

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

Undergraduate study programmes

2019
2020

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WHY STUDY HERE?

The Department of Architecture presents programmes in architecture, interior architecture and landscape architecture. These study programmes focus on the design and realisation of meaningful environments for users across varying scales, and as such, complement and support one another. Students in the Department are exposed to all three disciplines during their studies – a unique academic offering in South Africa.

Through commitment to innovation and internationally recognised programmes, the Department retains professional qualifications of a high standard. The curriculum integrates knowledge from the humanities and the sciences to develop students' spatial design skills and aims to instil a culture of life-long learning in graduates. As a result, the graduates of this Department are highly regarded, both locally and abroad.

WHO SHOULD STUDY HERE?

All three study programmes require innovative thinkers who enjoy solving problems creatively. Spatial designers can visualise in three dimensions and have good communication skills as they work with other professionals such as engineers and project managers.

Architects are generalists who like to see their visions realised in built form. **Interior Architects** typically have an eye for detail that extends beyond decoration. They respond to cultural influences and are especially interested in the way people use buildings and how identity is defined by space. **Landscape Architects** share a concern for the environment and an interest in the relationship between ecology and culture. They engage with both rural and urban outside places across varying scales and carefully consider the way in which spaces and nature change over time.

To learn more about the three programmes offered, see page 2.



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WHAT SUBJECTS DO I NEED?

Admission to the Department is subject to a **selection process** which includes a test and interview. Applicants must meet the minimum academic requirements indicated below to be considered for selection.

For **BSc Architecture** and **BSc Interior Architecture** and **BSc Landscape Architecture** the following minimum requirements apply:

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE	with bachelors' degree admission
APS ¹	27
ENGLISH ²	5 (60+ %)
MATHEMATICS	4 (50+ %)

For **BSc Architecture** and **BSc Interior Architecture** the following additional requirement applies:

PHYSICAL SCIENCE:	4 (50+ %)
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For **BSc Landscape Architecture** the following additional requirement applies:

PHYSICAL SCIENCE or GEOGRAPHY or LIFE SCIENCES	4 (50+ %)
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1 Guidelines on how to calculate the Admissions Point Score can be found on page 3 of this document.

2 At Home or First Additional Language Level.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Apply online through the website of the University at www.up.ac.za - follow the link to 'New Students'. See Page 3 for more information.

ANNUAL CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS

UNDERGRADUATE: **31 MAY**

POSTGRADUATE: **30 SEPTEMBER**



WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Most of your time will be spent in the design studio so as to simulate practice. Students work individually and collaboratively in an unrestricted learning environment where skills are developed and creative exploration encouraged. Projects completed in the studio are complemented by subject modules covering diverse aspects such as construction, environmental design principles, history of the built environment and design communication.

The first year of study is presented generically to all three programmes. From the second year onwards students gain programme specific knowledge, leading to the eventual full integration of the design studio and complementary subject modules in the third year of study. Thereafter students can enter practice or continue their formal education by applying for postgraduate studies in the Department – either by course-work (for professional registration) or by research (for academic advancement).



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CONTACT US

www.up.ac.za/architecture
arch@up.ac.za

Boukunde - Department of Architecture, UP

WHAT IS MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER PATH?

To be a Professional Architect, Interior Architect or Landscape Architect, students must first complete the relevant three year BSc degree. Thereafter students can complete the Honours and Master's degrees in their programme of choice. This is followed by a professional exam for which practical experience is required. Graduates register with the relevant professional or statutory bodies, namely SACAP, IID or SACLAP.

YEARS	UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES <i>for professional registration</i> (full-time, studio based, 3 years minimum)		
1	generic 1st year		
2	BScArch	BScInt	BScLArch
3			
	Candidate Architectural Technologist	Candidate Interior Designer	Candidate Landscape Architectural Technologist

YEARS	POSTGRADUATE STUDIES <i>for professional registration</i> (full-time, studio based, 1 year minimum)		
1	BArch Hons	Blnt Hons	BL Hons
	Candidate Senior Architectural Technologist	Candidate Senior Interior Designer	Candidate Landscape Architectural Technologist
1	MArch (Prof)	MInt (Prof)	ML (Prof)
	Candidate Architect	Candidate Interior Architect	Candidate Landscape Architect

NOTE: The Department also offers postgraduate degrees by research and postgraduate degrees in applied science. For more information please visit www.up.ac.za/architecture

WHAT IS ARCHITECTURE?

