BHASVIC

Guide to Higher Education

Architecture

Building & Surveying

Planning

Architecture

Do you picture yourself designing the next iconic building on London's skyline, an eco-friendly house or a shopping centre? If so, architecture may be for you. Architects design buildings of all types from residential housing to large public buildings. This degree is the first stage of seven years of professional training needed to practice as an architect. The course combines studio-based design projects with gaining technical knowledge of materials and construction techniques.

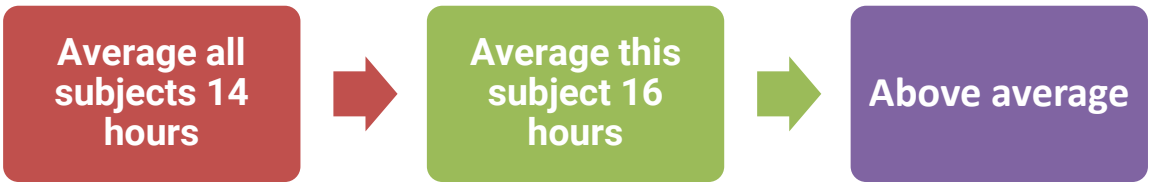
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- BA
- TIME ABROAD
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- COMPUTER-LITERATE
- PRACTICAL WORK
- STUDIO-BASED
- ART AND DESIGN
- TECHNICAL

Example course modules

- Communication and group working
- History and theory of architecture
- Transferable skills for the built environment
- Design procedures
- Creative practice
- The principles of designing architecture
- The practice of making architecture
- Humanities and technologies
- Interdisciplinary design studies
- Architectural communication and representation

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

The Guardian | The Complete University Guide | The Times

What students say about Architecture

Teaching is quite varied - lots of one-to-one tutoring/ studio tutoring in small groups. Very independent, generally only one day of lectures a week and eight to 10 contact hours a week. But lots of independent work. Projects set by tutors are very varied and allow a lot of creativity. Most work is through design portfolios that you work on throughout the year - however alongside these are some essays and group work, but the focus is on the design portfolio.

2nd year, University of Westminster, London

I found architecture to be a very challenging course. At Bath, it is very technical and you are expected to know how the building will stand up. Detail design plays a huge role in the assessment process. We are required to complete three solo projects in the first year and one group project in conjunction with civil engineers. For a project, you will be given a brief. You will then have to come up with a design proposal, draw it up using autoCAD and SketchUp, make a model and take photos. All your work will then need to be presented in a brochure and presented at a crit where you have to present your idea to practicing architects and they criticise it.

1st year, University of Bath

The course is split into history, technology, theory, professional studies, and design. All areas are interesting but the most challenging is design. Technology can also be challenging if you struggle more with maths and physics. We produce design work which includes portfolios, models, sketchbook, technical drawings and atmospheric drawings. Professional studies involves technical drawing by hand, and eventually digitally. It also includes some digital 3D modelling and Photoshop work.

1st year, Newcastle University

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- No Specific Requirements

Useful to have

- Physics
- Art
- Mathematics

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement
- Portfolio
- Interview

What to ask on an Architecture open day

Is architecture the right course for you? What books do you need to buy? Find out by asking tutors these need-to-know questions when you're out at an open day...

About the course

- Is the course accredited?
- Who will be teaching me?
- What's the split between critical thinking / theory and practical, project-based work?
- How much drawing and modelling is involved, and how much of that will be digital?
- How many portfolios will I need to complete? Will I be exhibiting my work at all?

Equipment and facilities

- What books do I need to buy?
- What drawing equipment / tools do I need to buy? How much will this add up to?
- Do I need a computer with specialist design programs? Do you recommend any?
- Work experience / placements
- Will I spend a year working for an architects? Do I need to arrange this myself?
- How will my placements be assessed? Does it count towards my final mark?
- Will I be paid when on a placement?

Assessment

- What's the split between exams / coursework / group projects?
- Does my portfolio make up a high proportion of my overall mark?
- Do I need to complete a research-based project or dissertation

Going the extra mile

- How can I get the most out of this degree?
- Does the university have good contacts within the industry?
- What are my chances of getting a job at the end of this course?

Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry

- Interior Design
- Interior Architecture and Design
- Interior Design Architecture with Foundation Year Architecture (with placement)
- Architecture
- Architecture (with Foundation Year)
- Architectural Engineering
- Land Economy

Career prospects

Before the recession, architecture had one of the lowest unemployment rates of all the main subjects, and graduates were in demand. But the recession hit the construction industry very hard and that has meant a tough few years for architects. Things have been looking up more recently, though, so we hope and expect that the jobs market for architects will get better. Most working architects secure jobs in the architecture industry, more usually starting as assistants rather than full-blown architects or chartered

Technicians. Some, however, move into management, design or marketing roles, where they find their planning, design and project management skills are very welcome. Nearly half the architecture-related jobs last year were in London or the South East, and this group are rather more likely than average to find their jobs through personal contacts, so polish your networking skills if you want to succeed as an architect.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, Technical ability, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Administration, Analytics, Discipline

Example careers

- Architect
- Interior or landscape designer
- Chartered architectural technologist

Other real-life job examples

- Historic buildings inspector
- Social sciences researcher
- Youth project leader

What employers like about this subject

Architecture degrees will provide you with subject-specific skills such as the skills to work with and communicate architectural proposals; a knowledge of materials and their use in building and the use of Computer-Aided Design (CAD). Transferable skills you can get from architecture include team-working, excellent IT, problem-solving, critical thinking and the ability to interpret data. Architecture graduates are employed in architectural practices, in construction, in consultancy, in design agencies, in government and regulatory bodies and in universities.

Building and surveying

If you are interested in buildings and like the idea of identifying technical problems, finding solutions and giving technical or legal advice, building surveying could be for you. Building surveyors are involved at the design, planning and construction stages of building projects and also work in property management and the conservation of historic buildings. If you are more interested in business and finance, quantity surveying could be for you. Quantity surveyors manage costs relating to building and civil engineering projects.

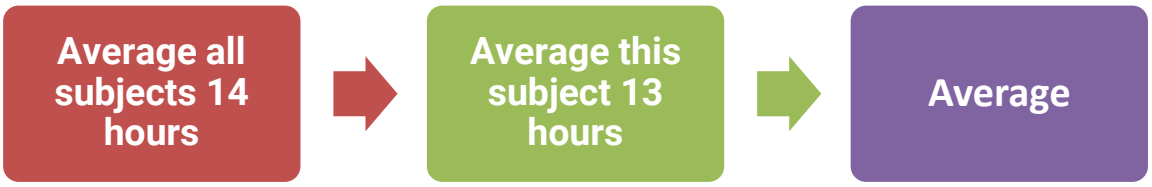
- FINANCE
- BSC
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- TIME IN LABS
- PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING
- PRACTICAL WORK
- TECHNICAL
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- BUILDING CONSERVATION

Example course modules

- Design principles
- Residential refurbishment and maintenance
- Science and materials
- Law and contract
- Design and surveying skills
- Residential construction
- Commercial and industrial technology
- Pre-and post-contract procedures
- Defect and structural appraisal
- Building pathology

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



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League tables for this subject

The Guardian | The Complete University Guide | The Times

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- Maths

Useful to have

- Physics

Application checklist

- January application
- Personal statement

Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry

- Construction Management
- Building Surveying (Accelerated Full-Time)
- Quantity Surveying
- Construction Engineering Management
- Planning and Property Development
- Land Economy

Career prospects

Building graduates haven't had as difficult a time as other construction grads. Most graduates get jobs quickly, with quantity building surveyors, construction engineering and site management roles amongst the most common. There are jobs to be had in most parts of the country, so if you're technically-inclined and want to work somewhere specific, it might be worth considering this as an option. Building graduates are more likely than most to start their career with an employer who gave them work experience, so it's particularly worth trying to secure links with industry if you take this degree.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, Technical ability, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Administration, Analytics, Discipline

Example Careers

- Construction manager
- Estates manager
- Chartered surveyor

Other real-life job examples

- Building technician
- Building surveyor
- Civil engineer

What employers like about this subject

A degree in building or surveying will provide you with subject-specific skills such as the skills to appraise buildings; an understanding of the design, construction, performance and management of

buildings and the legal principles around building and their construction, regulation and management. Transferable skills you can get from building or surveying include good numeracy, team-working, excellent IT, problem-solving, critical thinking and the ability to interpret data. Building or surveying graduates are employed in all branches of the construction industry, and in other industries such as electricity generation and supply, oil and gas, transport and property management.

