, it offers the opportunity to make the world a better place in countless ways as to have long-lasting impacts on the built environment. As a field of study at university, architecture offers the significant benefit of breadth.**

As designing buildings involves a wide knowledge base, so architectural studies incorporate elements of the arts, humanities, STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematic), and social sciences, with design often involving the creative synthesis of diverse sorts of information, understanding, context, established principles and ideas. An architectural education also develops skills in research, in formulating arguments, in defending ideas, and in aspects of professionalism and management.

At the Welsh School of Architecture, our undergraduate programmes foster the development of critical, informed, reflective and creative approaches to design. Our teaching is research-led, benefitting from the expertise of scholars who are experts in their fields and a highly diverse research base. The school has been educating architects for over a hundred years and prides itself in producing graduates who demonstrate imagination and creativity but who are also well prepared for the challenges and opportunities of practice.

While our knowledge base is broad, our endeavours are linked by a passion for architecture that enhances people's lives while also safeguarding the planet for future generations, and for addressing the major challenges of sustainable development in our times.

**PROFESSOR JULIET DAVIS** | HEAD OF SCHOOL







“Our time at the Welsh School of Architecture has been incredible. You can expect plenty of thrilling site visits, and new, extraordinary friendships with people from all over the world.”

JOE DARE | BSC ARCHITECTURE

# Introducing the Welsh School of Architecture

Established in 1920, the school has been delivering architectural education for more than a hundred years. Our distinctiveness lies in a tradition of combining creativity with the breadth of skill and understanding needed to realise designs in architectural practice, a reputation for high-quality research that informs teaching across our curricula, the calibre of our staff and our location in a friendly and liveable capital city that is a gateway to the stunning Welsh landscape.

The school has been based in the Bute Building in Cathays Park since its inception. Designed between 1911 and 1916 by Percy Thomas and Ivor Davies, this stoic neoclassical building has always been a home for design and making. Recently, it has undergone a major refurbishment to create a range of new and cutting-edge facilities for teaching and research, described in the pages that follow.

Our students and staff communities encompass diverse national, cultural and professional backgrounds, creating a dynamic and cosmopolitan environment that informs our teaching, international relationships, collaborations and engagements in multiple ways and is key to our identity and outlook.

The Welsh School of Architecture (WSA) is consistently ranked amongst the top schools of architecture in published UK and Worldwide league tables, also ranking highly in measures of research excellence.



# Undergraduate programmes

Study in one of the top-ranked schools of architecture in the UK

Accredited by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Architects’ Registration Board (ARB)

Opportunities to experience historical and contemporary precedent spaces, places and buildings through both physical and virtual tours

Design-led programme with a focus on making – two thirds of our BSc is currently based on project work in the studio