Architects design spaces and buildings to satisfy our daily needs and improve the environment in which we live. They need abilities and skills that range from the practical to the artistic and from the technical to the theoretical. As professionals they conceptualise, design and document building projects and oversee quality control during construction. Architects are ethically and legally bound through Institutes and a government controlled Council which protects the interests of the public. Architects may manage their own practices or work for other, often, multidisciplinary firms, or can make contributions to the government sector and education.

The Programme is validated by the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) and recognised by the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA).

WHAT IS INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE?

The Programme in Interior Architecture empowers students to design sustainable, meaningful and beautiful places within the context of architectural space. Graduates possess the theoretical and technical knowledge to engage critically with proposed or existing structures. Designers of interior environments shape the relationship between space, object and user. They follow a human-centred approach and perform spatial design and research services across various scales and building types. Graduates work as designers in the built environment and related fields such as exhibition, lighting, product and stage design. The programme offers students the opportunity to become specialists in interior design within an interdisciplinary learning environment.

The Programme is recognised by the African Institute of the Interior Design Professions (IID) and has educational membership at the International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI).

WHAT IS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

Landscapes express the dynamic interaction between the activities of societies and the physical environment. Landscape architecture is a profession and academic discipline concerned with the design of rural and urban outside places across various scales informed by this interaction. It considers change over time and mediates art and science, artefact and nature, city and region, and private and public interests. Landscape architects therefore synthesise knowledge from the humanities and the sciences to design sustainable, meaningful and beautiful places that are grounded in material and immaterial culture, and the ecology of their local contexts.

The Programme is validated by the South African Council for the Landscape Architectural Profession (SACLAP) and is the only undergraduate course of its kind offered in South Africa.

1. APPLICATIONS

Applicants must submit a completed application before the closing date. Apply online through the website of the University at www.up.ac.za - follow the link to 'New Students'.

Incomplete applications cannot be considered for selection - please ensure that all the required supporting documents, such as certified copies of identity documents (IDs) and school results are submitted before the closing date. Applicants who have not completed their Grade 12 studies yet must state their final Grade 11 results in their application. In view of the large number of applications received annually, prospective students who indicate programmes offered by the Department as their second choice are normally not considered for selection.

2. ADMISSIONS POINT SCORE (APS)

An APS of 27 or higher is required for admission and is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{Language: English} \\
 + \\
 \text{Other language} \\
 + \\
 \text{Mathematics} \\
 + \\
 \text{Physical Science}^1 \\
 + \\
 \text{two other subjects (excluding Life Orientation)}
 \end{array}$$

EXAMPLE OF APS CALCULATION:

PRESCRIBED SUBJECTS	MARK	RATING CODE
Subject Group A		
Home Language	82	7
Language at First Additional Level	65	5
Mathematics	58	4
Life Orientation	72	-
Subject Group B		
Physical Science ¹	63	5
OTHER SUBJECTS		
<i>for example</i> Life Sciences	76	6
<i>for example</i> Accounting	55	4
TOTAL APS:	31	

Only six values are used in this formula. The maximum possible APS score is 42 for six subjects passes with an Outstanding Achievement Rating (above 80%).

1. For the **BSc(Landscape Architecture)** programme **Physical Science** or **Geography** or **Life Sciences** will be accepted at a minimum of 50%.

3. SELECTION

With only a few exceptions, selection is the global norm used to admit students to programmes in the architectural disciplines. In addition, the number of applications received from prospective students compels the Department to select students. We receive around a thousand applications annually, while resources allow only 100 first year students to be accommodated. Places are allocated as follows:

Architecture	50
Interior Architecture	25
Landscape Architecture	25

All applicants are advised to consider alternatives in the event of their applications being unsuccessful.

Applicants who meet the minimum requirements are not guaranteed of admission to the Department. The Department uses an extensive process of selection in order to identify the strongest prospective students for admission. The selection process is in keeping with the nature of the discipline and the Department's approach to spatial design and education. In addition, research indicates that very good outcomes are achieved with this selection method.