Planning

Are you interested in how towns or cities develop or how decisions (often with conflicting demands) are made about new housing schemes, transport systems and leisure facilities? A planning degree is a vocational course where you will learn the skills to work as a town and country planner, such as surveying techniques, using computer-aided design to draw up plans, report-writing and developing your communication, negotiation (and diplomacy!) skills.

- BSC
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- BA
- COURSEWORK-INTENSIVE
- FIELD TRIPS
- REPORT-WRITING
- URBAN STUDIES
- REAL ESTATE

Example course modules

- The context of housing
- Housing administration and property management
- Residential landlord and tenant law
- Professional practice in context
- Social housing strategy and finance
- Environment and sustainability
- Reading the city
- Understanding place: methods and perspectives
- The planning professional
- Strategies into action

Teaching hours / week

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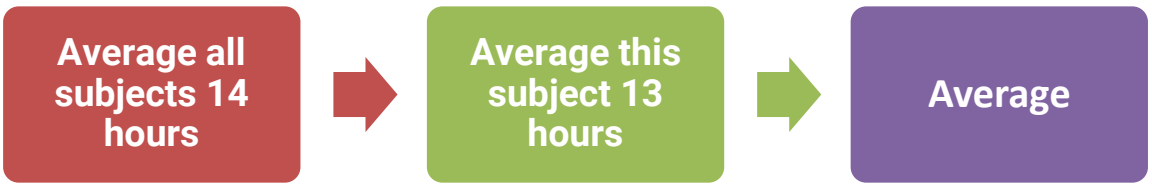

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League tables for this subject

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What students say about planning

I study geography and planning. Not many hours a week - approx eight to 10 in the first semester, and 10-16 in the second. Enjoy the majority of my modules. Assessed work is mainly exams for geography modules, and essays/ reports for town planning modules.

1st year, Newcastle University

The work involved is tough in some modules, but is easy in others - it can vary. All of them are interesting, and you are able to see how the information being taught would apply in the real world. You do not spend much time at the university, but this gives students a chance to work and do studying at home.

1st year, University of Westminster, London

There is ample amount of lectures. The work is challenging, but interesting and mostly relevant. Maps, essays and reports are what we are set to do.

1st year, Canterbury Christ Church University

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- No Specific Requirements

Useful to have

- geography

Application checklist

- January application
- Personal statement

Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry

- Construction Management
- Construction Engineering Management
- Planning and Property Development
- Land Economy

Transferable skills

Teamwork, Technical ability, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Administration, Analytics, Discipline

Example Careers

- Construction manager
- Estates manager
- Chartered surveyor

Visual Arts 	Each of our subjects Fine Art, Textiles, Photography and Graphics have a 'progression' section on the VLE In Fine Art for example there is: • Guide to studying the arts at university. • Job profiles. • An animated village for research arts careers. • Short films from some of the UK's leading creative professionals about how they got started.	BHASVLE/my courses/visual arts/fine art a level year 1

Other real-life job examples

- Building technician
- Building surveyor
- Civil engineer

Career prospects

This subject includes degrees in urban studies and housing as well as planning qualifications. Be a little careful when looking at the stats, as most jobs in planning, especially in town planning, go to Masters students in the subject – planning is a very popular Master's degree. So if you want a job in planning, expect to stay on at university after you have finished your first degree. Those who leave after their first degree are more likely to go into surveying. The subject is in demand, though, so despite the downturn in construction, planning graduates are less likely than the average to be out of work.

What employers like about this subject

A student of planning can expect to gain subject-specific skills including the planning and management of built and natural environments; planning law and how to use specialist software including Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Planning graduates can be found largely in related industries, such as property development, architecture, construction, building and engineering consultancy, but their mix of skills means they are recruited by other industries, including banking, defence and manufacturing. Planning students need to take a Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) accredited degree in order to become a chartered town planner.

Sources & Links

SOURCE: GRADUATE PROSPECTS

SOURCE: WHICH? STUDENT SURVEY

SOURCES: HESA & HEPI-HEA

https://targetcareers.co.uk/uni/degree-subject-guides

https://www.whatuni.com/advice/guides/subject-guides/

https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses

https://universitycompare.com/guides/subject/

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/which-subject-should-you-study-university

https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors