

# Welsh School of Architecture

**Undergraduate**  
Degree  
Programmes

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



Welsh School of Architecture  
Ysgol Pensaernïaeth Cymru

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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.

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**Welsh School of Architecture**

**Cardiff University**

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**twitter.com/WSofArchi**

**facebook.com/welshschoolofarchitecture**

**instagram.com/WSofArchi**

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The distinctiveness of this School lies in its tradition of harnessing creativity to design sustainable architecture and cities that enhance people's lives. We draw on the strengths of our diverse research portfolio, our high calibre staff, and our unique city centre location ...a gateway to the stunning landscape of Wales.

We're not London, we're Cardiff, a highly affordable and friendly capital city, offering easy access to diverse physical, social and cultural contexts 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 2020 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in October 2019. 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.

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# Contents

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- 01** Welcome
- 03** Introducing the Welsh School of Architecture
- 05** Our undergraduate programmes
- 07** **BSc Architectural Studies**
- 09** **Master of Architecture (MArch)**
- 11** Our approach to teaching
- 15** Our facilities
- 18** SAWSA - Our student association
- 19** Living in Cardiff
  - The City
- 20** The University
  - Student Life
  - Accommodation
  - The Students' Union
- 23** Applications
- 26** Tuition Fees and Financial

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# Welcome

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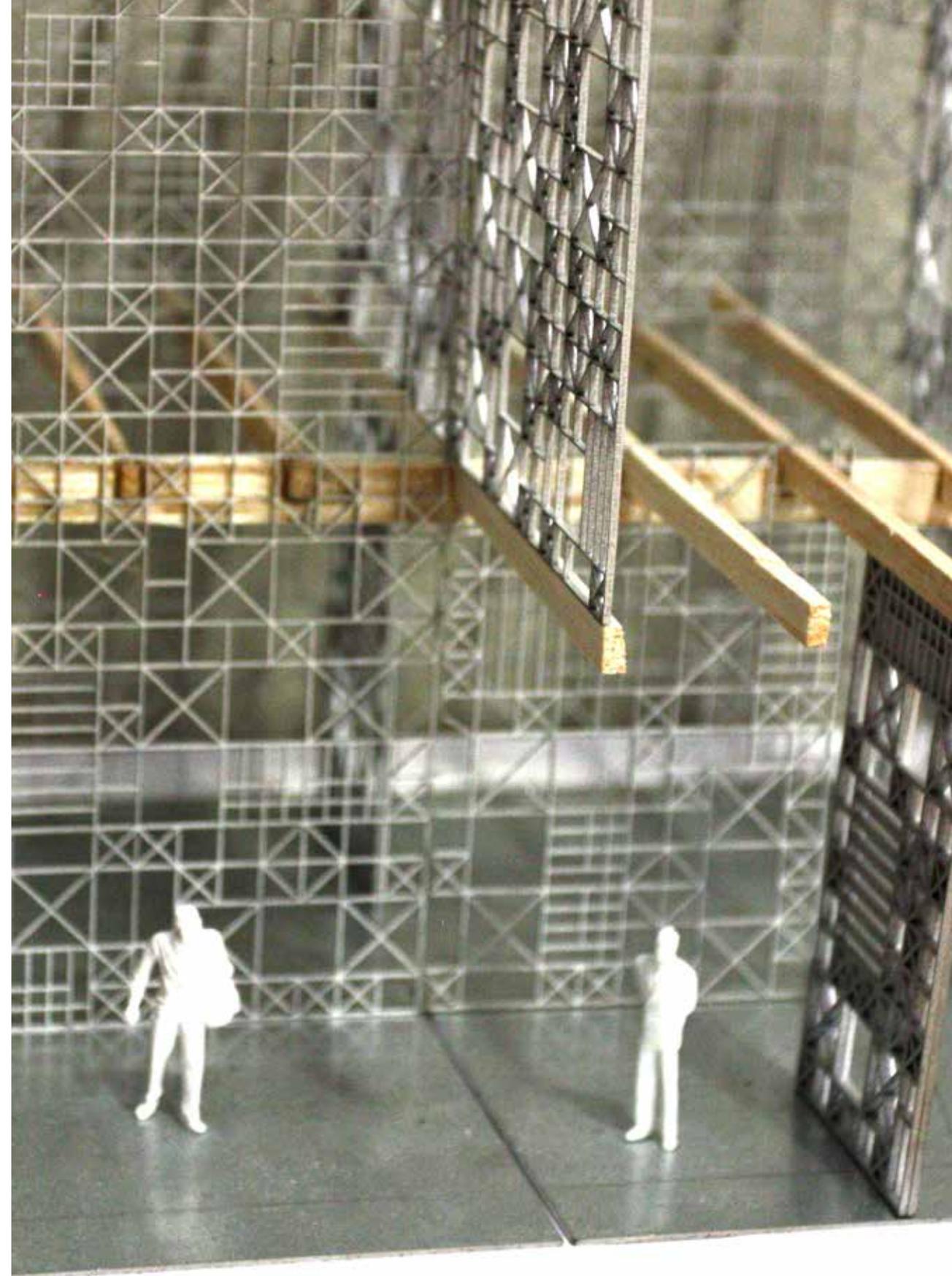
**Architecture is a rewarding pursuit. It offers opportunities for creative expression**

