

Lancaster
University



Architecture

Undergraduate Degrees 2026



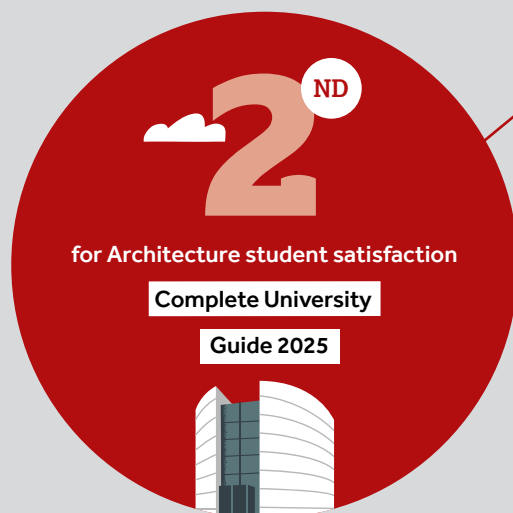
Welcome

Our commitment to sustainability is the guiding principle behind our degree in architecture.



Lancaster's world-leading lecturers and researchers are tackling some of the most pressing challenges in the built environment. From reducing urban pollution to developing ground-breaking building materials, we are passionate about architecture and its role in addressing major global issues such as the climate emergency.

This course is fully up to date with the latest in architectural practice and is informed by our innovative design-led research into the future of the profession. You will find that working on live projects with real clients is integral to the course.

The Lancaster campus is an inspirational setting for studying architecture. Our teaching base on campus is in Bailrigg House, an Arts and Crafts manor house set in gardens and woodland on the edge of campus. Some of your teaching will take place in the BREEAM award-winning Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts building. You will have plenty of workshop time, as well as a space in our purpose-built design studio.





Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Architecture		BA	K100	3	AAA
Architecture (Placement Year)		BA	K101	4	AAA
Architecture (Study Abroad)		BA	K102	4	AAA

Subject entry requirements | No specific A level or BTEC subjects required. Find out more about why we value diverse subject backgrounds: lancaster.ac.uk/lica/architecture/a-levels

Portfolio | Prior to offer, you will be asked to send us a digital portfolio. Find out more under the Portfolio Guidance section: lancaster.ac.uk/lica/architecture

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements lancaster.ac.uk





Architecture at Lancaster

At Lancaster you will be able to explore the future of architectural practice through experimentation and world-leading research. You will develop skills and knowledge that will enable you to be agile and ethical in your practice, and ready to meet the challenges posed by contemporary global problems such as climate emergency, work force automation, data security and the ageing population.

Our design studios and surrounding environment will provide space to reflect, debate and create. Lancaster's green campus features woodland and ponds and is situated close to the Lake District. It is a perfect location from which to investigate the global climate emergency, and to test alternate means of working and living using the apparatus of sustainable and lean construction.

We are uniquely positioned on a campus that offers gems such as the Lancaster Environment Centre, and the Lancaster Health Innovation Campus. On the coast nearby is the proposed second Eden Project, due to open in 2028.

Facilities

As well as a space in our studios, you will access our workshops which provide facilities for model-making at various scales, encompassing hand tools and digital fabrication equipment including 3D printers, CNC routers, and laser cutters. Digital facilities include laser scanning, visualisation equipment and large-scale printing. A new IT lab gives access to the full Adobe Creative Suite and other specialist software.

In addition, you will be able to access the workshops and specialist facilities used by the other disciplines in the School of Arts. Our Forest Lab is an outdoor space to explore construction skills in the woods, delivered in the spirit of fun, exploration, and collaboration.





The three concerns underpinning everything we do at Lancaster School of Architecture are:

- + **Future Practice** | Issues such as future cities and rapid urbanisation, changing societal and family structures and patterns of working, new materials and accelerating digitalisation necessitate a new kind of architectural professional, equipped to address such challenges.
- + **Digital Crafts** | Digital fabrication, agile production, rapid prototyping, disruptive technologies, advanced manufacturing, learning-by-doing and the maker movement: we teach our students about these ideas and encourage them to become future pioneers.
- + **Climate Emergency** | Addressing the climate crisis is an imperative. Climate change is seamlessly integrated into everything we teach and we strive for it to become utterly normalised so as to be part of our everyday conversation in studio, all the time.

