



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## MA Architecture Futures

Course Code: MARFU

2022/23

## ***Award and Title: MA Architecture Futures (MARFU)***

### **Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2022/2023 Postgraduate Entrants**

Confirmed at APR/2022

#### **General Information**

<b>Award</b>	Master of Arts Architecture Futures
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Post Graduate Diploma Architecture Futures Post Graduate Certificate Architecture Futures
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification and Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England
<b>Course Lengths and Standard Timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length of the course is confirmed below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 year (full time)</li><li>• 2 years (part time)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	City Campus, Leeds
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: <a href="https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/">https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/</a>  Admissions enquiries may be directed to: <a href="mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .

## Course Fees

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to [Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

## Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

## Policies, Standards and Regulations ([www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations))

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course/ or add details of approved regulatory exemptions which apply.

## Key Contacts

### Your Course Director

George Epolito

### Your Academic Advisor

The name of your allocated Academic Advisor will be provided during induction.

### Your Course Administrator

Carolyn Hollingworth [architectureadmins@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:architectureadmins@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Sandwich or Other 'In Year' Work Placement Information

### Summary

No formal placements within modules structures over the 12 month full-time course. Work related activity can be linked to various architectural modules which students have chosen to study. Students are encouraged to contextualise, and in some cases partially apply, their learning development and creative project in distinct existing professional practices which may be found in multiple enterprise and industry sectors. Placement or work related activity for MA Architecture Futures would not be confined to architectural practices, but can expand into other creative industries such as theatre production, exhibition design, urban landscape and infrastructural projects, consultants to governmental or private sector development projects, contributors as critics to journals and public media, and so on.

### Length

N/A

## Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

### Professional Body

N/A

### Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

N/A

## Course Overview

### Aims

The MA Architecture Futures Course aims to provide an education that stimulates academic achievement, personal initiative, and acquisition of inter- and trans- disciplinary knowledge and skills provided postgraduate architectural training. It also provides opportunities to take a module offered by different disciplines within the subject area of Art Architecture and Design. The course prepares students to engage in ever more diverse and dynamic landscapes of architectural production, culture and politics. The course focuses on four prominent interdisciplinary strands:

ARCHITECTURAL AGENCY AND PRACTICE, crucial issues in architectural agency and its forms of social engagement.

DIGITAL ARCHITECTURES, including the use of computational techniques in architecture to produce solutions within material and social systems.

ARCHITECTURE AND MEDIA, using innovative integration of different media in the process of architectural and urban design.

ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM, considering aspects of environmental concerns, infrastructure, policy, territory, reuse and appropriation.

All themes are considered in the contemporary transformation and expansion of the architectural discipline.

The students enrolled on the MA Architecture Futures course benefit from being part of the larger Master in Architecture (MArch) cohort. The course seeks to educate students through strong research methodologies that inform research-led design, critical reflection and develop specialist knowledge in the landscape of architecture, spatial and interdisciplinary practice.

The course introduces students to postgraduate research and develops appropriate design, research philosophies, methodologies, skills, knowledge and critical judgment appropriate for advanced studies in architecture whilst developing professional communication skills and presentation techniques appropriate to the particular subject of postgraduate study. Modules instil self-motivation, self-reliance and personal responsibilities for the definition of the focus of continuing education and professional development and develop the student's ability to personally initiate, develop, programme and undertake chosen research projects.

### Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will have acquired:

1. Academic Literacy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Critical awareness of particular interdisciplinary practices in architecture, art and design including their histories, theories and methodologies to inform possible architecture futures.</li><li>b. Ability to combine multiple forms of knowledge, theories and principles in novel ways in the analysis and investigation of complex substantial problems, leading to critical, creative reinterpretations, and design responses.</li></ol>
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	c. Develop professional skills for communicating complex urban issues and engaging with critical debates when presenting propositions.
2. Research Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Evaluate and plan appropriate methods of research, analysis and appraisal for designing urban environments across a range of scales</li> <li>b. Utilisation of case studies, primary and secondary sources which begins to identify new perspectives in and modifications to existing knowledge, structures, new areas for investigation, new problems for solution, transfer of knowledge/solution into new interdisciplinary contexts professionally and academically.</li> <li>c. Contextualise project work within current thinking and research, including the demonstration of the potential for the application of originality and discrimination in the demonstration of design, practical and representational skills.</li> </ul>
3. Personal Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Recognise the importance of team and collaborative practice in an interdisciplinary context.</li> <li>b. Develop skills of negotiation and mediation through intensive group work to deliver design projects.</li> <li>c. A critical understanding of how knowledge is advancing through research to produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design.</li> <li>d. Evaluate the distinctive contribution of a specialism to design.</li> </ul>
4. Digital and Information Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop a critical awareness of digital technologies and their appropriate use in communication as well as strengths and limitations of gathering research data.</li> <li>b. Use and application of appropriate 2 and 3D software to communicate design propositions.</li> </ul>

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

Student-centred learning is central to all design programmes and there are elements of student centred learning in all modules where exploration, investigation or research is required.

Studio tuition aims to develop the student's critical response in relation to the design and contextual approach to the brief. Tuition is undertaken on both an individual and group basis. Discussion between students is encouraged to enable cross-learning. An emphasis is placed on small group and individual tuition, as appropriate, in order to support individual student development. Topics may relate to architectural design projects, project programmes, design criticism, etc.

Seminars, group discussions or workshops take place to address specific design problems, technical issues or contextual design interventions. Students may work in groups to reach a specific goal or to test a hypothesis.

Reviews occur at stages during and at the end of design modules. Individual students give a verbal presentation of their drawn or modelled solutions to peers and staff. Reviews are seen as essential training in self-presentation, communication of design ideas and a source of formative feedback.

## Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

<b>Level 7</b>			
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Interdisciplinary Design (30 credits)	Y	Design Studio A (40 credits)	Y
Research Methods (30 credits)	Y	Critical Contexts (20 credits)	Y
<b>Semester 3</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Design Studio B (60 credits)	Y		

<b>Level 7 Part-time, year 1</b>			
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Interdisciplinary Design (30 credits)	Y	Design Studio A (40 credits)	Y

<b>Level 7 Part-time, year 2</b>			
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Research Methods (30 credits)	Y	Critical Contexts (20 credits)	Y
<b>Semester 3</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>		
Design Studio B (60 credits)	Y		

The option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules.

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

### Assessment

On this course students will be assessed through a broadly even mix of coursework and portfolio with some oral presentations.

### Workload

The number of hours of workload generally equates to 1800 for Masters programmes, 1200 for PG Diplomas and 600 for PG Certificates, corresponding to the national standard of 10 notional hours of learning for each UK HE credit point.

Overall Workload for the Course	Level 7
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	180 hours
Independent Study	1620 hours
Placement	N/A

### Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

### Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be

contacted via email at [studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk), telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

## **Support and opportunities**

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.