



Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

Fakulteit Ingenieurswese, Bou-omgewing en
Inligtingtegnologie / Lefapha la Boetšenere,
Tikologo ya Kago le Theknolotši ya Tshedimošo

Department of Architecture

Bachelor of Science: Architecture

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Introduction

The Department of Architecture presents an undergraduate programme in architecture that explores the design of meaningful environments across varying scales, from intimate interior spaces to more significant interventions in landscapes. This programme prepares graduates for advanced and specialised professional employment. Our programme is accredited by the [South African Qualifications Authority](#) (SAQA) as a professional degree and validated by the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP). The programme also serves as a gateway to professional Honours and Master's programmes required for registration as a professional architect, landscape architect or interior architect, as well as further post-professional design or research specialisations, both locally and internationally.

From the 2021 academic year the Department will offer one undergraduate qualification, namely a restructured BSc degree in Architecture, while the specialisations in Interior Architecture and Landscape Architecture will be presented only at professional postgraduate level. This is in line with international trends to broaden the scope of undergraduate studies and narrowing the focus at professional postgraduate level. Prospective students who wish to pursue Interior Architecture or Landscape Architecture at postgraduate level are advised to first obtain the BSc degree in Architecture. It is important to note that components of the two specialised disciplines are included in the new BSc Architecture programme.

A limited number of candidates can be admitted to the programme – please refer to the section on selection for more detail.

Description of the BSc Architecture programme

The BSc Architecture degree is the culmination of a three year, full-time, studio-based study programme presented through a hybrid blended learning model that provides for facilitated, independent, peer and online learning. The programme cultivates creative and critical design thinking and students are exposed to complex social, cultural and environmental problems at multiple scales. Half of the study's credits are earned through studio-based projects that explore resourceful and appropriate approaches to a variety of problems and the interrelationship between context, end-users, appropriate technologies and meaningful spatial design. Design and Theory projects are complemented by a variety of subject modules that range from

Community and Practice, History of the Environment, Design Communication, Construction, Earth Studies to Theory of Structures. The programme benefits from the Department's interdisciplinary focus and national and international collaborations. The curriculum aims to instil a culture of life-long learning in our graduates, who are highly regarded in academia and practice, both locally and abroad.

To help us create a smart, sustainable and healthy built environment, we harness the power of technology, and students are exposed to the latest digital tools to map, plan, design, manage and visualise the built environment. Aside from a computer laboratory with discipline-specific software, the Department also offers some specialised facilities for 3D printing, laser-cutting and large format printing, as well as a dedicated Resource Centre stocked with books, journals, student dissertations and product information libraries. All of these create an environment in which students are not only prepared for their careers but can explore new ideas and grow also as people to become responsible and compassionate citizens. The *Unit for Urban Citizenship* plays a central role in instilling this sense of responsibility in our education by introducing respectful and collaborative community engagement practices into the curriculum, and we are very proud of the active role that our students play within the broader community.

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Total credits: 380	Minimum duration of study: 3 years	NQF level: 7
Programme code: 12132018	<p>The BScArch degree meets the requirements for registration as a candidate architectural technologist with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession in terms of Act 44 of 2000. Additional professional postgraduate qualifications are required to be able to register as a candidate professional architect.</p> <p>Entry requirements:</p> <p>(i) A National Senior Certificate (NSC) or Independent Examination Board (IEB) Admission Point Score (APS) of 27 out of a possible 42 (end of Grade 11 results for conditional selection, final Grade 12 results for applicants who have already matriculated) calculated according to the UP formula – see http://bit.ly/2022Admission for details – and</p> <p>(ii) Matriculation exception for admission to bachelor's degree studies, and</p> <p>(iii) at least 60% (achievement level 5) in English (as Home or First Additional Language), and</p> <p>(iv) at least 50% (achievement level 4) for Mathematics, and</p> <p>(iv) at least 50% (achievement level 4) for Physical Science (with Physics and Chemistry).</p> <p>Details of the requirements for learners who follow school qualifications other than the NSC or IEB are available from http://bit.ly/2022Admission.</p> <p>A matriculant or applicant working towards meeting the minimum requirements for admission is provisionally selected. To retain selection, applicants must still meet the minimum requirements for admission in their final examination results.</p> <p>No bridging or extended programmes are available for applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements for admission to the programme.</p>	

General notes

- This is a selection programme. **BSc Architecture will only be considered as an applicant's first study choice.**
- Prospective students wishing to transfer to the BSc Architecture programme from other academic programmes or tertiary institutions follow the same procedure as all other applicants. The same closing date applies to all applicants.
- Transfer applications from students registered at other schools of architecture are usually not considered.
- Citizens from countries other than South Africa and South African citizens with foreign qualifications must comply with all the other admission requirements and the prerequisites for subjects/modules.
- In addition to meeting the admission requirements, it may be expected from candidates to write the TOEFL, IELTS or SAT.
- Candidates must have completed the National Senior Certificate with admission to degree studies or a certificate of conditional exemption on the basis of a candidate's foreign qualifications, the so-called 'Immigrant' or 'Foreign Conditional Exemption'. The only condition for the 'Foreign Conditional Exemption' that is accepted is: 'completion of the degree course'. The exemption certificate is obtainable from Universities South Africa (USAf) – find more information in the section on International students.
- For further information also refer to General Regulations G.1 to G.15.