Apart from academic merit, an applicant's general knowledge and interests, motivation, independence, ingenuity and aptitude is also considered. This means that applicants are assessed across a broad spectrum of considerations, in several formats and with different media, for their skills, abilities and opinions. These aspects are considered cumulatively and collectively – a successful applicant typically displays a strong, balanced profile.

1. ACADEMIC MERIT

In round one applicants are assessed on academic merit. For secondary school results, only marks for completed cycles are considered, such as the results for the end of Grade 11 or final National Senior Certificate results for matric - see **page 1** for details.

2. HOME ASSIGNMENTS

Applicants who meet the minimum requirements for admission are invited to take a departmental selection test. With the invitation, they also receive assignments to complete at home and submit on the day of the test (see page 5). Applicants must complete the questionnaire and assignments themselves.

3. SELECTION TESTS

Applicants are assessed by means of a wide-ranging departmental selection test. The selection tests of the Department can only be taken on scheduled dates on the main campus of the University of Pretoria. These tests are not the equivalent of the National Benchmark Test (NBT) and cannot be replaced by another test, nor can they be taken elsewhere. Applicants who cannot attend any of the dates can instead, with certain preconditions, apply for postal selection.

4. INTERVIEWS

For the final phase a shortlist is compiled based on the outcomes of the selection test and the home assignments. Candidates whose names have made the shortlist are invited to selection interviews on campus.

5. SELECTION RESULTS

After the selection interviews are concluded, final assessments and waiting list placements are made.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

- Due to the number of applications received it is unfortunately not possible to provide each unsuccessful applicant with individual feedback. The decision of the Selection Committee is final and no discussion or correspondence on the matter will be entered into.
- A matriculant or applicant working towards meeting the minimum requirements for admission is provisionally selected; in order to retain selection, he/she must still meet the necessary requirements in their final examinations.

Prospective students are advised to ensure that they provide a reliable cellphone number and working e-mail address on their applications. The contact details provided by applicants will be used to inform applicants of the selection procedure and schedule.

4. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Admission requirements for international matriculants differ from those for applicants writing the South African Grade 12 examination. Non-South African residents should note that a study permit is required. It is the candidate's responsibility to make the necessary arrangements in this regard. An exemption certificate is required for admission and must be obtained from the Matriculation Board, Universities South Africa (see '8. Contact Details').

International students are advised to apply timeously and to submit both their exemption certificates and certified copies of final-year school certificates. All certificates issued in a foreign language must be translated into English by an accredited translator. Note that incomplete applications cannot be considered for selection. Please contact the International Cooperation Division (www.up.ac.za/international-cooperation-division) for information on study permits, medical insurance, tuition fees and levies.

5. TRANSFERRING STUDENTS

Students currently enrolled for other study programmes may apply for permission to transfer to the Department of Architecture. For these applicants, round one of the selection process will be based on:

- Grade 12 results
- Current academic record;
- Detailed written motivation, explaining reasons for wanting to transfer.

Students currently registered at UP can apply for a transfer through their UP Student Portal. Students registered at other tertiary institutions must apply through the normal route - please refer to the section on Applications on page 3. Applicants will not be permitted to register for any modules in advance (i.e. prior to having been granted final admission). Transfer applications from students registered at other schools of architecture are usually not considered. **Please note that all applications close on 31 May annually.**

6. LANGUAGE POLICY

The language of instruction at UP is English.

7. NATIONAL BENCHMARK TEST (NBT)

Although the Department of Architecture does not require of applicants to write the National Benchmark Test (NBT), applicants are advised to do so. In certain cases, especially where an applicant's final Grade 12 results are disputed, the NBT results may be considered.

In extraordinary cases the Admissions Officer will inform applicants should the NBT be an additional requirement. If you plan to also apply at other departments or institutions, you are advised to enquire if these tests are a requirement for admission. Please refer to the NBT website for more information: www.nbt.ac.za.

8. 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.

STUDENT SERVICE CENTRE, UP

Lynnwood Road entrance, Hatfield Campus, University of Pretoria

Tel: 012 420 3111 local / +27 12 420 3111 international
Email: ssc@up.ac.za

ACADEMIC ENQUIRIES: PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Email: arch@up.ac.za

SOUTH AFRICAN MATRICULATION BOARD

The Matriculation Board falls under Universities South Africa
Tel: 010 591 4401/2 local / +27 010 591 4401/2 international
Online: <http://www.usaf.ac.za>



Notification: If the Faculty receives an insufficient number of applications for BSc (Interior Architecture) or BSc (Landscape Architecture) these programmes might not be offered in 2020. Should one or both of these programmes not be offered, those applicants that met the requirements and would have been selected for these programmes will then be accommodated in BSc (Architecture).