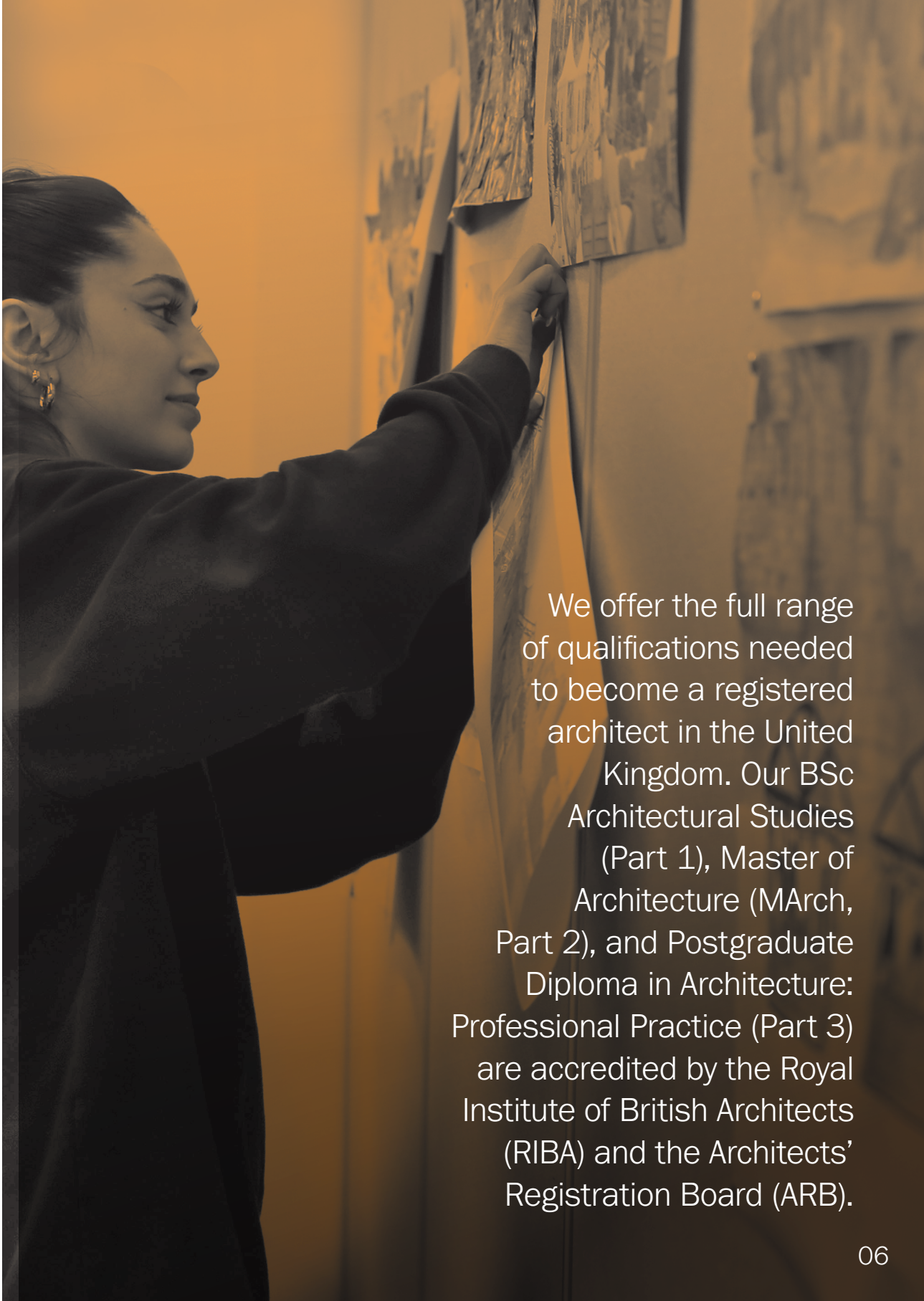
Our MArch includes a full year spent in paid employment in an architectural practice placement organised by the student

Undergraduate Programme			Graduate Programme		Postgraduate Programme	
BSc Architectural Studies			Master of Architecture (MArch)			PG Diploma in Architecture: Professional Practice
PART 1			PART 2			PART 3
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7

**We produce graduates who can address the diverse demands of practice.**

We encourage a holistic, integrated approach to design, based on a thorough understanding of how buildings are made, how they are used and their impact on the wider world, including cultural, social and physical contexts.

The majority of our graduates proceed to a career in architectural practice, and can be found in many eminent practices in the UK and across the world. Whilst most of our students go on to become architects, those who do not are prepared for careers in a variety of other creative, entrepreneurial and managerial fields because of the skills they acquire through their studies.



We offer the full range of qualifications needed to become a registered architect in the United Kingdom. Our BSc Architectural Studies (Part 1), Master of Architecture (MArch, Part 2), and Postgraduate Diploma in Architecture: Professional Practice (Part 3) are accredited by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Architects’ Registration Board (ARB).



# BSc Architectural Studies

On enrolment, the school will provide all first year students with a kit including tools and equipment we consider to be essential to you as you embark on your architectural education.



## Year one

This year is intended to build your design skills whilst fostering individual creativity. A range of projects will focus on aspects of making, generation of ideas and response to both urban and rural contexts. During this year students will have opportunities to experience historical and contemporary works of architecture through both physical and virtual tours and an international trip.



## Year two

We focus on developing your understanding of domestic and medium sized buildings and skills in the prediction of building performance combined with technical imagination. You will also have the opportunity to do a study visit to a European city.

### Year three

You will be offered a range of thematic studio units to work in for the year. You will work on one particular proposal or theme throughout the year and develop it from initial investigative and propositional work at the scale of the rural landscape, urban block or neighbourhood, to a subsequent close focus on a particular moderately complex building. You will also participate in a study visit which will allow you to reflect on your unit in an international context.

