



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## Master of Architecture

Course Code: MARCH

2024/25

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

**Award and Title: *Master of Architecture (MARCH)***

**Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2024/25 Postgraduate Entrants**

Confirmed at DEC/2023

**General Information**

**Award** Master of Architecture

**Contained Awards** N/A

**Awarding Body** Leeds Beckett University

**Level of Qualification and Credits** Level 7  
240 Credits MARCH (Part 2)

**Course Lengths and Standard Timescales** Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below:

- 2 years (full time)
- 3 years (part time)

**Part Time Study** 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.

**Location(s) of Delivery** City Campus, Leeds

**Entry Requirements** Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/>

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:

Home: [directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

International: [international@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:international@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## 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))

Students must pass all components of all modules, as this is a requirement of RIBA/ARB external validation and prescription

## Key Contacts

**Your Course Director**

Hyun Jun Park

**Your Academic Advisor**

To be determined upon entry

**Your Course Administrator**

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

## Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

### Professional Body

Architects Registration Board (ARB)

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

### Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

**Master of Architecture**

The course is two years in full-time mode and three years in part-time mode as required for professional accreditation. To be able to satisfy the criteria of ARB for Prescription and RIBA for Validation, students must pass all modules in both years one and two of the programme, making a total of 240 credits at level H7 for the award of Master of Architecture. Students may be awarded Merit or Distinction based on performance.

Students may be awarded Master of Architecture with Distinction, Master of Architecture with Merit, Merit in Technology, Merit in Context Studies based on performance as follows:

For the award of **Master of Architecture with Distinction**, a student must pass all the requisite modules for Master of Architecture and achieve an average of 70% in either Design Studio modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 or Design Studio modules 3 and 4.

For the award of **Master of Architecture with Merit**, a student must pass all the requisite modules for Master of Architecture and achieve an average of 60 -69% in Design Studio modules 1, 2, 3 and 4.

For the award of **Master of Architecture with Merit in Technology**, a student must pass all the requisite modules for Master of Architecture and achieve an average of 70% in Technology modules A, B, C and Technology Futures.

For the award of **Master of Architecture with Merit in Context Studies**, a student must pass all the requisite modules for Master of Architecture and achieve an average of 70% in Context Studies modules Part A: Stasis and Part B: Thesis/Dissertation.

## Course Overview

### Aims

The principal aim of the programme is to offer a high quality, creative design education as a basis for qualification and practice as an architect whilst fulfilling Part Two requirements for Architects Registration Board Prescription; Royal Institute of British Architects Validation and the QAA Architecture Subject Benchmark for final award programmes.

The programme of studies seeks to develop and explore values, knowledge, skills and techniques appropriate to the development of creative, responsive professional architects.

The scope of the Master of Architecture programme will satisfy:

- Architects Registration Board Criteria for Prescription of Qualifications for Part Two programmes in Architecture.
- Royal Institute of British Architects Validation Criteria for Part Two programmes in Architecture.
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Architecture Final Awards.

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

Graduates of the Master of Architecture shall be able to demonstrate that they meet the Criteria for qualification prescription by ARB and programme validation by RIBA for Part Two courses in Architecture, and the QAA benchmark standard of the 'Final Award' in Architecture, as stated below.

Graduates shall be able to demonstrate the following:

### **Ability to create architectural designs that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements.**

The graduate will have the ability to:

1. prepare and present building design projects of diverse scale and, complexity, and type in a variety of contexts, using a range of media, and in response to a brief.
2. understand the constructional and structural systems, the environmental strategies, fire and life safety strategies, and the regulatory requirements such that apply to the design and construction of a comprehensive design project.
3. develop a conceptual and critical approach to architectural design that integrates and satisfies the aesthetic aspects of a building and the technical requirements of its construction and the needs of the user.

### **Knowledge of the fine arts as an influence on the quality of architectural design**

The graduate will have knowledge of:

1. how the theories, practices and technologies of the arts influence architectural design;
2. the creative application of the fine arts and their relevance and impact on architecture;
3. the creative application of such work to studio design projects, in terms of their conceptualisation and representation.

