



Programme Specification

Title of Course: *Postgraduate Diploma Professional Practice in Architecture*

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Version number	3
Faculty	Kingston School of Art
School	School of Arts
Department	Department of 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

Award(s) and Title(s): <i>Up to 10 pathways</i>	Postgraduate Diploma Professional Practice in Architecture
Intermediate Awards(s) and Title(s): <i>There are 4 Intermediate awards for each pathway</i>	Postgraduate Certificate
Course Code <i>For each pathway and mode of delivery</i>	
UCAS code <i>For each pathway</i>	

RQF Level for the Final Award:	Level 7
Awarding Institution:	Kingston University
Teaching Institution:	Kingston University
Location:	Department of Architecture & Landscape, School of Art and Architecture, Kingston School of Art, Knights Park
Language of Delivery:	English
Modes of Delivery:	Part-time
Available as:	
Minimum period of registration:	Part-time - 1 year
Maximum period of registration:	Part-time - 4 years
Entry Requirements:	Postgraduate Diploma The minimum entry qualifications for the programme are: Applicants should have Part 1 and Part 2 as recognised by the Architects Registration Board of the United Kingdom, together with a minimum of 13 months of logged and approved Work-based Learning carried out in accordance with the requirements of the RIBA and ARB or accepted equivalents. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have fulfilled the basic entry criteria. Postgraduate Certificate Where a student has completed their architectural education outside the UK and is awaiting confirmation of the equivalence of their qualifications, they may be allowed entry to the Postgraduate Certificate. On successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate this may be used as Accredited Prior Learning for entry

	to the Postgraduate Diploma when all other entry requirements can be met. Applications are considered on the basis of the information contained in the application forms, including academic and workplace references. Candidates will be required to attach a summary of their Log Book/ Professional Development and Experience Record and a declaration that they can meet the minimum Work-based Experience period. A high standard of written and verbal English is required. For overseas students, a minimum of IELTS 7 is recommended and a minimum of IELTS 6.5 required. A TOEFL score of 88 is required. Kingston University operates an equal opportunities policy in regard to all applicants. This policy is endorsed by the Faculty and School.
Programme Accredited by:	Architects Registration Board of the United Kingdom (ARB) Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:	Architecture
Approved Variants:	No compensation is permitted.
Is this Higher or Degree Apprenticeship course?	

For Higher or Degree Apprenticeship proposals only

Higher or Degree Apprenticeship standard:	N/A
Recruitment, Selection and Admission process:	N/A
End Point Assessment Organisation(s):	N/A

SECTION 2: THE COURSE

A. Aims of the Course

The overall aim of the programme is to produce graduates who have:

- a comprehensive knowledge of the areas of study required to enter and contribute to architectural practice
- a critical understanding of architecture as a cultural, technical, and social activity and how it impacts upon human and physical environments
- an ability to engage in architectural practice responsibly and with due regard to the ethical, social, and managerial demands of such practice.
- the qualities and transferable skills necessary to exercise initiative and personal responsibility; are capable of decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and have the independent learning ability for continuing professional development.

Course Aims

The programme has been devised:

- to equip graduates to face the challenges of contemporary professional practice and to provide them with the skills to become reflective practitioners.
- to encourage a critical approach to practice ;
- to develop the problem evaluation and problem-solving skills of students;
- to explore relevant areas of knowledge and practice in depth;
- to enable students to identify and evaluate knowledge and skills gained within practice and within taught modules;
- to enable students to integrate knowledge and skills into strategies for current and future practice;
- to provide a course which is both intellectually challenging in its own right whilst offering practical assistance to those currently engaged within practice.

B. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme outcomes are referenced to the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), with an awareness of the Subject Benchmark for Architecture (2010), and relate to the typical student. The procedures associated with the programme comply with the QAA Quality Code for Higher Education except where there are specific requirements for the involvement of External Professional Examiners to meet the requirements of the professional bodies.

The programme is specifically written to meet the Criteria for Part 3, as set out by the ARB and the RIBA. The exit award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice in Architecture is an award prescribed by the ARB and validated by the RIBA.

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

The programme learning outcomes are the high-level learning outcomes that will have been achieved by all students receiving this award. They must align to the levels set out in the [‘Sector Recognised Standards in England’](#) (OFS 2022).