The BSc in Architectural Studies is a three-year undergraduate degree course. It satisfies Part 1 of the UK professional qualification for architects and is accredited by RIBA and ARB.



# Master of Architecture (MArch)

In the **first year** of the MArch — the year of education in practice — you will be based full-time in paid employment in an architectural practice.

Students are expected to find a suitable placement in an architectural practice themselves. Our students have an excellent record in obtaining placements and many of our past graduates have taken the opportunity of the year of education in practice to spend time in practice abroad. We maintain contact with you throughout the year, and you are required to attend three short courses held in the school and complete associated coursework.

Your **second year** is spent entirely in the school, where you will develop an advanced level of architectural design. It offers an intense and lively forum for the exploration and discussion of contemporary issues in architecture, and includes courses in building economics and professional practice. You will apply your skills and interests to a design thesis and dissertation, with support from internal and external tutors.



The MArch is a unique two-year degree scheme, taken after the BSc (or equivalent qualification from another university). It satisfies Part 2 of the UK professional qualification for architects, and is approved by RIBA and ARB.



# Our approach to teaching

After completing a degree with us, we want our students to be independent critical thinkers, equipped with the knowledge to make informed observations on design and architecture and versed in a range of design and building techniques. This is why our approach to teaching is so focused on elements of practice.

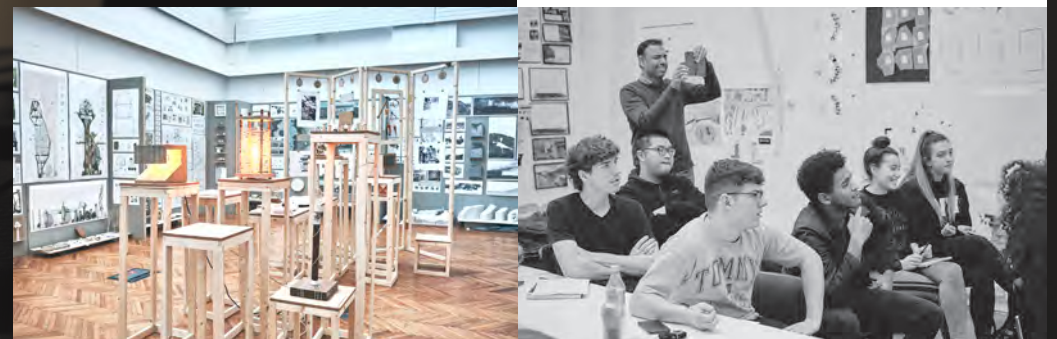
We engage external practitioners (many of them are practicing architects) and invite professionals from industry to give talks and lead studio work. This gives students a view of what modern practice is like and what issues are currently facing the industry.

As part of years one and two of the BSc Architectural Studies, our students often participate in an opportunity to split into small project groups and experiment with different themes and practical techniques.

We encourage students to see the bigger picture by looking at the context of design and the environment surrounding them. This is ingrained in regular field trips, both both physically and virtually in the UK and further afield, throughout the BSc and MArch. The school will pay for your travel and accommodation on these course-essential field trips.

At the end of each year, we organise a summer exhibition of student work in Cardiff to celebrate their progress. This ensures maximum exposure to potential employers and gives our students a sense of recognition and achievement for all their hard work.

[www.wsa-ondisplay.co.uk](http://www.wsa-ondisplay.co.uk)