### **Adequate knowledge of urban design, planning and the skills involved in the planning process**

The graduate will have an adequate knowledge of:

1. theories of urban design and the planning of communities,
2. the influence of the design and development of cities, past and present, on the contemporary built environment.
3. current planning policy and development control legislation, including social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects, and the relevance of these to design development.

### **Understanding of the relationship between people and buildings, and between buildings and their environment, and the need to relate buildings and the spaces between them to human needs and scale**

The graduate will have an understanding of:

1. the needs and aspirations of building users,
2. the impact of buildings on the environment, and the precepts of sustainable design.
3. the way in which buildings fit into their local context.

## **Understanding of the profession of architecture and the role of the architect in society, in particular in preparing briefs that take account of social factors**

The graduate will have an understanding of:

1. the nature of professionalism and the duties and responsibilities of architects to clients, building users, constructors, co-professionals and the wider society.
2. the role of the architect within the design team and construction industry, recognising the importance of current methods and trends in the construction of the built environment;
3. the potential impact of building projects on existing and proposed communities.

## **Understanding of the methods of investigation and preparation of the brief for a design project**

The graduate will have an understanding of:

1. the need to critically review precedents relevant to the function, organisation, and technological strategy of design proposals.
2. the need to appraise and prepare building briefs of diverse scales and types to define client and user requirements and their appropriateness to site and context.
3. the contributions of architects and co-professionals to the formulation of the brief, and the methods of investigation used in its preparation.

## **Understanding of the structural design, constructional and engineering problems associated with building design**

The graduate will have an understanding of:

1. the investigation, critical appraisal and selection of alternative structural, constructional and material systems relevant to architectural design.
2. strategies for building construction, and ability to integrate knowledge of structural principles and construction techniques.
3. the physical properties and characteristics of building materials, components and systems, and the environmental impact of specification choices.

## **Adequate knowledge of physical problems and technologies and the function of buildings so as to provide them with internal conditions of comfort and protection against the climate**

The graduate will have an adequate knowledge of:

1. principles associated with designing optimum visual, thermal and acoustic environments.
2. systems for environmental comfort realised within relevant precepts of sustainable design.
3. strategies for building services, and ability to integrate these in a design project.

## **The necessary design skills to meet building users' requirements within the constraints imposed by cost factors and building regulations**

The graduate will have skills to:

1. critically examine the financial factors implied in varying building types, constructional systems, and specification choices, and the impact of these on architectural design;
2. understand the cost control mechanisms which operate during the development of a project;
3. prepare designs that will meet building users' requirements and comply with UK legislation, appropriate performance standards and health and safety requirement.

### **Adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings and integrating plans into overall planning**

The graduate will have knowledge of:

1. the fundamental legal, professional and statutory responsibilities of the architect, and the organisations, designs, including land law regulations and procedures involved in the negotiation and approval of architectural, development control, building regulations and health and safety legislation.
2. the professional inter-relationships of individuals and organisations involved in procuring and delivering architectural projects and how these are defined through contractual and organisational structures.
3. the basic management theories and business principles related to running both an architect's practice and architectural projects, recognising current and emerging trends in the construction industry.

With regard to meeting the General Criteria; graduates of the Master of Architecture programme shall be required to demonstrate ARB/RIBA 'Graduate Attributes for Part Two'.

The graduate shall demonstrate:

1. ability to generate complex design proposals showing awareness of current architectural issues, originality in the application of subject knowledge and, where appropriate, to test new hypotheses and speculations;
2. ability to evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, critically appraise and explain design proposals;
3. ability to evaluate materials, processes and techniques that apply to complex architectural designs and building construction, and to integrate these into practicable design proposals;
4. critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design;
5. understanding of the context of the architect and the construction industry, including the architect's role in the processes of procurement and building production, and under legislation;
6. problem solving skills, professional judgement, and ability to take the initiative and make appropriate decisions in complex and unpredictable circumstances; and appropriate to qualification as an architect.
7. ability to identify individual learning needs and understand the personal responsibility required to prepare for qualification as an architect.

## **Teaching and Learning Activities**

### **Summary**

Student-centred learning is central to all design programmes and embedded in all modules where exploration, investigation or research is required.

