

# Architecture at Queen's University Belfast

## Degrees

### BSc Honours

Architecture (UCAS Code: K100)

## Contact

### For entrance requirements

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### For further course information

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## The Subject

Belfast is an exceptional place to study architecture and our University is very supportive of the discipline, with our intelligent and hardworking students taught by a diverse, energetic group of staff and tutors, informed by their research and practice. We have recently moved into the top ten in both the Guardian League Table for Architecture and the most recent National Student Survey. The course intake has been strategically capped at 80 to enhance teaching and learning. We seek a 'best fit' between the incoming student and the course through explanatory websites, tours, blogs, open days and UCAS conversion events. An increasing percentage of our students have AAA at A-Level or similar and are from outside N. Ireland. Each first year student is allocated a personal tutor. We encourage our students to undertake summer work in various countries under the IAESTE programme. Our reputation is such that we are often directly approached by leading employers specifically seeking our graduates.

## Course Content

This course is balanced between the creative, theoretical and technical aspects of designing and realising architecture. Design is explored in a supportive shared studio environment – with each student having their own workspace. Design studio is half of each semester with lecture and seminar based modules in skills, history, theory, management and practice, environment and technology informing and supporting the activities in the studio. Our teaching imparts skills and knowledge to support students'

abilities, creating a learning, teaching, and research environment that supports high achievement and personal fulfilment.

Year One focuses on bringing students into university level education, marrying the development of skills to self-reflection. Students in Year One begin to understand the importance and responsibility of practising graphic, design, written, verbal, thinking, self-evaluation and group working skills. Year One also focuses on the issue of how surroundings inform the creation of architecture and how it is experienced.

Year Two concentrates on the development, by each student, of personal, holistic, and viable design skills. Students are encouraged to develop maturity in analysing design problems and to personalise the design process to reflect their own individual interests and concerns in architecture.

Year Three is recognised both as an end point to undergraduate studies and as the beginning of a student's future development. Students deliver completed, resolved proposals, drawing on all of their learning throughout the course. Students advance their own personal areas of enquiry in preparation for graduate employment, professional life and further learning.

Assessment is an appropriate mix of project work, examinations and coursework.

We have numerous academic awards and prizes. The support and guidance we give students often contributes to them receiving other external scholarships, grants and awards. Nearly all of our three hundred students are members of the student society ARCSOC, which arranges social events and an evening guest lecture programme. Our students are regularly placed in national and international competitions and award programmes.

## **Special Features**

### **Accreditation**

This programme has had continuous Part 1 recognition by RIBA and Architects Registration Board for many years. In 2011 this course again received full validation, with a very positive and supportive RIBA report.

### **Opportunities For Careers**

Our graduates who wish to progress to becoming architects are encouraged to undertake one or two years of personal development / placement. We assist graduates with securing placement, which can be carried out within the British Isles or further afield including central Europe, USA and Australia.

Our graduates work as architects in many different parts of the world, and have their work published and receive awards. Although primarily intended as a first degree for those wishing to undertake Part 2 postgraduate studies and become professionally qualified architects, the course offers a wide-ranging general education in design, visual appreciation and strategic thinking, which is valuable in its own right.

Some of our graduates have diversified, working in stage set design, town planning or housing policy, conservation of historic buildings, interiors, furniture design or specialist building physics such as acoustics. They may provide technical assistance to voluntary and community groups tackling difficult social and economic problems.

### **Opportunities For Postgraduate Study**

Most graduates from this programme progress onto the two-year MArch programme (Part 2). Some diversify into our other masters programmes, in Sustainable Design or Construction and Project Management, or progress to other institutions to study Part 2, and into other programmes related to design or the built environment.

### **Student testimonials:**

*"The BSc course at Queen's has given me the best possible start towards understanding the architectural world - its history, its fundamental principles and the depth and breadth of opportunities available to graduates."*

Erl Johnston, (from Belfast) Graduate 2011

*One of the most important fundamentals of being an architect is the ability to see significance in the ordinary. Queen's has encouraged me to discover this ability more clearly and deeply. From working in New York, to studying in Shanghai Queen's has effortlessly endeavoured me to pursue my own architectural stance.*

Cheryl Gourley, (from Lancashire, England) Graduate 2010

*The Architecture School at Queen's was very welcoming and the tutors were all really interested in engaging with the students. The school has a superb studio culture, which is definitely where I learnt the most. We were given a few projects with the engineers, which gave a good insight to the structural aspect of architecture. Belfast is the perfect city in which to study architecture.*

Will Withers, (from Royal Tunbridge Wells, England), Graduate 2011

### **Staff testimonials:**

*"One of QUB Architecture's greatest strengths is the diversity of its staff, from those familiar with Northern Ireland to those from varied international backgrounds. Students thus learn about local issues as well as those which impact architecture in a global sense."*

Dr Sarah Lappin, BSc Year 1 Coordinator

*"Studying architecture at Queen's brings you right into the heart of Belfast - a port the size of a town, with the friendliness of a village and the cultural richness of a city - a great place in which to learn."*

Keith McAllister, BSc Year 2 Coordinator