**that result in tangible artefacts to enhance the lives of many. It crosses disciplinary boundaries, requiring in-depth knowledge generated by rigorous research to ensure the buildings we design live up to their promise.**

The Welsh School of Architecture has been educating architects for nearly 100 years and prides itself in producing graduates who demonstrate imagination and creativity but who also know how to realise their ideas as actual buildings. This commitment to high quality design and its delivery is the basis for our belief that well-informed design makes the world a better place.

In the pages that follow you will learn more about our undergraduate programmes and our creative and practically-orientated approach to teaching, as well as an introduction to student life in Cardiff. If you would like to get a taste of what studying here might be like, please do visit us on one of our Open Days, a list of which is available on the University website.

**Professor Chris Tweed**  
Head of School



# Introducing the Welsh School of Architecture

The Welsh School of Architecture is located at the heart of Cardiff's Edwardian civic centre of buildings, close to the city centre and just over a mile from Cardiff Bay, one of Europe's major dockland redevelopments.

Established in 1920, we have a history of attracting undergraduate and graduate students from around the world who benefit from the unique experience of studying and living in the vibrant capital city of Wales.

We have productive research links with practice, industry and with universities in many other countries, and see our contribution to the cultural life of Wales, and to the dynamic city of Cardiff, as a significant part of our identity.

The distinctiveness of this School lies in its tradition of combining creativity with a focus on making, its research portfolio, the calibre of its staff and in its unique location, a gateway to the stunning landscape of Wales. We're not London, we're Cardiff, and that gives us easy access to diverse physical, social and cultural contexts we can explore in our teaching and research.

Studying with us is not an easy option. We set high standards for students and staff and expect great things from them. But we stand by the quality of our graduates and are proud of what they achieve. You will find them working around the world, and prospective employers keep coming back for more. That's the greatest reward for us.



**“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

# Undergraduate programmes

- Study in one of the top-ranked schools of architecture in the UK
- Approved by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Architects' Registration Board (ARB)
- Regular study visits in the UK and overseas, with travel and accommodation on course-essential field trips paid for by the School
- 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