9. SIGNIFICANT DATES

The University of Pretoria's academic year starts in February and ends early in December. It is divided into two semesters, with short recesses in April, July and September. Students are advised to gain practical work experience during the recesses. The University calendar is available online at www.up.ac.za/en/calendars.

Please take note of the significant dates below:

1 MARCH: APPLICATIONS OPEN

Applications for admissions open for the next academic year.

Q&ARCH SESSION

The next Q+Arch information session for prospective students will be held from 09:00 to 13:00 on 4 May 2019. Direct enquiries via email to arch@up.ac.za.

31 MAY: APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Last day for all undergraduate applications (including transfer applications) for admission to the Department of Architecture for the following academic year.

Please note that this closing date is earlier than that for most other academic programmes at the University of Pretoria. Late and incomplete applications cannot be considered.

31 OCTOBER: SELECTION RESULTS

Final selection results available.

10. JOB-SHADOWING

Research conducted by the Department of Architecture shows that one of the best ways applicants can prepare for selection is through job-shadowing. For this reason all applicants who meet the minimum requirements for admission are expected to complete a practice assignment that requires them to visit professional practitioners who work in the three architectural disciplines (architecture, interior architecture and landscape architecture).

They are required to investigate the nature and operation of their chosen career(s) first-hand and to report on their impressions, experiences and ultimately their certainty of their career choice to the Selection Committee.

The practice assignment is made available here to allow prospective students time to prepare for job-shadowing and to organise their practice visits in advance. Please note that prospective students can only submit their practice assignments as part of the home assignments portfolio, which is made available to applicants who meet the minimum requirements for admission.

1. TASK

Applicants are expected to make appointments and visit practices, especially in their chosen architectural discipline (architecture, interior architecture and/or landscape architecture) to confirm their career choice.

All applicants are definitely advised to explore all three of the fields of study we offer in this manner. Although we do not prescribe the number of practices one should visit, applicants are strongly advised to, where possible, investigate a variety (for instance large as well as small practices) as the scope of work practices undertake differs.

2. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should document their impressions of at least one project designed by a practice that they visited. They should use freehand sketches on blank sheets of A4 paper to explain the project spatially as they experience and understand it. They are welcome to add notes and comments on the drawings or on extra sheets of paper.

Please keep a record of every practice visit, including the name of the practice, the practitioners you engaged with and the duration and date(s) of your visit. Applicants will be required to submit this information during the selection process.

3. IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Applicants who plan to apply for more than one of the architectural disciplines (architecture, interior architecture and landscape architecture) are expected to job-shadow at least one practitioner in each of the disciplines they apply for. In addition they are strongly advised to attend the Profession Session (refer to Significant Dates on the left).
2. Please note that the Selection Committee is only interested in the skills and opinions of applicants. It is therefore unnecessary to submit a practice's work, or copies thereof.
3. Please do not redraw or trace a practice's plans, sections or elevations. Rather draw perspectives or three-dimensional drawings.
4. Quick, even rough, drawings are more valuable to us than studied ones that take you hours to draw.
5. Freehand drawings in pencil or ink are required; please do not use a ruler when drawing.
6. The Department does not prescribe which practices prospective students should visit. It is the applicants' responsibility to obtain information and confirm appointments themselves.

The following information may be helpful:

ARCHITECTURE

The website (www.saia.org.za) of the South African Institute of Architects has links to the eleven regional institutes (see Regional Institutes under the heading About).

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

Interior architecture is a relatively new discipline with a limited number of practitioners. Many interior architects and senior interior designers practice in large or multi-disciplinary architectural practices in metropolitan centres. You are advised to visit interior practitioners who mostly deal with commercial projects and not only designers who work on private residential projects. See Find a Designer on the African Institute of the Interior Design Professions' website (www.iidprofessions.org.za).

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The website of the Institute for Landscape Architecture in South Africa displays a list of practices. Look under Practices & Sponsors at www.ilasa.co.za.