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**Programme Specification**

**Title of Programme: MArch Architecture**

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| **Date first produced** | February 2022 |
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| **Date of implementation of current version** | September 2022 |
| **Version number** | V1 |
| **Faculty** | Kingston School of Art |
| **School** | School of Arts |
| **Department** | Architecture and Landscape |
| **Delivery Institution** | Kingston University |

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes and content of each modules can be found in the course VLE site and in individual Module Descriptors.

**SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

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| **Award(s) and Title(s):** | MArch Architecture |
| **Intermediate Awards(s) and Title(s):** | N/A |
| **FHEQ Level for the Final Award:** | Level 7 |
| **Awarding Institution:** | Kingston University |
| **Location:** | Department of Architecture & Landscape, School of Arts, Kingston School of Art, Knights Park |
| **Language of Delivery:** | English |
| **Modes of Delivery:** | Full time |
| **Available as:** | Full field |
| **Minimum period of registration:** | FT: 2 |
| **Maximum period of registration:** | FT: 4 |
| **Entry Requirements:** | This course constitutes the second part of the initial period of formal education for qualification as an architect in the UK and the EU. It is part of the 5 years of full-time or equivalent study and is currently funded on this basis.   * in most cases, ARB/RIBA Part 1 or exemption from it; * in most cases, not less than 40 weeks of appropriate professional experience prior to entry; * a high level of basic design skill as well as an ability to engage in a rigorous, graduate programme of study; * an understanding of architecture as both an academic subject and an ongoing practice; and * a commitment and motivation to the practice of architecture.   We will give preference to applicants who have:   * a good first degree; and * evidence of a range of experience in either architectural practice or an allied design/construction environment.   A minimum IELTS score of 6, or equivalent is required for those for whom English is not their first language. |
| **Programme Accredited by:** | Validated by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) as RIBA Part 2  Accredited by the Architect’s Registration Board (ARB); as ARB Part 2 |
| **QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:** | Architecture (2020) |
| **Approved Variants:** |  |
| **UCAS Code:** | PFMAR1MAR01 |

**SECTION 2: THE PROGRAMME**

Architecture is a profession, and the course is an integral part of a sequence of steps – RIBA parts 1, 2 and 3 - that leads to entry into it. Criteria for entry on to the UK Register of Architects are prescribed by the Architects Registration Board (ARB). The ARB and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) have agreed to hold the criteria in common and successful completion of the MArch Degree programme gives Part 2 exemption. In addition to this, the RIBA has introduced new Themes and Values for Architectural Education; which includes further focus on climate literacy, health and life safety, ethical practice, and research literacy. The modules in the programme work within this framework to provide a coherent balance of intellectual and practical skills, as well as facilitating various avenues to develop students’ transferable skills.

The programme sits in the Department of Landscape and Architecture, one of four Departments in the School of Arts, which is one of three Schools (with the Design School and the School of Creative and Cultural Industries) in the Faculty of Kingston School of Art (KSA). It is located in the compact Knights Park campus, where it is directly adjacent to the range of other creative disciplines within KSA. It has immediate access to excellent and wide-ranging resources for physical making, an opportunity which sits at the heart of the pedagogy in each of the programmes and forms a key component of the MArch Architecture programme. The Department’s accommodation currently occupies the fourth and fifth floors of the New Extension Building at Knights Park, with the KSA workshops on the ground and first floors of the same building. This is a place in which to converse, to debate, to work and to learn from each other.

1. **Aims of the Programme**

*The Programme aims to:*

* Further develop knowledge, skills and understanding of the subject of Architecture, from the perspective of a graduate student.
* Develop graduates as architectural designers and thinkers and move towards an ability to engage in architectural practice as independent and reflective practitioners.
* Produce graduates with a comprehensive knowledge of the areas of study required to enter and contribute to architectural practice and architectural discourse
* Enable graduates to develop critical understanding of architecture as a global, cultural, social and technical activity, with consideration for the ways in which it impacts upon human and physical environments.
* Advance graduates’ ability to make coherent, responsible and appropriate architectural designs capable of making a positive contribution to the environment.

The overall objectives of the programme are that upon successful completion graduates will be able to:

* participate fully in architectural discourse.
* understand the position of architecture as artefact, discipline and practice.
* identify, critically assess, and evaluate the issues relating to architecture and architectural projects.
* create and manage the appropriate organisational framework for the design process and for design practice.
* make coherent, responsible and appropriate design proposals.
* develop and refine a design proposal and communicate it in a variety of forms using appropriate two- and three-dimensional media.

1. **Intended Learning Outcomes**

The Intended Learning Outcomes are based on the new Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Themes and Values for Architectural Education introduced in 2020, and the ARB/RIBA Professional Criteria for Part 2, as represented in the required Part 2 Graduate Attributes, and the General Criteria at Parts 1 and 2. The terminology is therefore related to the Professional Criteria and may diverge from the standard level descriptors. The programme learning outcomes are also referenced to the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), and the QAA subject benchmark statement for Architecture (2020), and relate to the typical student. The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, intellectual skills, subject practical skills, and other key skills and graduate attributes as demonstrated below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme Learning Outcomes** | | | | | |
|  | **Knowledge and Understanding**  On completion of the course students will be able to: |  | **Intellectual Skills**  On completion of the course students will be able to |  | **Subject Practical Skills**  On completion of the course students will be able to |
| A1 | Recognise the significance of histories and theories of architecture and urban design, the related disciplines of art, cultural studies, landscape studies and planning and their application to critical debate in the making of architecture. | B1 | Critically evaluate evidence, arguments, and assumptions, from primary and secondary sources, in order to make and present sound judgments within a structured discourse and produce clear, logically argued and original written work relating to architectural culture, theory and design. | C1 | Select and apply established techniques of enquiry, analysis and interpretation to help them develop a stance towards the socio-cultural contexts of current issues affecting architectural practice. |
| A2 | Identify and comprehend the fundamental legal, professional and statutory requirements for building design and practice, as well as the principles of practice management in the architecture profession. | B2 | Interpret and appreciate the professional, social and ethical role and responsibilities of an architect in the processes of procurement and building production with integrity and accountability within global, national and professional legislations. | C2 | Develop skills required to operate as a professional, including problem solving, professional judgement, critical self-reflection identifying individual learning needs to prepare for qualification as an architect. |
| A3 | Demonstrate systematic understanding of advanced principles of structure, construction, materials and services into a design proposition which cater for occupants' comfort and safety as well as achieve climate change targets. | B3 | Evaluate properties and performance of materials, structures, services and building construction processes to make informed decisions and strategies in complex architectural design proposals. | C3 | Apply a comprehensive range of representation and communication methods and techniques to test, critique, develop and present comprehensive and complex design proposals |
| A4 | Appreciate the inter-relationship between people, buildings and the environment and the need to relate buildings and spaces between them to human needs and scale. | B4 | Formulate and evaluate comprehensive design strategies at a variety of scales whilst addressing other design parameters and criteria to create a coherent and integrated design proposition responsive to the site and brief. | C4 | Develop project briefs and and resolve complex design proposals which satisfy aesthetic, technical, ethical and contextual requirements by acquiring, analysing and synthesising a body of knowledge and testing new hypotheses and speculations. |

In addition to the programme learning outcomes identified overleaf, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow students to develop a range of Key Skills as follows:

| **Key Skills** | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Self-Awareness Skills** | **Communication Skills** | **Digital and numerical skills** | **Interpersonal skills** | **Research Skills** | **Management and Leadership** | **Creativity and problem-solving skills** |
| Take responsibility for own learning and plan for and record own personal development | Synthesise information to express ideas clearly in writing and the spoken word to diverse and multiple audiences | Handle and understand number as required for context | Work well with others in a group or team | Identify and use effective ways to search and validate information | Seek opportunities to initiate and determine the scope of a task/project | View problems from a diverse range of perspectives to find solutions |
| Recognise own academic strengths and weaknesses, reflect on performance and progress and respond to feedback | Present, challenge and defend ideas effectively | Summarise and visualise numerical data | Work flexibly and respond to change | Critically evaluate information and use it appropriately | Seek opportunities to identify and secure resources needed to undertake the task/project; efficiently schedule and manage the resources | Seek opportunities to address global and long-term challenges |
| Organise self effectively, agreeing and setting realistic targets, accessing support where appropriate and managing time to achieve targets | Actively listen to ideas of others in an unbiased way | Navigate, interact and contribute effectively, safely and legally with various digital platforms, including the web | Discuss and debate with others and make concessions to reach agreement | Apply the ethical requirements in both the access and use of information | Seek opportunities to set the direction, successfully complete and evaluate a task/project, revising the plan where necessary | Imagine, create and exploit solutions and more abstract ideas, including experimentation and risk-taking |
| Work effectively without supervision in unfamiliar contexts |  | Use personal and professional digital tools and environments | Give, accept and respond to constructive feedback | Comply with legal requirements in both the access and use of information | Seek opportunities to motivate and direct others to enable an effective contribution from all diverse participants | Work with complex ideas and problems, making evidence-based recommendations |
|  |  | Use technologies to effectively communicate and collaborate across dispersed/global teams. | Show sensitivity and respect for diverse values and beliefs | Accurately cite and reference information Sources |  | Enterprise skills (ability to anticipate, identify, and grasp opportunities) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Commercial acumen |