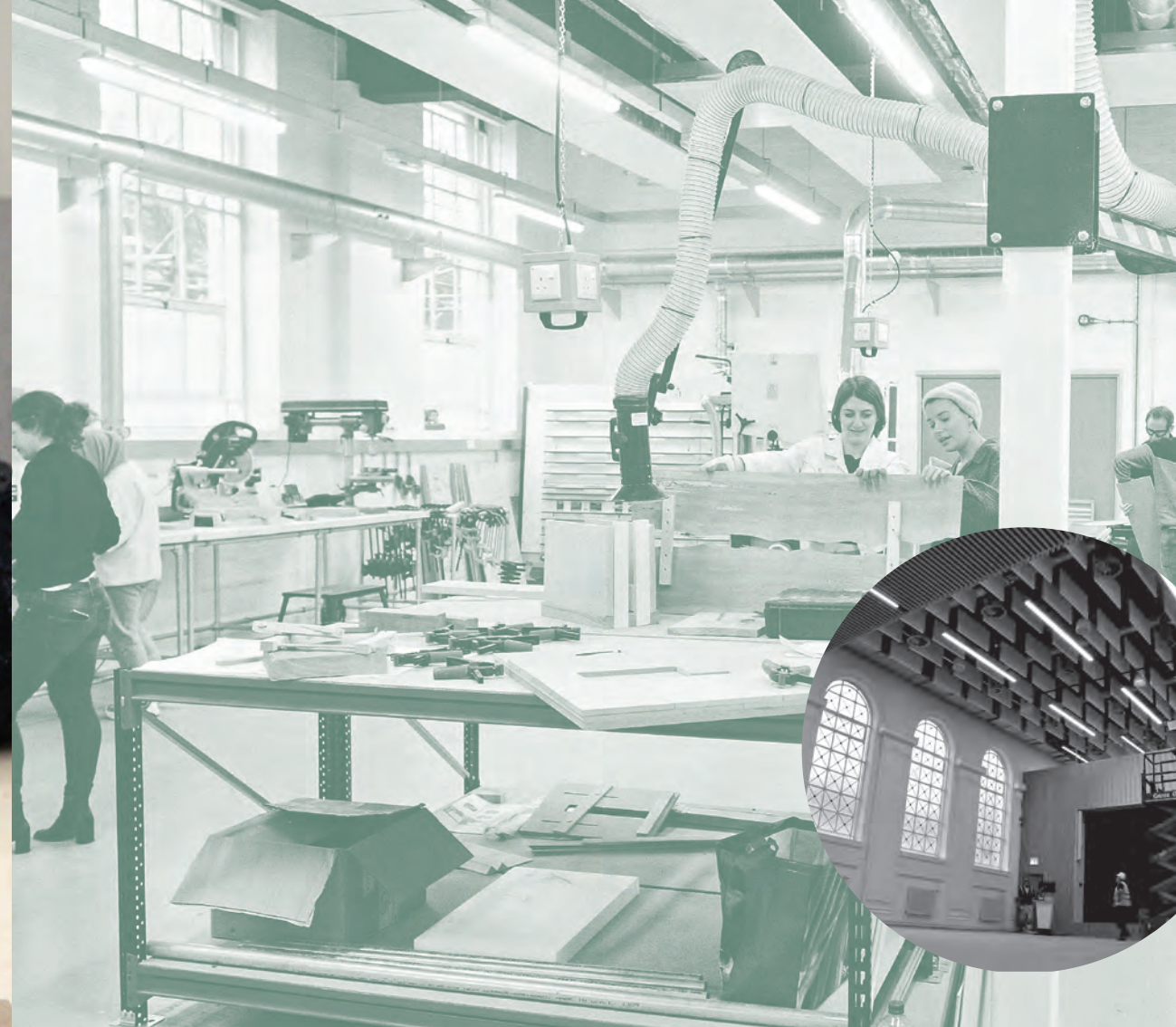




# Our facilities

**IN THE CITY CENTRE, NESTLED BETWEEN PARKS AND GREEN SPACES, STANDS THE BUTE BUILDING, HOME OF THE WELSH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE. THE MAJORITY OF OUR FACILITIES ARE HOUSED HERE, INCLUDING LECTURE SPACES, EXHIBITION GALLERIES, STUDIOS AND OTHER TEACHING SPACES.**

Making is at the heart of the school so we have extensively renovated our beautiful Grade II listed Bute Building to incorporate a wide range of cutting-edge facilities. These include: a dedicated zone for craft and digital fabrication which includes a robotic arm for students dealing with complex fabrication techniques, brand new design studios providing greater space for collaborative working along with the addition of a hybrid studio and a Living Lab.



We are fortunate to have our own **Architecture Library**, situated alongside the design studios. It has an extensive collection of teaching and research books, subscriptions to over ninety architecture and subject-related journals, a collection of building product manufacturer and suppliers' catalogues, a wide range of databases and an expanding rare books collection. The Library also provides networked computers, a wireless service for laptop users, scanning, printing and photocopying facilities.