Programme Learning Outcomes					
	Knowledge and Understanding		Intellectual Skills		Subject Practical Skills
	On completion of the course students will be able to:		On completion of the course students will be able to		On completion of the course students will be able to
A1	Communicate a clear and critical understanding of the architect's obligation to society and the profession, and a sufficient awareness of the limits of their competence and professional experience to ensure they are unlikely to bring the profession into disrepute.	B1	Demonstrate problem identification, problem evaluation and problem solving skills in complex and unpredictable situations relevant to architectural practice	C3	Provide a competent service, both singly and as part of a team.
A2	Communicate a critical understanding of the means by which the needs of a commissioning client, users and wider society can be met and the legal, contractual and procedural context for the effective delivery of professional services.	B2	Demonstrate originality in the application and integration of knowledge and skills into strategies for current and future practice	C1	Demonstrate overall competence and the ability to behave with integrity, in the ethical and professional manner appropriate to the role of architect.
A3	Communicate a critical understanding of the legal context within which an architect must operate, and the processes undertaken to ensure compliance with legal requirements or standards. This will be supported by knowledge of the relevant law, legislation, guidance and controls relevant to architectural design and construction.	B3	Positively interact with statutory and private bodies or individuals, and competently deliver projects within diverse legislative frameworks.	C2	Effectively communicate, present, organise and self-manage and have the skills necessary for autonomous working.
A4	Demonstrate critical understanding of the professional, financial and managerial imperatives of	B5	Learn through practice, to evaluate their performance and competencies and identify and	C4	Engage in business administration and ability to resource, plan, implement and record project tasks

	providing professional services, and the relationship between the practice of architecture and the UK construction and development industries.		engage in appropriate continuing professional development.		to achieve stated goals, either individually or within a team.
A5	Communicate their critical understanding of UK construction and contract law, construction procurement processes and the roles of built environment professionals.	B4	Assess and manage risk as appropriate to architectural practice	C5	Plan project-related tasks, coordinate and engage in design team interaction, execute effective contract communication and resolve construction-related challenges and disputes.

In addition to the programme learning outcomes, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow students to develop the following range of Graduate Attributes:

1. Creative Problem Solving
2. Digital Competency
3. Enterprise
4. Questioning Mindset
5. Adaptability
6. Empathy
7. Collaboration
8. Resilience
9. Self-Awareness

C. Outline Programme Structure

This programme is offered as a full field in part-time mode only over one year reflecting the importance of working within an appropriate professional context and leads to the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice in Architecture. Transfer from the Postgraduate Certificate is possible – but is subject to an applicant being able to meet the professional requirements for prior qualifications and is at the discretion of the course team. Intake is normally in September.

E1. Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

Architects Registration Board of the United Kingdom
Royal Institute of British Architects

E2. Work-based learning

Active engagement in an appropriate professional environment is crucial to the successful completion of this programme. It is the responsibility of individual students to source and secure such placements. Students are required 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 theoretical concepts and to evaluate the relationship between theory and practice.

E3. Outline Programme Structure

The programme comprises four compulsory modules each worth 30 credit points. All students will be provided with the University Postgraduate Regulations (PR) and specific additions that are sometimes required for accreditation by outside bodies (e.g. professional or statutory bodies that confer professional accreditation). Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and student module guides.

Postgraduate Diploma Professional Practice in Architecture

Level 7							
Postgraduate Diploma Professional Practice in Architecture							
Core modules	Module code	Credit Value	Level	Teaching Block	Pre-requisites	Full Time	Part Time
Building Procurement and the Management of Projects	AR7203	30	7	2			

Critical Practice	AR720 4	30	7	3			
Law and the Professional	AR720 1	30	7	1 & 2			
Professional Services and Business Management	AR720 2	30	7	1 & 2			
Optional Modules							

Level 7 information

Students exiting the programme with 60 credits are eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice in Architecture

D. Principles of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

A range of learning and teaching strategies have been devised to support student learning and develop students as independent and reflective learners. The course is supported by Canvas, the University Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which acts as the main online location and portal for course and School information and news. Course materials such as handbooks, module guides, timetables and information on talks programmes, lectures and events are all accessible through the VLE.

The course includes specialist, formal lecture sessions where appropriate, but will predominantly comprise tutor-led seminars, student presentations and group interaction sessions including role-play. Within these sessions communication skills can be developed, guidance for further structured study provided and ideas can be exchanged and developed. In many cases the tutor will act as facilitator for peer teaching/learning. Individual and group tutorials will also be provided as required complementing the University personal tutor scheme.

Directed learning is achieved through a variety of means. Students will be given specific assignments in preparation for and in support of contact sessions. Scenario based assignments will form the basis for most of the modules. Substantive exercises, including integrative project work and case studies requiring the analysis of complex situations are included. These will require both individual and group work.

As students will undertake the programme in a part-time mode, the creation of Study Syndicates will be encouraged. These will act as both a further forum for discussion as well as peer group support.

Experiential and work-based learning is a crucial element within the course. It is recommended that a learning agreement should be established between the student and the practice. Learning objectives should be agreed between all the parties in accordance with the specific criteria and level of the module. Professional experience will be monitored by the Course Team and supervised by a designated Office Mentor. In most cases this will be evidenced through the use of the Professional Experience and Development Record available online from the RIBA.

The Department provides a Professional Studies Advisor (PSA) to provide further individual support for students and their place of employment will designate a Professional Mentor. The PSA is available for tutorials by agreement and visits to places of employment can be arranged when required. As work-based learning is the foundation for continuing professional development, students are expected to have a mature and professional attitude to gaining and maintaining the necessary spread of experience prior to presenting for final assessment and recording it in an appropriate and timely manner.

The majority of the assignments will be scenario based, seeking to test judgment and the ability to analyse and evaluate situations. For those objectives that cannot be evaluated by written assignments, non-written assessments may be used including verbal and visual presentations. Some group work will be included in the assignments. The efficacy of the group as well as the quality of the final outcome will be assessed.

LinkedIn Learning – all courses based in the Kingston School of Art offer students free access to the online video tutorial platform LinkedIn Learning. This provides a wide range of subjects to choose from, many with downloadable exercise files, including software tutorials covering 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.

E. Support for Students and their Learning

Students will be allocated a personal tutor at the beginning of the academic year, in accordance with the University's Personal Tutor Scheme.

Students are supported by:

- Course Director
- Module Leaders
- Dedicated course administrator
- Student support centre
- Group and individual tutorials
- Personal tutor scheme
- VLE/Canvas – a versatile online interactive intranet and learning environment accessible both on and off-site
- LinkedIn Learning – an online platform offering self-paced software tutorials
- Study Groups
- Formative assignments
- Debriefing seminar sessions.
- Feedback on professional experience through the RIBA PEDR

F. 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:

- Prescription by the Architects Registration Board
- Validation by the Royal Institute of British Architects
- Assessment by Professional Examiners
- External Examiners
- Boards of study with student representation
- Annual Monitoring and Enhancement
- Periodic review undertaken at the subject level
- Student evaluation including MEQs (Module Evaluation Questionnaires) and a Postgraduate Survey
- Moderation policies
- Feedback from employers

G. Employability and work-based learning

This programme is vocational. On successful completion of the programme graduates can apply for registration with the ARB and for Chartered membership of the RIBA. Graduates may continue in employment or may seek to establish themselves as independent practitioners. Other graduates take on roles in client organisations or more specialist areas of the construction and development industries. Graduates have also continued onto specialist postgraduate programmes such as Construction Law and Law Conversion programmes.

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

N/A

H. Other sources of information that you may wish to consult

RIBA Professional Experience and Development Record providing up to date information on professional body requirements: <http://www.pedr.co.uk>

The website for the ARB: <http://www.arb.org.uk>

Course page on the University website: <http://www.kingston.ac.uk/postgraduate-course/professional-practice-architecture-pgdip/>

I. 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 an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

Module Code		Level 7			
		AR7204	AR7203	AR7202	AR7201
Knowledge & Understanding	A1	S	S	S	S
	A2	S	S	S	S
	A3	S	S		S
	A4	S		S	S
	A5	S	S		S
Intellectual Skills	B1	S	S		S
	B2	S	S	S	S
	B3	S			S

Practical Skills	B5	S	S	S	S
	B4	S	S	S	
	C3	S	S	S	S
	C1	S	S	S	S
	C2	S	S	S	S
	C4	S		S	
	C5	S	S	S	

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