Five additional themes underpin the above concerns:

- + **Radical Creativity:** enables us to be highly creative, innovative and socially aware in our work.
- + **Ethics:** we are becoming a more unequal society and so applied ethics is integrated in our professional practice.
- + **People:** people are at the heart of the design process and human-centred design is part of all our teaching.
- + **Place:** our unique setting helps us to address issues of place, landscape and context.
- + **Research:** our teaching is informed by our innovative research.

Student work

Visit our online exhibition, showcasing the cutting-edge work that our students are producing.



Made for *learning*

Our objective is to explore architecture through experimentation and world-leading research. To achieve this, our three key areas of investigation - Climate Emergency, Digital Craft and Future Practice - are tested through strong practice relationships to inform live projects and briefs, alongside equally robust research relationships that face global challenges.

As a student here, you will be embedded in a cross-disciplinary community of professors, researchers, and architects, collectively engaged in architectural exploration that connects research, teaching and practice.

Our unique location, adjacent to a small wood in a self-contained campus on the edge of a historic city with access to unique landscapes, provides an excellent locus from which to investigate the global climate emergency and its inherent environmental challenges.

We offer all students 24-hour access to a desk and space within dedicated studios across the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Most assessment is done by coursework, where you will produce portfolios, reports and essays that demonstrate your learning journey.



TEA talks

TEA talks are a series of informal talks on the theme of technology, environment, and the role of architecture, now and in the future. Students engage with these talks on multiple levels; as audience, organisers and as presenters themselves.

Charrette

Charrette provides an annual forum for staff and students to socialise and work together beyond the traditional structure of academia, during a week of team building activities that ranges from e.g. willow weaving and mud brick building through to book binding and bamboo construction. This event takes place on the first week of semester one, is integrated into Architectural Design modules and fosters a spirit of care and collaboration between students and staff. Together we enjoy experimentation with construction skills in the woods, delivered in the spirit of fun and exploration.



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*A meaningful balance
between structured learning
and creative exploration.*

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Mason Gillibrand
Architects

Lancaster University



Charlotte, *graduated 2023*

BA Hons Architecture

Coming from a remote island in Scotland and stepping into the world of architecture was a massive shock to the system. However, Lancaster's small class sizes provided the perfect environment for learning. This close-knit community that started off in undergraduate has continued into my master's studies. The one-to-one tutorials gave me the space to refine my ideas, build confidence in my designs, and develop a deeper understanding of architectural concepts.

My Part 1 placement at Mason Gillibrand Architects was a pivotal moment, transforming abstract ideas into real-world projects. It taught me feasibility of projects, practical constraints, and the realities of design implementation—lessons that shaped the way I approach architecture.

Returning to Lancaster for my master's was an easy decision. My placement experience, combined with my undergraduate studies, allowed me to strike a meaningful balance between structured learning and creative exploration, pushing boundaries in ways I hadn't before. Lancaster's personal approach has remained a strong foundation, influencing not just my architectural perspective but the way I engage with design as a whole.



Gain *real-world* experience

Work placements and professional experience

We offer the option to take part in a mentoring scheme with professional architects in your second year. We also typically organise extra-curricular activities, including design charrette, competitions, exhibitions and placement opportunities.

You can opt to take our four-year Architecture (Placement Year) degree. This placement can form part of the professional experience required by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to become a chartered RIBA architect.



Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

You'll gain sector-relevant work experience and get paid for it with these internships. Apply in all years of study for opportunities such as publishing assistant, content delivery manager or architect intern. The scheme is delivered by our faculty employability team who are here to support your access to direct work experience while you study.

The Lancaster Award

The Lancaster Award is a non-academic certificate developed in partnership with employers to help you make the most of your time at Lancaster and to demonstrate the skills you have developed along the way. It is designed to reward the wide range of volunteering activities and placements undertaken by many of our undergraduates. Potential employers increasingly value a profile that includes more than just strong academic results, and the Lancaster Award recognises and validates this.



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It allows you to think like an architect and be involved with the community.

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Women in Property
student award 2025

Lancaster University



Sana, second year
BA Hons Architecture

My favourite thing about studying architecture at Lancaster is the uplifting environment. Tutors are always helpful and welcoming to students when things may be difficult and overwhelming, and they are always there for support.