The **design studio** is the focus of life in the school, the place for design, discussion, model-making and tuition. All students are encouraged to promote a culture of

collaborative learning and mutual criticism of project work. Studios are equipped with configurable furniture, light tables, cutting areas and networked computers all available during extended working hours. Alongside the studio, the school has a dedicated **IT suite** for teaching computer aided design and advanced visualisation techniques.

A **well-equipped workshop** provides tools and expertise necessary for student model making along with a ventilated spray booth, model testing facility and laser cutters, a robotic arm, 3D printers and CNC router.



# SAWSA

Student Association Welsh  
School of Architecture



Our school community is vibrant, welcoming and diverse and our students are engaged and enthusiastic about design. SAWSA, the Student Association at the Welsh School of Architecture, embodies this.

Every year, SAWSA organises a variety of academic and social events, including a lecture series, creative classes such as life drawing, and a film series. They also organise the annual SAWSA ball. This is a society run by design enthusiasts for design enthusiasts and is a great way to make friends when you begin your course, so make sure you sign up when you enrol.



STUDENT ASSOCIATION -  
WELSH SCHOOL  
OF ARCHITECTURE



# Cardiff – a capital city

## Dynamic. Friendly. Affordable.

Dynamic, contemporary and easy to get around, our city is an outstanding place in which to live, work and study. Full of character, heritage and ambition, Cardiff offers the best of both worlds: combining all the advantages of a compact, friendly and affordable location with the cultural and recreational facilities that you'd expect of a modern capital city.

The many thousands of students who choose to make Cardiff their home each year form part of the beating heart of the city, enhancing its rich and diverse culture. A capital city with a community feel, Cardiff is friendly, welcoming and inclusive. No matter who you are, you can be yourself here.

“The buoyant city of Cardiff has witnessed a remarkable evolution from a large town to a truly international city, with massive developments in the centre as well as on the rejuvenated waterfront. With a reputation as a party town, allied to lots of top-class sport and cultural attractions, it is one of the uk’s most enticing destinations.”

ROUGH GUIDES, 2020



## Why Cardiff University?

### World-leading research

Cardiff is in the top tier of Britain's research universities and is a member of the prestigious Russell Group. We're ranked second nationally for research impact, and in the top 5 universities for research excellence in the UK.

(REF 2021)

With a Cardiff University degree, you'll be amongst the UK's most sought-after graduates.

**96%** of our graduates were in employment and/or further study, due to a new job or course, or doing other activities, such as travelling.

(Higher Education Statistics Agency's latest Graduate Outcomes Survey 2018/19 published in 2021.)

### Teaching excellence

We have a long history of providing outstanding research-led teaching, and we're ranked in the top 40 UK universities for teaching excellence.

(Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022).

We've been awarded **seven** Queen's Anniversary Prizes, which recognise world-class excellence in UK Higher Education. We're also home to a large cohort of distinguished staff, including two Nobel Prize winners and 13 Royal Society Fellows.

### Top 3 Students' Union

Our award-winning Students' Union is consistently voted amongst the best in the UK, achieving Top 3 status in the 2020.

WhatUni Student Choice Awards.

### An international community

With over **8,500** international students from more than 130 countries, you'll be part of a vibrant community that celebrates its diverse culture.





# The University

Our students learn from leading researchers in over 300 courses across the University. As Wales' only Russell Group institution, we have gained an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research, which is built from our history of achievement since 1883.






## Find out more...

### Accommodation:

For further information please visit our website: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/residences](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/residences)

You can also watch our residences film online at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzX-dYlfb8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzX-dYlfb8)

### Students' Union:

-  [facebook.com/cardiffstudents](https://facebook.com/cardiffstudents)
-  [snapchat.com/add/cardiffstudents](https://snapchat.com/add/cardiffstudents)
-  [instagram.com/cardiffstudents](https://instagram.com/cardiffstudents)
-  [@cardiffstudents](https://twitter.com/cardiffstudents)
-  [www.youtube.com/cardiffstudents](https://www.youtube.com/cardiffstudents)

## Virtual campus tour

Discover more about the University and the city of Cardiff through our interactive online tour at:

[virtualltour.cardiff.ac.uk](http://virtualltour.cardiff.ac.uk)

**Cardiff University becomes home for approximately 5,500 new undergraduate students every year. While competition for places is strong, we pride ourselves on being an inclusive university, welcoming applications from everyone who wishes to study with us.**

We are a global university with over 8,600 international students from more than 130 countries and open our doors to all applications, irrespective of background.