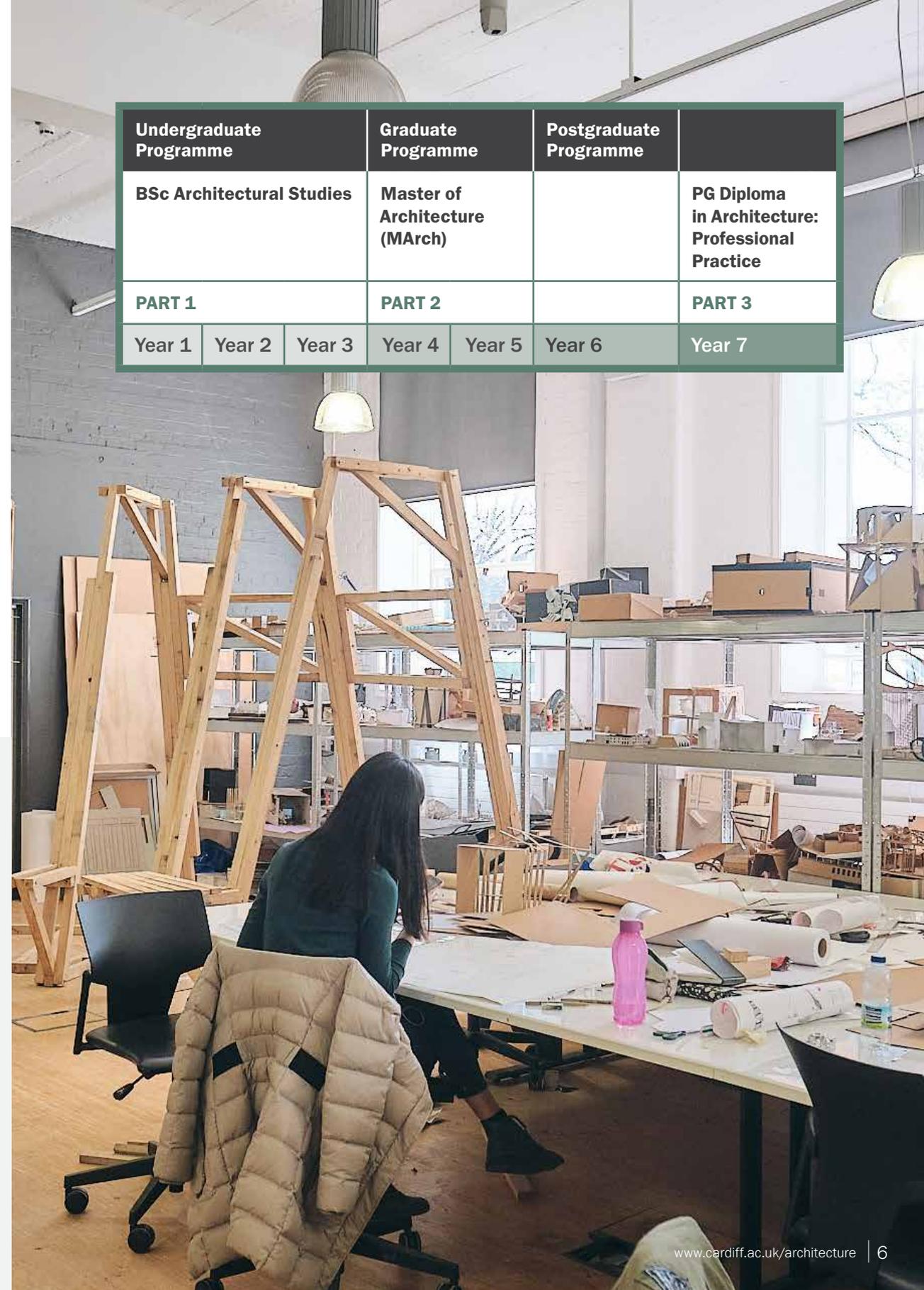
We offer the full range of qualifications needed to become a registered architect in the United Kingdom. Our BSc Architectural Studies (Part 1), Master of Architecture (MArch, Part 2), and Postgraduate Diploma in Architecture: Professional Practice (Part 3) are approved by the Royal Institute of British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