1. **Outline Programme Structure**

The programme seeks to build from the situation of each student to a clear articulation of architecture as a common ground formed of diverse peoples, histories, and traditions. Year 1 draws on the student’s own spatial and educational history, and the built environment more generally, along with skills in collaborative working, critical reflection and tectonic and representational experimentation, and builds to a culminating capstone project in Year 2 which affords the student the full breadth of their studies to be brought to bear on a particular design challenge. In both years, they engage with modules which are each considered as dealing with the key aspects of the discipline as follows:

1. READING. This involves exploring the histories and theories of architecture, in a search to develop the students’ own ability to find meaning in these for their own work.
2. REPRESENTING: This involves the use of media in design to communicate to others and to advance the work via discovery and personal reflection.
3. MAKING. This involves the exploration of the limits and agency of materials, and the specific judgments involved in the use of materials and resources in making a building.
4. PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE. This involves exploring the matter of legal competence, and the ethical framework which governs the work of architects as professionals.

The above headings are seen as underlying pillars of the discipline. Studio projects are seen as a combination / application of all 4.

The programme is designed to produce graduates who are:

* Professional
* Proactive
* Globally Aware
* Thoughtful
* Resilient; and
* Creative

(Ref KU Graduate Attributes, which can be accessed [here](https://d68b3152cf5d08c2f050-97c828cc9502c69ac5af7576c62d48d6.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/documents/user-upload/kingston-university-960a3f8a84a-kingston-university-55547ad698d.pdf))

Our graduates will be ready to work in the various disciplines within the built environment. They will be knowledgeable and confident in applying their subject expertise at work. They will be culturally aware, and able to recognise their potential within a rapidly changing international context. Our graduates will be agile and will have the resilience to flourish by appreciating the importance of lifelong learning. Professional skills and personal development is at the heart of the curriculum structure, embedded across all modules at both years of the programme, with a particular focus in one module per year; AR7104 (15 cr), and AR7108 (15 cr).

This programme is offered as a full field in full-time mode and leads to the award of MArch Architecture. Entry is normally into the first year of the course. Transfer from a similar programme or direct entry is possible into the second year with passes in comparable MArch Year 1 modules or educational and professional experience – but is at the discretion of the course team, with reference to the Professional Body criteria. Intake is in September.

The programme is comprised of postgraduate Level 7 modules in both years, although it follows the academic year structure of an undergraduate course, with two semesters and 120 credits in each of the two years. Each year contains four modules weighted between 15 and 60 credits each. All modules are core and students must pass all four modules to progress to the second year of the course.

**PROGRAMME DIAGRAM**

**YEAR 1 – Level 7**

**Teaching Block 1 Teaching Block 2**

AR7103 – Reading: Architecture Holds Knowledge 15

AR7104 – Professional Practice: Architecture is a Built Negotiation 15

AR7105 – Studio: Architecture Frames Life

60

AR7106 – Making & Representing: Architecture Dreams of the Future

30

**YEAR 2 – Level 7**

**Teaching Block 1 Teaching Block 2**

AR7107 – Reading: Architecture can be Read

30

AR7108 – Professional Practice: Architecture is a Profession 15

AR7109 – Studio: Architecture Is

60

AR7110 – Making: Architecture is the Art of the Possible 15

The award year of the Part 2 course is the culmination of five years of design-oriented architectural education. The thesis design project and the dissertation each constitute a major capstone project, reflected in the larger credit weightings for these modules. Smaller modules focussing on professional practice and technical and environmental integration relate directly to the thesis design project. The thesis design project forms a large 60 credit module that draws together the different aspects of the processes, procedures, and requirements in the production of architecture, and allows students to develop an integrated project, that reflects their own emerging, individual design research agenda.