### Facilities and development

Committed to investing in our services, Cardiff University is home to new and well-equipped laboratories, lecture theatres, libraries and computing facilities to name a few, with more exciting developments continuously underway. We take our environmental, safety and security responsibilities seriously, embracing our comprehensive Energy, Water and Waste Policy, which is already making great savings in energy consumption and helping us to do our bit to tackle climate change.

### Global Opportunities

We are partnered with over 300 leading institutions across the world, and our Global Opportunities team will help you to gain valuable international experience, through study, work or volunteering.

**"CARDIFF HAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST, BEST AND MOST ACTIVE STUDENTS' UNIONS IN THE UK, WITH HIGH QUALITY FACILITIES, INCLUDING Y PLAS, A 2,150 CAPACITY NIGHTCLUB; AND THE GREAT HALL, A MAJOR CONCERT VENUE."**

The Complete University Guide, 2020



### Supporting you

Our student support and wellbeing centres deliver a substantial range of services available to all students that are free, impartial, non-judgemental and confidential, aimed to help you make the most of student life and support you during your study.

We are also rated as one of the best universities for supporting LGBT+ students and are proud to be ranked highly in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index.

### A guarantee of accommodation

If you accept your offer of a place at Cardiff on a firm basis, you are guaranteed a single occupancy place in University accommodation during your first year, living with other first year undergraduate students. The residential dates for your particular accommodation will be confirmed in your Offer of Residence.

### Residence Life

While staying in Cardiff student accommodation, you will have access to the incredible service provided by the Residence Life Team who work tirelessly to enhance your student experience.

Working in partnership with Student Support and Wellbeing, the Residences Office and the Students' Union, Residence Life will welcome you to Cardiff and help you to make a smooth transition into University.

They also help foster a strong sense of community through social events and cultural activities, as well as practical support too.

### Students' Union

Our Students' Union is at the heart of the Cardiff student experience. It's a student-led and independent part of the University, dedicated to making your time with us the best it can be.

Built on the foundation of inclusion, diversity, personal development and friendship, the Students' Union runs a range of activities and services to help enhance your Cardiff University experience.

These include advice, training, skills development, entertainment, volunteering opportunities and employment throughout your time at Cardiff and to prepare you for a career after university.



# Applications

## BSc Architectural Studies

UCAS code - K100

Our typical entry requirement for admissions onto the BSc Architectural Studies is AAA/A\*AB (A-level) or AAB with an A in an Extended Qualification Project (EPQ). This grade range reflects our typical standard and contextual offers. We carefully consider your contextual data (the circumstances in which you've been studying) upon application. Eligible students applying for this course will be given an offer at the lower end of the advertised grade range.

To be considered for entry, you should apply online via the UCAS website using the 'UCAS Apply' facility. To use this facility, you need to log on to: [www.ucas.ac.uk/apply](http://www.ucas.ac.uk/apply)

The website will provide you with information on how to apply and explains the UCAS procedure.

We may ask you to submit a portfolio alongside your application. The portfolio should contain work that demonstrates your creative capacity; this could mean showcasing your skills in three-dimensional drawing, model-making, pottery or sculpture, a spatial practice through choreography, dance, filmmaking, photography or anything that captures your individuality.

For further information on portfolio requirements please visit the Welsh School of Architecture course pages: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/course/architecture-bscmarch](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/course/architecture-bscmarch)

## Master of Architecture (MArch)

We invite graduates from other universities who have at least a 2:1 RIBA accredited Part I degree (or exempted) with a strong design portfolio to apply to our MArch programme. We will consider those with a 2:2 degree who have exceptionally strong grades in design modules at degree level.

Graduates from our own BSc programme with a 2:1 degree receive an automatic offer to continue onto the MArch programme. Those with at least a 2:2 degree may still apply, and their application will be considered based on their overall academic qualifications and portfolio.