Within Context Studies, Technology and Professional Studies Modules:

Lectures: delivered by the module lecturers and aim to focus on topics that connect the student's dissertation and technology proposals with the conceptual framework and theme of the module.

Lectures' seminars: aim to train students in discussing texts/ case studies/ principles and articulate arguments. The lectures' seminar assignments are designed to assist students in selecting concepts and formulating their argumentation that supports their design or technological position as they write their dissertation, technology and professional studies reports. In lectures' seminars, students work in groups and discuss topics within each group and between groups, and are facilitated by the module tutors. Lecture seminar assignments are not assessed but highly recommended.

Oral presentations seminars: individual students present their dissertations, technology futures, and professional studies in a group setting. Given requirements on time and content are to be followed. The presentation is assessed on Context, and formative feedback by the tutor is given on the spot following each student's presentation.

Tutorials: In group settings in class, aim to provide formative feedback and assist students in drafting their dissertations or progressing their studio project themes.

Text submission: Students follow the given requirements for the text (hardcopy and Turnitin) submission, and summative feedback is given in due time by tutors.

#### Studio Tuition, Design Studio 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Design Studio aims to develop the student's critical response in relation to the design and contextual approach to the project 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 tutorials, 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 and receive verbal and written feedback. Reviews are seen as essential training in self-presentation, communication of design ideas and a source of formative feedback. The design work is presented and submitted in a portfolio at the end of year one and year two.

#### **Learning Agreements**

Learning Agreements are devised to address particular students' interests, strengths and needs in response to their entry profile and desired exit profile. Within the stated criteria of the modules; the negotiation process in Design Studio 3, 4 and Context Studies recognises students' individual circumstances and aspirations by defining individual learning activities in relation to their own personal focus or ideological position and their intended future study and practice of architecture.

The learning agreement for year 2 MArch students comprises a completed pro-forma which sets out the main aspects of study and elements of assessment as negotiated and agreed between the student and studio or module tutor.

#### **Visits**

Due to the nature of the discipline, visits are seen as an essential learning experience on the course and may be undertaken for a variety of reasons, including: Site visits; Case Studies; Overseas study visits; Overseas exchanges; Exhibitions etc.

#### **Student Contributions**

It is recognised that students on the course bring strengths from their prior undergraduate Part One education and professional experience in architectural practice or in cognate areas. Students are encouraged to participate as peer reviewers in intermediate reviews and at student presentations. Student nominations for a visiting lecture programme are invited, and student initiated visits are encouraged.



## 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. All modules are delivered in person on site.

Level 7 Full Time			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Design Studio 1 (40 Credits)	Y	Design Studio 2 (30 credits)	Y
Professional Studies (10 credits)	Y	History and Theory - Context Studies A (20 credits)	Y
Technology 1 (10 Credits of 20)	Y	Technology 1(10 Credits of 20)	Y
Semester 3	Core (Y/N)	Semester 4	Core (Y/N)
Design Studio 3 (30 credits)	Y	Design Studio 4 (50 credits), <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thesis Design (30 credits)</li> <li>• Integrated Design and Practice Report (20 credits)</li> </ul>	Y
History and Theory -Context Studies B (20 credits)	Y	Technology 2 (10 credits of 20)	Y
Technology 2 (10 Credits of 20)	Y		

Level 7 Part Time			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Design Studio 1 (40 Credits)	Y		Y
Technology 1(10Credits of 20)	Y	Context Studies History and Theory - A (20 credits)	Y
Semester 3	Core (Y/N)	Semester 4	Core (Y/N)
Context Studies History and Theory - B (20 credits)	Y	Design Studio 2 (30 credits)	Y
Professional Studies (10 credits)	Y	Technology 1 (10Credits of 20)	Y
Semester 5	Core (Y/N)	Semester 6	Core (Y/N)

Design Studio 3 (30 Credits)	Y	Design Studio 4 (50 credits), <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thesis Design (30 credits)</li> <li>• Integrated Design and Practice Report (20 credits)</li> </ul>	Y
Technology 2 (10 Credits of 20)	Y	Technology 2 (10 Credits of 20)	Y

## 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

In this course, students will be assessed predominantly by coursework with some examinations.

### Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	240 hours
Independent Study	2160 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 the University, call 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 is 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.