

BA (HONS) ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE + INTEGRATED MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE PRE-COURSE INFORMATION 2026-7



Congratulations on accepting your place at Leeds School of Architecture.
We can't wait to meet you! We have put together this guide to help in preparation for the course.

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EQUIPMENT

The following list is a guide to the equipment and materials which you are likely to need for studying architecture. This list is not exhaustive and you should budget for more during the course of the year. You may already have some of these but recommend that you obtain those essential items marked with an asterisk* for the start of teaching as you will need these for your first studio project.

Essentials

- Adjustable set square/set squares pack 45 + 60 degrees (250mm/10" with bevelled edge)
- 300mm long metric Architect's scale (1:20, 1:50, 1:100, 1:500, 1:1250 scales – Make sure you buy an Architect's scale and not an engineer's scale)
- 0.5mm mechanical pencil
- Fineline black pens in thickness 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, and 0.7
- Hardback sketchbook A5 or A4 size
- A2 portfolio case
- Large pencil case A5 size
- Good quality plastic eraser/ putty rubber
- Selection of pencils from 6B-4H
- Scalpel or Retractable Cutting Knife
- UHU all-purpose adhesive
- Steel ruler
- A5/A4/A3/A2 cutting mat (we have these in the studio for you to use but you may want one for home)

Optional

- A1/A2 Desktop Drawing Board (we have these in the studio for you to use but you may want one for home)
- A2 tracing paper pad
- T square ruler
- Roll of masking tape
- Scissors
- Protractor
- Set of Compasses
- Flexible Plastic Curve Ruler Set of French Curves
- Selection of coloured pencils

We have all the essential items as a pack that is available to pre-order through the university suppliers for a reduced cost of **£40** here: <https://onlinestore.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/product-catalogue/course-deposits-materials/materials/ba-architectures-kit-pack>

All optional items will be provided for use by the university in Year 1 only, however numbers are limited and you may wish to buy your own. The deadline registering for the pack is **Tuesday 29th September 2026**, to ensure it is received on time for classes. Please follow the steps to order your pack here. Pre-ordered packs will be distributed by **Friday 16th October 2026**.

Alternatively, these can be purchased separately from the following locations in store or online, with many shops offering 10-15% Student Discount if you show your acceptance letter:

- Fred Aldous Art Shop, Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield <https://www.fredaldous.co.uk>
- Dinsdales, Headingley Leeds <http://leedsartsupplies.co.uk/dinsdale.htm>
- CASS Art, London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester <https://www.cassart.co.uk>
- Hobby Craft <https://www.hobbycraft.co.uk>
- The Works <https://www.theworks.co.uk/p/craft-activities-for-kids/make-your-own-tie-dye-canvas-bag-kit/5015934624463.html>
- 4D Model Shop <https://modelshop.co.uk>
- Amazon prime student <https://www.amazon.co.uk>

COMPUTERS and SOFTWARE

Computers

While we do have computers you can use at the university, a laptop is incredibly useful tool for the course to enable flexible in studio/at home working. Whilst there are no hard and fast rules about what to buy, there are some general guidelines:

- **Please DO NOT purchase a tablet or Ipad as an alternative to a laptop, this is NOT a suitable substitute for an architecture course, and will prevent you from undertaking many of the tasks.**
- **MAC or PC** – Many students ask whether you need a PC or Mac computer, and whilst Mac's are often associated with design-based courses a PC is fine. Some argue that they give more spec for the money. If you prefer a Mac be sure that is dual boot, so that it can run Windows software.
- **Screen size** – go for as large as you can, whilst weighing up portability issues. We suggest 15" minimum if you do not intend to use an external monitor.
- **CPU** – Intel Core i7 or newer.
- **RAM** – A minimum of 16GB.
- **Storage** – A minimum of 512GB, and we would advise that you also purchase an external hard-drive for back-up purposes.
- **Graphics card** – These can vary, but we would advise 2GB VRAM or more. Many students purchase PC's specifically designed for gamers/gaming because their capabilities are high spec and well suited to the types of software used on the course. Students often have very large files in use simultaneously, so the computer needs to be able to cope with this without seizing up.

Many companies offer 10-20% Student Discount if you show an acceptance letter including:

- Apple Store <https://www.apple.com/uk-edu/store>
- <https://www.currys.co.uk/discount-codes.html>

Students will be able to print at the university using their student card, both in the studio and library so there is no requirement to purchase a printer.