As a postgraduate award, the course will be governed by the University’s Postgraduate [Regulations](https://www.kingston.ac.uk/aboutkingstonuniversity/howtheuniversityworks/policiesandregulations/). All students will be provided with the University regulations and specific additions that are required for accreditation by professional bodies. Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and student module and year guides.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year 1 - Level 7** (all core) | | | | |
| **Core modules** | **Module code** | **Credit**  **Value** | **Level** | **Teaching Block** |
| Reading: Architecture Holds Knowledge | AR7103 | 15 | 7 | 1 & 2 |
| Professional Practice: Architecture is a Built Negotiation | AR7104 | 15 | 7 | 1 & 2 |
| Studio: Architecture Frames Life | AR7105 | 60 | 7 | 1 & 2 |
| Making & Representing: Architecture Dreams of the Future | AR7106 | 30 | 7 | 1 & 2 |

Progression to second year of Level 7 requires completion of all modules. Due to professional validation and accreditation modules may not be compensated.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year 2 – Level 7** (all core) | | | | |
| **Core modules** | **Module code** | **Credit**  **Value** | **Level** | **Teaching Block** |
| Reading: Architecture can be Read | AR7107 | 30 | 7 | 1 & 2 |
| Professional Practice: Architecture is a Profession | AR7108 | 15 | 7 | 1 & 2 |
| Studio: Architecture Is | AR7109 | 60 | 7 | 1 & 2 |
| Making: Architecture is the Art of the Possible | AR7110 | 15 | 7 | 1 & 2 |

Level 7 requires the completion of the modules. Due to professional validation and accreditation modules may not be compensated.

Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and student module guides on Canvas.

1. **Principles of Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

The programme has been designed to take account of the KU Inclusive Curriculum Framework principles. It aims to facilitate an accessible curriculum, where students are encouraged to become reflective and independent practitioners, able to critically appraise the profession of architecture and position themselves within a global and diverse environment.

Our teaching is underpinned and informed by critical reflection. The teaching and learning approaches on the programme are designed to engage students in developing their architectural subject specific knowledge and understanding. This is through formal and informal learning opportunities. Scheduled learning hours may include lectures, seminars, group work, workshops, as appropriate, and students continue their learning through guided independent study. Opportunities for developing peer learning, teamwork and collaboration and a broad range of transferable skills occur throughout the programme plannedlearning and teaching activities. This includes a combination of on campus and online lectures/tutorials and seminars (synchronous or asynchronous) and workshop events.

As a further development to the first degree programme in Architecture, this programme continues to use project based learning as the primary mechanism for student learning. Central to the teaching of design is the studio, which promotes dialogue between tutor and student, and students with their peers. The process of architectural design entails the synthesis of a range of tasks that, broadly speaking, can be described as analysis of brief and site, developing an indicative proposal and its detailed resolution towards the realisation of a project. The overall aim of architectural design is to synthesize these factors into a coherent whole.

The Design Projects form the core of the assessment strategy in order to reflect the integrative nature of design and the recognition that it is a key skill of the architect. The presentation of work within a design project will serve several purposes. The primary assessment is of design ability, however other skills, which are assessed via the design project include the integration and exposition of theoretical and philosophical attitudes, communication skills, contextual studies, technical resolution and the integration of aspects of management, practice and law.

The teaching and learning of design studio incorporates:

* analysis of the project brief and research into the background of a particular design problem, including user needs;
* site studies and analysis of context;
* exercises that promote creative thought and the manipulation of materials;
* teaching techniques of cultural representation and communication;
* group/collaborative studies including exemplars and precedents;
* lectures, seminars and workshops;
* developing students’ ability to communicate orally and visually using a wide range of media including digital and analogue;
* project reviews or crits to promote the discursive nature of the design process;
* encouraging students’ critical reflection on own design work in progress.

The continual and iterative nature of the design process requires a continual and integrated process of formative (advisory, not marked) assessment and feedback/feed forward using studio tutorials and reviews, with formal formative assessment taking place at the end of teaching block 1. The summative (marked) assessment for the design modules occurs at the end of the teaching block 2 through the submission of a portfolio of the year’s design work. Written feedback is provided following reviews and portfolio assessment.