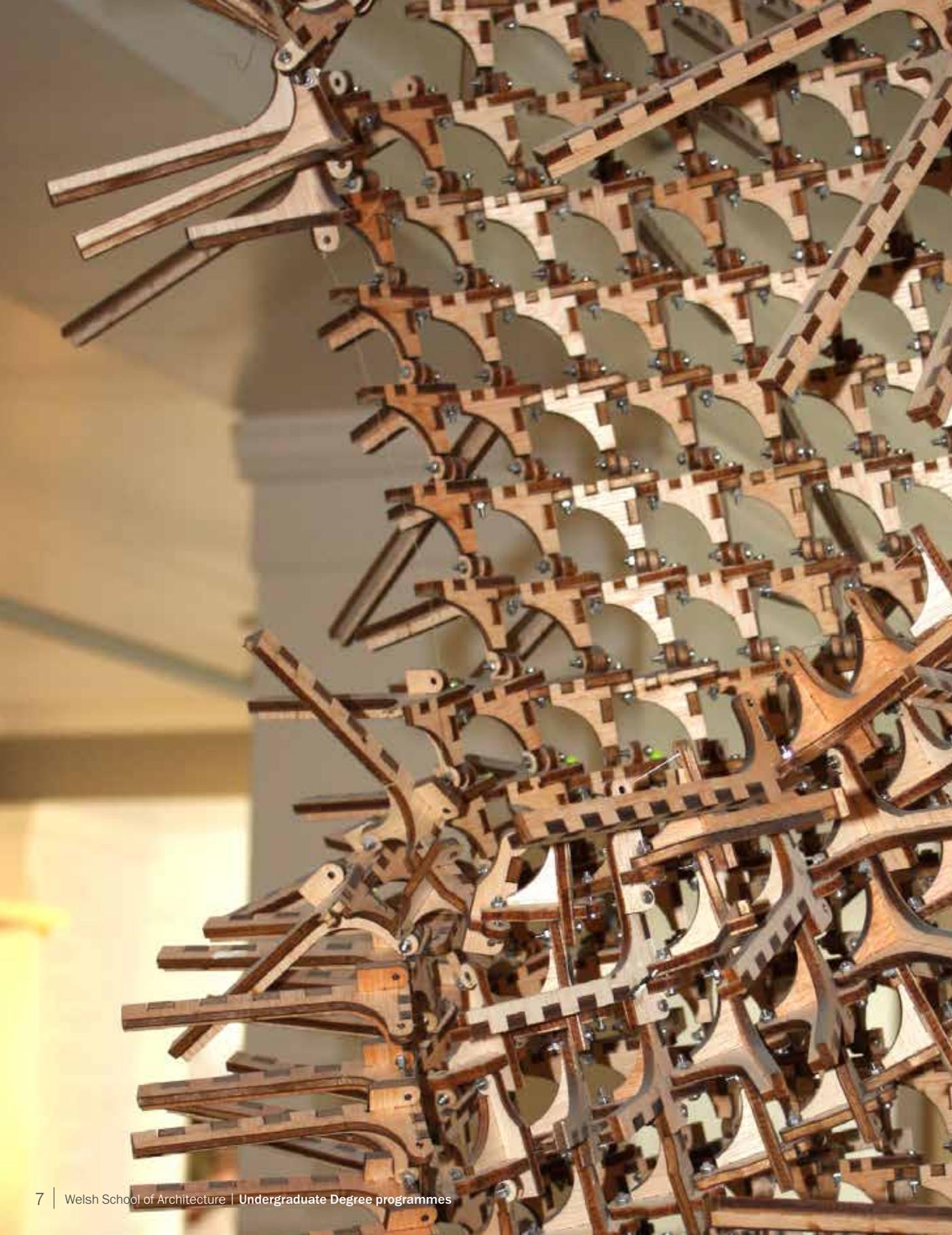
We produce graduates who can address the diverse demands of practice. We encourage a holistic, integrated approach to design, based on a thorough understanding of how buildings are made, how they are used and their impact on the wider world, including cultural, social and physical contexts.



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.

| 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  |





# Bsc Architectural Studies

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

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. You are also provided with a copy of the architectural student handbook 'Studio Craft and Techniques for Architects' by Miriam Delaney and Anne Gorman.

**Year one** 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 you will participate in a Vertical Studio project, (see page 11 for information) as well as a study visit to a major European city.



In **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 be able to choose another Vertical Studio project to participate in, as well as another study visit to a European city.



In **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 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.

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# Master of Architecture (MArch)

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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.

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.





# 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 participate in Vertical Studio, an opportunity to split into small project groups and experiment with different themes and practical techniques. Past Vertical Studio options have explored themes as varied as refugee housing, 3D representations of crystal structures, and buildings constructed for communities using found materials.



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 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.





# 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 theatres, exhibition galleries, studios and other teaching spaces.

In the basement of the building is our environmental design laboratory; with its artificial sky it is one of the best equipped in the UK. We have recently also established a second home in Friary House, a central city location within easy walking distance of the Bute Building, equipped with flexible and modern teaching and study spaces. We pride ourselves on the high standard of our facilities for staff and students.

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 a laser cutter, a robotic arm, 3D printer 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.



# Living in Cardiff

The City – Cardiff is a thriving and attractive city which is widely recognised as an outstanding place in which to live and study. It combines all the advantages of a compact, friendly and inexpensive location, with the cultural and recreational facilities of a modern capital city.



“CARDIFF SEEMS TO HAVE IT ALL: GRAND CIVIC ARCHITECTURE IN A BREEZY WATERSIDE LOCATION, SUPER-SMART CITY BARS AND VENUES JUST A SHORT HOP FROM LOVELY COUNTRYSIDE.”

Guardian University Guide 2016

Cardiff has also won a reputation as a **sporting capital** thanks to the quality of the events and facilities. Whether you want to watch or play, world-class stadiums for rugby, football, cricket and athletics and the International Sports Village, ice rink and Cardiff International White Water Centre are all within easy reach.