What makes us different?

The following four aspects sets the BSc Architecture programme at the University of Pretoria apart from other programmes offered in the country:

1. The emphasis on community engagement, well-being and environmental responsibility in the curriculum instils an ecosystemic ethos based on principles of regenerative design which prepares our students for the responsibilities they have as professionals responding to the challenges of the 21st century.
2. The vertical integration of the different curriculum streams provides a coherent narrative of engaging with the knowledge that builds from first year to third year and beyond into the post-graduate programmes.
3. The horizontal integration of the theory explored in the various modules in each year with design outcomes in that year ensures that students understand how the theory is applied in practice.
4. Students are exposed to a multidisciplinary learning environment where the disciplines of interior architecture, architecture, urban design and landscape architecture are treated as one integrated spatial design continuum.

The curriculum

The curriculum for the BSc Architecture programme integrates knowledge from the humanities and the natural sciences and students attend classes in the following subject streams.

Design and Theory (ONT)

Architecture students attain half of the credits for every year of study in the significant module of design, which is presented in tandem with architectural theory to equip students with a pertinent vocabulary and theoretical underpinning. Design is a studio-based module in which projects over a range of scales and complexities are undertaken to encourage students to develop critical and independent design thinking, the ability to evaluate design within a social, cultural and ecological framework, and to explore imaginative and appropriate solutions. In the studio, design discernment is fostered through ongoing discussion, peer learning, and formal and informal assessment. The Department promotes design that is generative rather than stylistically or iconically driven, and students are encouraged to appreciate the universal (global) while engaging with the particular (local).

Construction (KON)

The study of construction theory, materials and methods is presented as an extension of design to enable the designer to give tangible expression to built form and realisation to an architectural concept. Presenting increasingly complex applications of construction knowledge in each study year, the stream culminates in the preparation of construction drawings as part of a design realisation integrated with ONT 300 and OKU 300

Design Communication (OKU)

Design communication offers students the opportunity to develop skills in harnessing especially the digital tools that are essential to designers in the twenty-first century. It deals with visual communication, digital visualisation and representation, and the management of document and building information.

Earth Studies (AAL)

Earth studies introduce students to ecosystemic accountability and systems thinking to guide them towards designing for well-being in the built environment from social, cultural and environmental points of view. It includes social-ecological themes that extend to approaches that underpin and inform inclusive, ecological, passive and responsive design.

Community and Practice (JCP/PJS/KKR)

Students participate in collaborative community projects that are directed by our research and initiatives in urban citizenship, as well as the Faculty's community engagement module. In the third year of study, the focus turns to the management of a professional practice and the legal context of construction contract law.

History of the Environment (OML/OMG)

History of the environment prepares students to define their role in society and find meaning in history through the study of the self and the cultures of others. It investigates the context and meaning of cultural artefacts, including space and place, to



relate form and order to the environmental, political and philosophical conditions that influenced their making. It culminates in a reading of southern Africa in the third year of study.

Theory of Structures (STU)

The theory of structures equips students with the theoretical knowledge and practical understanding required to analyse, plan and design critical structural components such as beams, columns and trusses from a structural engineering perspective, using timber, steel, concrete and other materials.

A curriculum diagram is available as Addendum A.

Application

Applications are submitted online at <https://www.up.ac.za/online-application>. Prospective students who do not meet the minimum requirements for admission will, unfortunately, not be able to complete the application process. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Key dates

- The Department hosts an annual Q+Arch Online open day. You can find details at <https://www.up.ac.za/architecture> – look under events.
- Applications for the 2022 academic year close on 31 July 2021 for all applicants.

Selection for admission

The Department annually receives more than 500 applications from prospective students who meet the minimum requirements for admission, while our resources only allow for 100 first year students to be accommodated. We are therefore compelled to select students for admission and applicants who meet the minimum requirements are not guaranteed admission. The Department employs a comprehensive, four-step selection process to identify the strongest prospective students for admission. Apart from academic merit, an applicant's general knowledge and interests, motivation, independence, ingenuity and aptitude are also considered. Our successful selection process has contributed to the Department being one of the academic entities with the highest pass and graduation rates at the University of Pretoria.

ROUND 1 is based on academic merit. Applications are assessed to determine if they meet the minimum requirements for admission. Those who meet, or can meet, the requirements for admission are invited to participate in the next rounds.