For entry directly to the MArch degree, please go to: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture/courses/undergraduate/master-of-architecture](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture/courses/undergraduate/master-of-architecture)

## Equality and diversity

We are committed to promoting equality and diversity in all of our practices and activities, including those relating to student recruitment, selection and admission.

We aim to establish an inclusive culture which welcomes and ensures equality of opportunity for applicants of all ages, ethnicities, disabilities, family structures, genders, nationalities, sexual orientations, races, religious or other beliefs, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

## Student support

Our Student Connect service is your first point of contact if you need any support while you are studying with us.

Our teams are here to help you with a huge range of enquiries and support many of the processes or services you might need while studying here. Student Connect is an easy way for you to get in touch with all the Student Life teams:

- Student Advice and Money
- Student Futures
- Student Health and Wellbeing
- Student Disability Service
- Academic Study Skills and Mentoring Team
- Student Visa Support

**We are committed to providing an outstanding student experience: online, by phone and in person. To get in touch you can:**

- visit the Student Connect team in person, on the ground floor in the Centre for Student Life
- use our online Student Connect portal
- **Email:** [studentconnect@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:studentconnect@cardiff.ac.uk)
- **Telephone:** +44 (0)29 2251 8888







## Open Day

University-wide Open Days are held throughout the year and provide the opportunity to visit all schools in addition to residences, the Students' Union and sports facilities.

For further information please visit our website at: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/opendays)

## Deferred Entry

The school has no objection to the possibility of deferred entry provided the intervening year is spent in a positive and worthwhile way. Application is made through UCAS in the usual way, although the UCAS application must show the deferred year of entry.

## Admissions Contacts

**For information on applying and enrolling on a BSc or MArch programme, please contact:**

Undergraduate Admissions  
Welsh School of Architecture  
Cardiff University  
Bute Building  
King Edward VII Avenue  
Cardiff CF10 3NB

**Tel:** +44 (0)29 2087 5963

**Email:** [architectureadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:architectureadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk)

**Web:** [www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture)

# Tuition Fees and Financial

## Assistance

The University charges an annual fee which covers all tuition fees, registration and examinations other than the re-taking of examinations by students not currently registered. Please note charges for accommodation in University residences are additional.

## Assistance

Please see the following website for more information: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees)

## Scholarships and Bursaries

For more information please visit the following website:  
[www.cardiff.ac.uk/funding-ug](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/funding-ug)

## Useful websites

**Cardiff University website:**  
[www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees)

**Student Support Centre website:**  
[www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/campus-life/facilities-and-services/student-support](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/campus-life/facilities-and-services/student-support)

**Student Finance Wales:**  
[www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

**Student Finance England:**  
[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

**Student Loans Company:**  
[www.slc.co.uk](http://www.slc.co.uk)






# Terms and conditions

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this brochure is correct at the time of going to press. However, the University does not accept any liability for any errors that it may contain, or for any subsequent changes to the University or Government policy that may affect the information given. Cardiff University expressly excludes any representations or warranties (whether expressed or implied) and all liability including direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages arising out of the use of the information on these pages, to the fullest extent possible under law.

Cardiff University is a registered charity, no. 1136855

FSC certificate 

This brochure is printed on paper sourced from sustainably managed sources using vegetable-based inks. Both the paper used in the production of this brochure and the manufacturing process are FSC® certified. The printers are also accredited to ISO14001, the internationally recognised environmental standard.

When you have finished with this brochure it can be recycled, but please consider passing it onto a friend or leaving it in your careers library for others to use. Thank you.

This document can also be made available in large print (text), Braille and on audio tape/CD.

To request an alternative format, please contact:

**Laura Roberts**

**Tel:** +44 (0)29 2087 4455

**Email:** RobertsL9@cardiff.ac.uk

To find out more about the Welsh School of Architecture please visit our website:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture)

## Enquiries

**Tel:** +44 (0)29 2087 4023

**Email:** architectureadmissions@cardiff.ac.uk

Welsh School of Architecture  
Cardiff University  
Bute Building  
King Edward VII Avenue  
Cardiff CF10 3NB

## Stay in touch

 [facebook.com/welshschoolofarchitecture](https://facebook.com/welshschoolofarchitecture)

 [@WSofArchi](https://twitter.com/WSofArchi)