When it comes to entertainment, Cardiff is well-equipped to satisfy student needs. There is a multitude of cafes, pubs and nightclubs. The city is home to the world-renowned **Welsh National Opera** and boasts various concert venues such as the **Wales Millennium Centre**, as well as the iconic **Principality (Millennium) Stadium**, the **National Museum Wales**, several theatres and the historic **Cardiff Castle**.

The city is one of the UK's best shopping destinations, with **St David's Dewi Sant retail centre** standing alongside pedestrianised shopping streets, markets, and a fascinating network of glass-canopied Victorian and Edwardian arcades.

Cardiff also has more urban green space than any other UK city, and offers easy access to the countryside, coast and mountains.

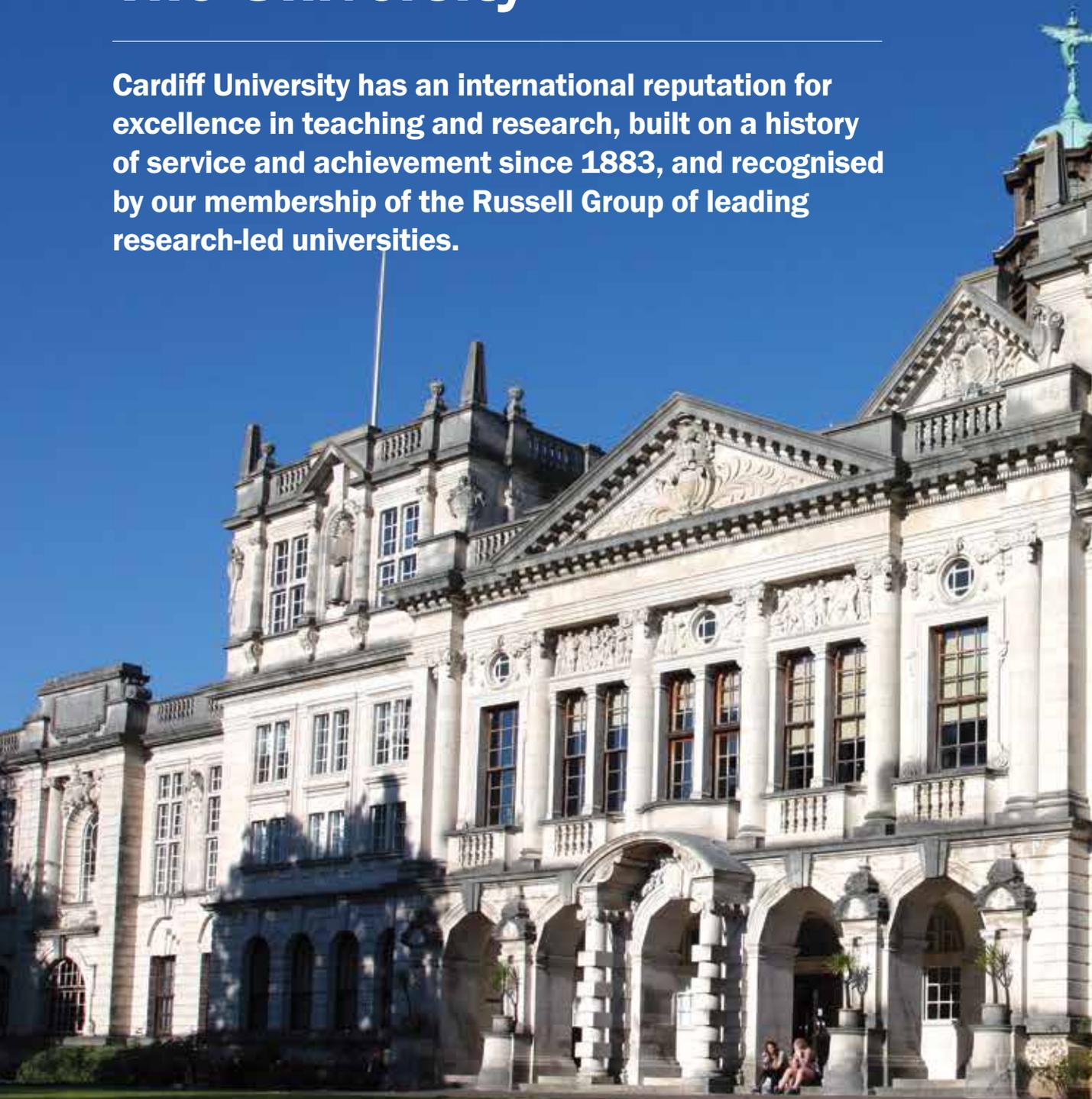
The city benefits from excellent road and rail links with Britain's other major towns and cities. The main coach and railway stations are both centrally placed, and Cardiff also benefits from an international airport.

Lively, elegant, confident, cosmopolitan and ambitious are all words readily used to describe modern-day Cardiff. Together, the city and the University provide students with the 'Cardiff Experience', a lifestyle our students remember long after graduation.



# The University

**Cardiff University has an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research, built on a history of service and achievement since 1883, and recognised by our membership of the Russell Group of leading research-led universities.**



International opportunities for students are available via our Global Opportunity Centre. These include study, work and volunteering placements in 27 EU countries as well as international exchange opportunities. All students also have the opportunity to study a language in addition to their degree through the University's Languages For All programme.

## Student life

As a fast developing capital city, Cardiff is a great place to be a student. It's large enough to offer you an exciting variety of activities and entertainment, but small enough for you to feel comfortable in.

**“THE UNIVERSITY IS AS CONFIDENT AND FORWARD-LOOKING AS THE CITY IT'S LOCATED IN, AND HAS AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION FOR THE QUALITY OF ITS TEACHING AND RESEARCH.”**

Guardian University Guide 2016



## Accommodation

All undergraduates who accept their offer of a place from Cardiff, on a firm basis, are guaranteed a single occupancy place in University residences during their first year of study.

Please see our website for full details of our accommodation guarantee and associated deadlines:

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

The University is continually investing in its student residences, and the views of students are taken into account at the design stage. Unusually for a civic university, most of our residences are within easy walking distance of lecture theatres, libraries, laboratories, the Students' Union and city centre.

Fees depend on the facilities included and whether catered, part-catered or self-catered, but prices compare very favourably with those of other UK universities.

## The Students' Union

Cardiff Students' Union is one of the biggest, best and most active in Britain.

Hosting live music, club nights, standup comedy, fashion shows and awards ceremonies, there's lots to keep you entertained from your first day to your last.

The Union is home to a host of other facilities, such as a letting agency and Jobshop, the Union's own student employment service providing casual, clerical and catering jobs around the University.

In addition, it is home to CU TV and Xpress Radio (the students' own TV and radio stations) and more than 200 cultural, political, religious, social, sporting societies and clubs.

# 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).**

We require all candidates to submit a small portfolio (8 pages); this must be submitted as a PDF document which is no more than 5MB in size. The portfolio need not be architectural in any way and may include drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, graphics, product design or any other work in visual design. You can include as many images as you wish, but please ensure that these are clearly defined and are of sufficiently high quality to do justice to your work.

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.

Following submission of the UCAS form, applicants will be contacted by the School to submit a portfolio to the Admissions Administrator at the School. An application will not be considered until we have received both the UCAS form and the portfolio.

Where a portfolio is of exceptionally high quality, lower academic qualifications may be acceptable. Mature students who do not have these or equivalent qualifications, but who have strong motivation and relevant skills and experience, should contact us to discuss the possibility of being admitted.

## 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)



## Equal Opportunities

Cardiff University is committed to promoting equality and diversity in all of its practices and activities, including those relating to student recruitment, selection and admission.

The University aims 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.

This commitment forms part of the Equality and Diversity Policy which is available at: [www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/equality-and-diversity](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/equality-and-diversity)

## Applicants with Disabilities/ Specific Needs

All offers to study at Cardiff University are made solely on the basis of academic merit.

Where applicants have specific requirements that relate to a disability or medical condition, they are encouraged to discuss these with relevant staff in order that appropriate arrangements can be made to ensure the University provides an accessible environment. Specifically, applicants are invited to contact the Disability Adviser who can provide information about the applications procedure, course delivery and access to the physical environment. Where appropriate, informal visits can be arranged in which applicants can view accommodation and meet academic staff.

For further information please contact the Disability Adviser:

**Tel:** +44 (0)29 2087 4844

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





## 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:** [architecture-ug@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:architecture-ug@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.

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.

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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:** architecture-ug@cardiff.ac.uk

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