ROUND 2 consists of home assignments, including a job-shadowing task that requires prospective students to explore the nature and daily operation of their chosen profession through observation and first-hand experience. The number of practices prospective students should visit is not prescribed, but they are strongly advised to, where possible, investigate a variety of practices as the scope of work that architecture practices undertake varies more than in other professions.

ROUND 3 consists of a comprehensive Departmental selection test. Applicants who cannot attend can, with certain preconditions, apply for postal selection as an alternative. If COVID-19 restrictions prevent attendance for an on-campus test, an alternative arrangement for a detailed portfolio will be made.

ROUND 4 of selection is based on an interview. The outcomes of the three previous rounds are considered and a final shortlist for Round 4 is compiled. Only shortlisted applicants are invited to attend a selection interview, either on campus or virtually.

NOTE: The requirements for the Round 2 home assignments and Round 3 are only communicated to applicants once applications have closed. Until then, all applicants are advised to undertake job-shadowing as mentioned in Round 2 above.

Financial support

Bursary applications close at different times of the year and usually require that applicants be registered students. Please contact the Student Service Centre or look for funding opportunities at www.up.ac.za/fees-and-funding. The Department is not able to provide any financial assistance to students.



International students

Non-South African residents should note that a study permit is required, and international applicants must apply for an exemption certificate from the Matriculation Board at Universities South Africa (USAf). It is the applicant's responsibility to make the necessary arrangements for these documents. International students are advised to apply timeously and to submit their exemption certificates and certified copies of final-year school results. Documents issued in a foreign language must be translated to English by an accredited translator. Applicants can contact the University of Pretoria's International Cooperation Division for more information on study permits and other requirements, such as medical insurance, at www.up.ac.za/international-cooperation-division.

The Matriculation Board at
Universities South Africa (USAf):

Email: applications@usaf.ac.za

Online: <https://mb.usaf.ac.za>

Contact details

The Department of Architecture does not deal with the administrative aspects of student affairs, such as applications, tuition fees or bursaries. Such queries should be addressed to the Client Service Centre or the Faculty Admissions Office.

General Enquiries	Admission Enquiries	Academic Enquiries
<p>Student Service Centre <i>Lynnwood Road Entrance</i> <i>Hatfield Campus, University of Pretoria</i> Tel: +27 12 420 3111 Email: ssc@up.ac.za</p>	<p>EBIT Undergraduate Admission Office <i>Counter 1, Level 6, Engineering Building 1</i> <i>Hatfield Campus, University of Pretoria</i> Tel: +27 (0)12 420 5166 Email: jvr2@up.ac.za</p>	<p>Dr Nico Botes <i>Coordinator: Undergraduate Programmes,</i> <i>Department of Architecture</i> Tel: +27 (0)12 420 4600 Email: arch@up.ac.za</p>

General regulations

The General Regulations of the University of Pretoria are available at <http://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/home>. The requirements set out in the General Regulations prevail should there be any discrepancies, anomalies, or contradictions.

ADDENDUM A: Curriculum diagram

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		THEORY OF STRUCTURES	EARTH STUDIES	CONSTRUCTION	DESIGN AND THEORY	DESIGN COMMUNICATION	HISTORY OF THE ENVIRONMENT	COMMUNITY AND PRACTICE
Year 1	Semester 1		AAL 110 8	KON 111 8	ONT 100 60	OKU 100 6	OML 110 6	AIM 111 4
			Earth Studies	Construction	Design and Theory (Year-long module)	Design Communication (Year-long module)	History of the Environment	Academic Info Management Department of Information Science
	Semester 2	STU 123 6	AAL 120 8	KON 121 8			OML 120 6	AIM 121 4
		Theory of Structures	Earth Studies	Construction			History of the Environment	Academic Info Management Department of Information Science
Year 2	Semester 1	STU 211 8	AAL 210 8	KON 210 10	ONT 200 56	OKU 200 6	OML 210 6	JCP 201 8
		Theory of Structures Department of Civil Engineering	Earth Studies	Construction	Design and Theory (Year-long module)	Design Communication (Year-long module)	History of the Environment	Joint Community Project (Year-long module) Department of Informatics
	Semester 2	STU 221 8	AAL 220 8	KON 220 10			OML 220 6	
		Theory of Structures Department of Civil Engineering	Earth Studies	Construction			History of the Environment	
Year 3	Semester 1		AAL 310 6	KON 300 24	ONT 300 52	OKU 300 6	OMG 310 6	PJS 310 8
			Earth Studies	Construction (Year-long module)	Design and Theory (Year-long module)	Design Communication (Year-long module)	History of the Environment	Practice Management
	Semester 2		AAL 320 6				OMG 320 6	KKR 322 8
			Earth Studies				History of the Environment	Construction Contract Law Department of Construction Economics

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Module code and number SAQA credits	→ KEY 123 → 4
Module Name Presented by another Department (if applicable)	