Software

You do not need to purchase specific software as the university has purchased remote licences on your behalf, which can be accessed via students' own computers. We will be using the following software in Year 1, just incase you fancy getting to grips with it in advance:

- Adobe Suite – Photoshop, Indesign and Acrobat (70% discount for students or you can download free 30 day trail) <https://www.adobe.com/uk/creativecloud/buy/students.html>
- AUTOCAD (you can get a free Educational Licence <https://www.autodesk.com/uk>)

In Years 2 and 3 other software will be introduced including and not limited to:

- SketchUp <https://www.sketchup.com/en>
- Rhino <https://www.rhino3d.com>

READING LIST

On the lead up to September you may be starting to think about which books you might need or want to start reading to get inspired. While detailed reading lists and resources will be available in the course handbooks issued in September, the following may offer a useful introduction to the topics that will be covered in semester one. Please do not purchase all items on this list as they will be available from the University's library as either physical books or e-books. However, if you do intend to buy any, please consider buying second hand online from: World of Books, Abe Books, Ebay, Amazon or asking Father Christmas.....

Books

- Ching, F (2003) *Architectural Graphics*, John Wiley & Sons
- Ching, F.D.K. (2019) *Building construction illustrated*. Sixth edition. Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Ching, Francis D. K., et al. (2011) *A Global History of Architecture*. 2nd ed. Wiley.
- Delaney, M. and Gorman, A. (2022) *Studio craft and technique for architects*. Second edition.
- Jellicoe, J and S (1995) *The Landscape of Man; Shaping the Environment from Prehistory to the Present Day*, London, Thames and Hudson.
- Neufert, E. et al. (2000) *Architects' data*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science or Buxton, P (2018) *Metric Handbook: Planning and Design Data*, Routledge or
- Lewis, K. (2015) *Graphic design for architects: a manual for visual communication*. London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- Werner, M (2011) *Model Making*, Princeton Architectural Press

Online Libraries, Databases, Magazines and Help

- ISSUU / architecture portfolio
- Diversare
- RIBApix

- ArchInform
- Archdaily
- Dezeen
- Designboom

FIELD TRIPS

Term 1 Study Trip – Basel or Manchester

As part of your first term, you will be required to attend a study trip to either **Basel, Switzerland** or **Manchester, UK** running in Reading Week **Monday 2nd – 6th November 2026**. Please ensure to keep that week free from other commitments or family holidays. The two trips will have varying costs and lengths:

- Basel, Switzerland – **3 nights, 4 days £350-400 approx.**
- Manchester, UK - **1 night, 2 days £70 approx.**

The trips and its itinerary are led and organised by the University and form an important part of your education. The intention of the trip is designed to broaden your understanding of architecture, landscape architecture and interior architecture through first-hand observation, sketching, photography and discussion, providing inspiration and supporting your studio work throughout the year. During the trip, you will undertake design studio outputs that form part of your Design Studio and History and Theories modules, so it is important you attend.

Full details, including the itinerary, accommodation, flights, booking process and what to expect, will be provided during Induction Week. The **booking deadline for both trips is Friday 2nd October 2026**, so please ensure you have the necessary funds available before this date.

IMPORTANT If you are a non-EU national and wish to attend the Basel trip, you may require a Schengen visa to travel to Switzerland. Visa applications can take up to one month to process, involves an interview often outside of Leeds and typically costs around £100, so we strongly recommend starting your application as soon as possible to avoid delays or disappointment. Further information about applying for a Schengen visa can be found here: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/visa-policy/applying-schengen-visa_en

Term 2 Study Trip – Leeds

During **Term 2**, your studio projects will be based in Leeds and can be accessed by foot or local public transport. These visits form an important part of the module, allowing you to experience architecture, urban spaces and places first-hand while supporting your design work. If you live outside of Leeds and expect to travel regularly by train during your time at university, we strongly recommend purchasing a **16–25 Railcard**, which provides **one-third off most rail fares** and can quickly pay for itself. For more information or to purchase a Railcard, visit:

<https://www.16-25railcard.co.uk>

PART TIME WORK

While a full-time course is 5 days a week, we understand that we are living in a cost-of-living crisis, and that you may need to take a part-time job to make ends meet. If taking on a job outside of university, we suggest taking no more than 1 day a week to prevent impact on your studies and allow time for relaxation. Our studio days in Year 1 are **Monday, Tuesday and Friday**, with homework to complete outside of these days.

FURTHER QUESTIONS

Admin Queries

ArchitectureAdmins@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

IT Queries

ITservices@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/it_support/buy_a_device

Course queries

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