Architecture at Lancaster is different than what a traditional architecture school environment may be like, with non-judgmental reviews, external guests and local projects allowing you to think like an architect and be involved with the community.

I was honoured to be nominated by my tutors to take part in the Women in Property student award 2025. As part of the process, I presented my work to a panel of industry judges and took part in a formal interview, which was both challenging and rewarding. I'm proud to have been recognised as highly commended, a reflection of the hard work and passion I bring to my studies and future career in the built environment.

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You're given freedom to bring your own style and personality into your work.

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BA Hons Architecture

Lancaster University



Ollie, third year

My favourite thing about architecture at Lancaster is the amount of time you get to spend with your tutors. You don't just receive a lot of valuable feedback on your work, you also build closer relationships and get to learn more about their design styles and interests. This really helps you develop your own personality and direction in your career.

One aspect I really enjoyed and found helpful not just during the course but also for my future career was the number of external visitors and professionals brought in for talks, lectures, and presentations. Hearing from people across different sectors gives you a broader understanding of the industry, helps inform your design thinking, and supports you in discovering your interests.

What's really special about studying architecture at Lancaster is that you are encouraged to be yourself. You're given the freedom to bring your own style, personality, and perspective into your work, which has been incredibly valuable in shaping my confidence and preparing me for my future career.



Your global *experience*

Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your college or your students' union.

Study abroad

You can choose to study your degree with a study abroad year. On these four-year degrees, you spend your third year studying at one of our partner universities abroad. The University partners with institutions around the globe, although availability of destinations varies each year.

Living in another country and studying architecture from a different perspective offers considerable benefit both in terms of your understanding of the subject and your preparation for life after university.

Vacation travel and overseas summer schools

You can also discover the world during your vacations. We run short trips to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

In addition, you can attend summer schools at one of our many overseas partners.

Find out more at lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

Architecture

BA (Hons)

This degree is comprised of four main components: Design Studio, Architectural Technology, Architectural Humanities and Professional Practice.

When you start in year one, we will assume no prior knowledge of architecture, but that you share our enthusiasm and passion for the subject. Alongside lectures, seminars and workshops you will have one-to-one tutorials, plenty of opportunity for hands-on work in the studio and will get to know others on the course through project and group work.

By year two, you will have grasped the foundations and the fundamentals of architecture and we will build up your knowledge and practical skills. Throughout this year, you will learn about and analyse contemporary architecture and emerging methods of construction and technologies.

Your final year is designed to expand and stretch your critical thinking through practical project work at an advanced level. You will be asked to explore the future of architectural practice and to consider new ways of designing and living.

Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

Year 1

Core Modules

Architectural Design Studio 1A

Delivered instruction and workshops will provide a basis for a series of technical projects, whilst live briefs, external visits, collaborations and opportunities for site visits and field trips will provide you with real-world experience essential for building your future career.

Architectural Design Studio 1B

You will explore materials and representative techniques to present both cultural and social understanding of spaces, but also their materiality and identity. Through this exploration you will develop a critical understanding and appreciation of design generators and conceptual approaches to the resolution of a small building design.

Architectural Technology

Through a series of lectures, workshops, practical demonstrations and seminars, you will understand the fundamentals of architectural technology. You will explore building technology based on case studies and design studio modules, with a focus on materials and assembly, lean construction, and passive architecture principles.

Architectural Humanities 1

You will be taught using extended historical narratives with a range of temporal, spatial and geographical foci, each founded on a core text. Connecting theory with history, this approach will focus on wider issues of environment, culture, design and urbanism from prehistoric times to the present day.



Year 2

Core Modules

Architectural Design Studio 2A

In this design studio module, you'll enhance your digital skills through CAD, 3D modelling, rendering, and digital fabrication, using industry-standard software. You'll also explore site analysis and survey techniques while developing a design proposal in response to a set brief.

Architectural Design Studio 2B

In this module, you will design a public building or collective housing project of approximately 750 sqm, developing it to the detailed design stage. You'll also gain an understanding of the UK model for building design and construction, including the RIBA Plan of Work.

Advanced Technology and Professional Skills

This module offers a clear introduction to the regulatory framework, focusing on key aspects of building regulations and the broader professional context. You'll also explore the physical and material qualities of building components through detailed drawings and models, potentially including daylighting and environmental systems.