Other taught aspects of the course are delivered using a range of techniques appropriate to the particular study material. The intention is that the student learning experience will build on the fact that all those entering the programme have graduate skills and will be independent pro-active learners. For this reason, and due to the nature of the material, which is rapidly changing, the aim is not to try and teach students in a prescriptive manner. Rather, the learning philosophy is that the student should be engaged through guided independent study and participation, and should challenge, through the medium of discussion, presentations and seminars, the issues that lie at the core of the discipline. This strategy places students at the heart of the process, and the formal contact hours per module reflect this approach, and support student-led activity with an emphasis on integration in project work.

Learning methods in all other modules (15 and 30 credit modules) incorporates:

* lecture presentation for knowledge dissemination. Lectures are supported by hand-outs, reading lists and the use of the Virtual Learning Environment (Canvas);
* tutorials conducted by tutors (one-to-one and small group);
* seminars conducted by tutors to consolidate and integrate set readings;
* student-led seminars to help students clarify and sharpen their thinking and introduce their ideas to critical discussion;
* architecture case studies;
* workshops to demonstrate the nature and application of strategies, structures and materials;
* site visits / field trips to consolidate by direct experience the historical and cultural context of architecture;
* promoting the ability of the student to analyse and make critical information drawn from supporting and contextual studies and to synthesize this into a design process;
* accessing online learning materials and submitting coursework digitally.

Coursework for the support/contextual component of each module is assessed on an assignment-by-assignment basis. Coursework may take the form of, but is not limited to:

* Essays
* Seminar presentations
* Dissertation
* Project-based assignments
* Case studies
* Drawn and modelled studies
* Material studies
* Practical assignments / industry-led
* Group work / Team-work projects\*

Some of these will be subject to peer and/or self-assessment.

\*Group work / Team work plays an important role in architectural production and this is reflected in academic programmes. Group work projects, which provide the opportunity to develop this, and other inter-personal skills, are incorporated within the learning strategy. Throughout the programme the approach will require a pro-active stance, with students taking responsibility for their own learning, within group activities.

The Department employs Canvas as the University’s virtual learning environment (VLE) to support teaching and learning in all modules, alongside other aspects of the programmes and the Department as a whole. At a modular level it operates as a repository for all module documentation, such as the module guides, briefs, lecture handouts, support material, links to web-resources, and assignment submissions. Canvas is also used for tutorial and workshop sign-up lists and discussion forums where appropriate. All students in the Department have access to Department wide information such as key announcements, notifications of evening lectures and other key events.

Course communication takes place through Canvas announcements with automatic emailing, and students are encouraged and expected to regularly check both the Canvas and their Kingston University email. Further use of technology which is embedded within the programme includes:

* Students are taught and expected to use professional CAD and graphics software.
* For group work students are encouraged to use social media and file sharing online technologies for collaborative working, which itself is a key part of the programme.
* For student presentations students are required to use data projection and presentation software such as PowerPoint, Miro and Adobe reader.
* Turnitin via Canvas is used for all essay/dissertation submissions.
* The 3D workshop offers students an opportunity to work with both; traditional and computer-controlled fabrication techniques.
* LinkedIn Learning – an online platform offering self-paced software tutorials in a wide range of subjects.

1. **Support for Students and their Learning**

Students are supported by:

**The Personal Tutor Scheme (PTS)**

The role of the Personal Tutor (PT) is distinct from that of other academic roles, including that of lecturer, module tutor, programme or module leader, and should not be subsumed into other academic roles. PTs have specific responsibility for students as individuals, beyond, as well as within, the programme team(s) to which they may belong, and the role is an intrinsic element of all teaching academics’ workload. Personal Tutors stay with their tutees as they move through the programme. This role does not duplicate that of Module Leaders or tutors who provide specific subject advice on specific modules or projects, but provides holistic guidance on academic matters, learning habits and behaviours, learner engagement and career aspirations, throughout the entire programme of study. Neither does it duplicate the roles of counsellors or well-being advisors, to whom the PT should refer students who need this more specialist support.

As the programme is Postgraduate; a customised approach to the Personal Tutor Scheme has been developed, and is implemented as follows:

* The core of delivery is through the design studio, with students meeting with their Unit tutors weekly, the PTs will align to this and the studio Unit tutor will assume key academic aspects of the role of Personal Tutor, as follows:
  + Primary provider of academic references;
  + Initial pastoral support, referred to course leader and Student Achievement Officer.
* The Personal Tutor has a clear sense of students and direction of the course and there will be a switch from academic support to pastoral support through consultation between studio tutors and the PT. The PT will assume the following responsibilities:
  + Further pastoral support in conjunction with Student Achievement Officer.
  + Academic advice in relation to strategies for dealing with students’ mitigating circumstances;
  + Back-up provider of academic references.
* Students can always contact their PT to request a meeting, if and when needed. All PTs maintain contact with their tutees, undertaking meetings and through email contact. The Personal Tutor Scheme is delivered as part of the Professional Practice modules, namely AR7104, and AR7108.

**Students are further supported by a variety of means:**

* A Course Leader and a Year Leader to help students understand the programme structure;
* Module Leaders and tutors for each module;
* An academic team who seek to maintain as far as practicable a physical/virtual open-door policy in the spirit of supporting students.
* Personal Tutor to provide academic support and refer students to other support within the university as and how needed;
* A Student Achievement Officer who provides additional pastoral and practical support, especially for students new to higher education studies;
* Academic skills centre
* Learning Resources Centre
* A Department Administration Team
* A designated Course Administrator
* An induction programme and study skills sessions at the start of every academic year;
* An Academic Success Centre that provides academic skills support for UG and PG students
* VLE/Canvas – a versatile online interactive intranet and learning environment accessible both on and off-site (Students are able to access more information and support e.g. by the ‘essential links’ on the course page of Canvas and via My Kingston)
* LinkedIn Learning – an online platform offering self-paced software tutorials in a wide range of subjects, including photography, graphics, web design, audio and music, CAD and Microsoft Office software, as well as courses on Business and Management skills. Some of these are embedded in the curriculum and offer additional self-paced learning, others may be taken at will by students wishing to broaden their employability skills in other areas.
* Staff Student Consultative Committees and regular open meetings at Department and Faculty levels;
* The **Careers and Employability Service** (CES) provides support for students at every stage of their career planning. They support faculties & programmes with specific activities built within the curriculum to scaffold the development of professional attributes, transferable skills, and commercial awareness, combined with co- and extra-curricular support available to all students. Beyond graduation they continue to offer services to graduates as part of their Graduate Support Package which entitles graduates 2 years of support, resources, and activities beyond graduation to support students’ successful transition into their professional lives.
* Comprehensive university support systems including the provision of advice on finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support, disability and equality support;
* Designated Year Guides tailored to students’ individual year of study.
* The Union of Kingston Students;
* Kingston’s Architecture Students’ Society (K-Arch)

1. **Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course**

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

* External Examiners
* Staff Student Consultative Committees reporting to Boards of Study
* Boards of Study with student representation
* Annual Monitoring and Enhancement
* Periodic review undertaken at subject level
* Student evaluation including Module Evaluation Questionnaire (MEQs), level surveys and the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES)
* Moderation policies
* Feedback from employers
* RIBA validation visits
* RIBA annual returns
* ARB prescription

In addition to the University’s processes, the programme also complies with professional, statutory and regulatory body (PSRB) requirements for accreditation; Architects Registration Board (ARB) and Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

1. **Employability and work-based learning**

The programme is taught by a range of staff, many of whom run their own practices or work in practice. Practitioners in general maintain contact with the Kingston architecture team and send information about employment, and other, opportunities.  There is also an informal network of alumni, who reflect the diverse backgrounds of the student cohorts, and contribute to employability events and skills sessions, and offer networking opportunities The University Careers and Employability Service (CES), administers a centralised careers management platform with resources, advice and a base for employers to advertise roles.

Graduates find employment in architectural and multidisciplinary built environment practices. Others find work in environmental, planning consultancies, some in the public sector, and in not-for-profit agencies. Students find work locally in London and SE, UK, some in Europe and internationally. Some students may go on to develop small businesses or another specialism, and some pursue further study.

Across all its architecture programmes, the Department offers a staged and structured approach to employability through a number of components. This is in line with the Programme’s relationship to a profession and a professional body, the Royal institute of British Architects (RIBA).

As part of the course students are asked to address key elements of professional practice, applying them within their own developing thesis project. These include issues such as Planning, Conservation, Building Regulations, Cost/Value and Project Management, Sustainability, and Professional Practice. Students continue to develop their personal profile and CV in preparation for applications on graduation. Professional practice assignments are part of a suite of portfolio related documents, drawing together their experience of the application of professional practice, synthesising studio and supporting components of study. A series of seminars, which include invited guests and alumni talking about career and their journeys taken since graduation are held under the title of ‘Looking Out’.

On completion of the MArch Architecture degree, students will have completed two ‘capstone’ projects: the dissertation and the major final year design thesis project. The design thesis project helps students to reflect on the knowledge and skills that they have acquired during their education and work experience to date and learn how to present them to a wider audience including future employers.

In addition, the Department holds a number of events and projects, built into the academic year, which encourage engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration between students and staff across levels and programmes:

* At the outset of the year the Department runs a 2-3 day Vertical Project, which brings together all the students working in cross programme, mixing UG/PG and Landscape Architecture students.
* At the start of the second teaching block, the cross-crit gathers BA Architecture 2nd an 3rd year and MArch students for the cross-crits,
* In the middle of the year, between Teaching Block 1 and 2, the Looking In/Looking Out department-wide event. Looking In offers an opportunity for staff and students to engage in presentations and dialogue, which again operates across levels and programmes, around an overarching year theme. Looking Out offers award year students the opportunity to make connections to architects in practice and prospective employers.
* At the end of the year, design studios from all programmes and levels are presented in the Summer Exhibition. Programmes and levels are deliberately mixed to encourage interaction and cross-referencing.
* The Department runs a student mentoring scheme where PG students mentor UG students.

Most graduates look for employment with an architectural practice. Although it is not a prerequisite, graduates are encouraged to apply for the Professional Practice Architecture (ARB/RIBA Part 3) at Kingston following some experience in practice. Successful completion of the MArch Architecture provides RIBA/ARB Part 2 exemption and is the second step towards qualifying as an architect.

[*https://www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/how-to-become-an-architect.*](https://www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/how-to-become-an-architect)

Graduates may also follow up their MArch with postgraduate study and/or research, and pursue careers in architectural journalism, academia, etc.

***Work-based learning, including sandwich courses and higher or degree apprenticeships***

Work placements are actively encouraged – although it is the responsibility of individual students to source and secure such placements. This allows students to reflect upon their own personal experience of working in an applied setting, to focus on aspects of this experience that they can clearly relate to.

1. **Other sources of information that you may wish to consult**

**Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA):**

<http://www.architecture.com/>

**Architects Registration Board (ARB):**

<http://www.arb.org.uk/>

**Joint RIBA/ARB Criteria**, available on both RIBA and ARB websites: <https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/resources-landing-page/validation-procedures-and-criteria>

<http://www.arb.org.uk/information-for-schools-of-architecture/arb-criteria/>

**RIBA - The Way Ahead:**

[The Way Ahead: RIBA's new Education and Professional Development Framework (architecture.com)](https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/resources-landing-page/the-way-ahead)

**QAA Benchmark Statements**

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-architecture.pdf?sfvrsn=3cecf781_14>

**Course Page:** <http://www.kingston.ac.uk/postgraduate-course/architecture-march/>

1. **Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules**

This table maps where course learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the modules for this course. It provides a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module code** | | **Year 4**  **Level 7** | | | | **Year 5**  **Level 7** | | | |
| AR7103 | AR7104 | AR7105 | AR7106 | AR7107 | AR7108 | AR7109 | AR7110 |
| **Knowledge & Understanding** | A1 | X |  |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| A2 |  | X | X |  |  | X | X |  |
| A3 |  |  | X | X |  |  | X | X |
| A4 |  | X | X | X |  | X | X | X |
| **Intellectual Skills** | B1 | X |  |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| B2 |  | X | X |  |  | X | X |  |
| B3 |  |  | X | X |  |  | X | X |
| B4 |  |  | X | X |  |  | X | X |
| **Practical Skills** | C1 | X |  |  |  | X |  |  |  |
| C2 |  | X | X |  |  | X | X |  |
| C3 |  |  | X | X |  |  | X | X |
| C4 |  | X | X | X |  | X | X | X |

**Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.**