Architectural Humanities 2

Continuing from your first year module, we will explore a range of perspectives on contemporary architectural practice. You will be asked to think about the role of the architect, for example in relation to post-war urbanism, digitisation and smart cities, brought to life through visits to sites of particular interest.

Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

Placement year degrees

In your third year you will undertake as core the 'Placement Year Work Based Learning Module'.

Final Year

Core Modules

Architectural Design Studio 3A

Read, research and analyse both the 'place' and the 'problem' to develop your own response in the form of an architectural intervention and a suggested building programme. Emphasising regenerative design grounded in sustainable, circular and ecological principles, this module guides you in developing your project to the equivalent of RIBA Stage 2 within the RIBA Plan of Work.

Architectural Design Studio 3B

You will develop and refine your ideas through an iterative design process that includes drawing, model making and other creative media, using both analogue and digital methods. You'll move beyond initial strategies to define key elements such as structure, materials, finishes and details, shaping a clear and resolved proposal. These activities align closely with Stages 3 and 4 of the RIBA Plan of Work.

Integrated Technology

Evaluating the role of the architect in relation to your design studio work, this module will see you demonstrate your understanding of regulatory compliance, technical requirements and the ethical considerations that are involved in the context of your design work.

Architectural Humanities 3

Building upon your visual research skills developed in Architectural Humanities one and two, this module will encourage you to address the complexities of contemporary architectural production. You will also engage in a key site visit, to provide insights into external factors that influence production.

Professional Practice

Focusing on both individual and collective understanding of professional practice, this module will explore an architect's responsibilities at different stages of a project. Covering the essential skills and knowledge required for working in current practice, you will be encouraged to explore the possibilities for future developments in the field.



Careers

Professional accreditation

The BA (Hons) Architecture is accredited by RIBA (the Royal Institute of British Architects). It forms the first part of the professional path to becoming an architect.

Architecture in the UK is a regulated profession which means that you must be registered with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) to practice using the title 'architect'.

There are varied routes to registration, but typically, if you are studying in the UK, you will:

- + Take a three-year full time first degree (referred to by the RIBA as 'Part 1')
- + Take a full time second degree or diploma in architecture (referred to by the ARB as Level 7 award, and by the RIBA as 'Part 2')
- + Complete two years of professional experience
- + Then take a Professional Practice Examination (referred to by the RIBA as 'Part 3')

You need to have all three qualifications to apply for membership of the RIBA, together with a minimum of 24 months appropriate practical training experience.

Lancaster's BA (Hons) Architecture is the first stage (RIBA Part 1) of the three-stage process of professional qualification to become an RIBA registered architect in the UK.

We also deliver the postgraduate Master of Architecture which forms the second stage (Part 2) of RIBA professional qualification.

Graduate destinations

Many students continue to postgraduate study in order to continue the route to becoming a fully qualified architect. However, a range of professional careers are open to those who have completed Part 1 and these include:

- + Architectural Technician/Assistant
- + Architectural Visualisation
- + Landscape Architecture
- + Interior Architect / Spatial Design
- + Urban Designer



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They encourage sustainable design and experimentation.

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Katie, graduated from BA 2023

Currently studying
Master's of Architecture

My experience in the BA was exactly what I needed it to be. The structure of the course facilitated individual experimentation and research whilst grounding projects in reality through a system of integrated modules. This structure encouraged a holistic approach to design, considering technological feasibility and planning constraints of projects in tandem with experimentation.

I found that the course asked me to back up my creative thinking with real-world concepts, giving me an understanding of how the creative process is constrained and must be justified to create a feasible project. When I moved into practice in July 2023, I was able to ask informed questions to the architects, deepening my understanding of the way the office functioned, as opposed to learning it from scratch.

I recognised the decision-making process of the architects, understanding certain design drivers. I was able to advocate for and present a credible proposition for the integration of sustainable technology into several projects in their early stages.

I have come back to Lancaster for the MArch because the values of the course align strongly with my own values. They encourage sustainable design and experimentation whilst keeping one foot on the ground, all in an incredibly supportive environment. I know the tutors and enjoy the way they integrate their own research into teaching, giving us exposure to front-line research in architecture.



lancaster.ac.uk/architecture

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2026 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2025. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.