BSc in Architecture

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. Specialised programmes in architecture, interior architecture and landscape architecture are introduced at the postgraduate level.

Our vision is to provide a learning environment that fosters critical and independent thinking, encourages social-ecological accountability and inspires responsive and responsible problem-solving that contributes to the improvement of society and its environment. We engage with spatial design with academic rigour that is theoretically grounded and technologically informed, and our academic programmes are locally and internationally accredited.

What does the programme entail?

The curriculum for the Bachelor of Science in Architecture programme integrates knowledge from the humanities and the natural sciences to develop students' spatial design skills, and aims to instil a culture of lifelong learning in graduates. Students attend classes in the following subject streams:

Design and Applied Theory

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).

Community and Practice

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.

Construction

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.

Design Communication

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

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

History of the Environment

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

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.

For more information, please consult the Faculty webpage.

Career Opportunities

The Bachelor of Science *Architecture* degree programme enables graduates to register with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) as candidate architectural technologists. The qualification is the first step to future registration as a candidate senior architectural technologist or a

candidate architect.

Programme Code

12132031

Closing Dates

- **SA** – 30/06/2025
- **Non-SA** – 30/06/2025

Admission Requirements

Important information for all prospective students for 2026

The admission requirements below apply to all who apply for admission to the University of Pretoria with a **National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB) qualifications. Click here for this Faculty Brochure.**

Minimum requirements

Achievement level			
English Home Language or English First Additional Language	**Mathematics**	**Physical Sciences**	**APS**
NSC/IEB 5	NSC/IEB 4	NSC/IEB 4	30

For advice on a second-choice programme, please consult a Student Advisor. To make an appointment, send an email to carol.bosch@up.ac.za.

This programme will only be considered as a first study choice.

Life Orientation is excluded when calculating the APS.

Applicants currently in Grade 12 must apply with their final Grade 11 (or equivalent) results.

Applicants who have completed Grade 12 must apply with their final NSC or equivalent qualification results.

Please note that meeting the minimum academic requirements does not guarantee admission.

Successful candidates will be notified once admitted or conditionally admitted.

Applicants should check their application status regularly on the UP Student Portal at click here.

Applicants with qualifications other than the abovementioned should refer to the International undergraduate prospectus 2025: Applicants with a school leaving certificate not issued by Umalusi (South Africa), available at click here.

International students: Click here.

Transferring students

A transferring student is a student who, at the time of applying at the University of Pretoria (UP) is/was a registered student at another tertiary institution. A transferring student will be considered for admission based on NSC or equivalent qualification and previous academic performance. Students who have been dismissed from other institutions due to poor academic performance will not be considered for admission to UP.

Closing dates: Same as above.

Returning students

A returning student is a student who, at the time of application for a degree programme is/was a registered student at UP, and wants to transfer to another degree at UP. A returning student will be considered for admission based on NSC or equivalent qualification and previous academic performance.

Note:

- Students who have been excluded/dismissed from a faculty due to poor academic performance may be considered for admission to another programme at UP, as per faculty-specific requirements.
- Only ONE transfer between UP faculties and TWO transfers within a faculty will be allowed.
- Admission of returning students will always depend on the faculty concerned and the availability of space in the programmes for which they apply.

Closing date for applications from returning students

Same as above.

Selection Process

A limited number of students are admitted to the Department annually. Admission is determined by a four-part selection process explicitly developed to level the playing field between students coming from different educational and cultural backgrounds.

Selection Criteria

Selection for admission to the undergraduate programme of the Department of Architecture is based on four elimination rounds.

Round 1: Academic merit

Assessment for Round 1 is based on academic performance in order to determine whether an applicant's results meet the minimum requirements for admission.

Round 2: Homework assignments

The outcomes of Rounds 2 and 3 are assessed according to the following scoring guide:

1. No answer
2. Does not meet the minimum expectation
3. Meets the minimum expectation
4. Exceeds the minimum expectation
5. Far exceeds the minimum expectation

To prepare for the selection test in Round 3, the applicants use appropriate resources to complete homework assignments in their own time. The critical outcomes assessed in this round are:

- Language and reasoning skills: The ability to articulate informed responses to questions in written form.
- Visual communication skills: The ability to interpret, manipulate and graphically and three-dimensionally represent spaces and processes.
- Research and representation skills: The ability to analyse, assess and represent precedents and principles from the built environment.
- Job-shadowing and motivation: The ability to investigate the nature of architectural practice through job-shadowing and to critically reflect on this experience and its impact on the applicant's motivation to pursue architectural studies.

Round 3: Selection tests

The selection test is taken without resources and in limited time. The critical outcomes assessed in this round are:

- Ability to use language and reasoning skills to articulate informed responses to questions in written form without resources and in limited time.
- Curiosity and general awareness: Having an enquiring attitude regarding current affairs and the world in general.
- Independent thinking: Ability to formulate *in situ* responses to questions in writing and by making drawings.
- Creative and problem-solving thinking aptitude: Ability to creatively improvise and articulate appropriate responses in writing and by making drawings.
- Spatial and visualisation abilities: Ability to articulate ideas, instructions and interpretations with three-dimensional understanding.
- Time management and efficiency: Ability to complete the tests within the allocated time.

Round 4: Interviews

Applicants shortlisted for Round 4 are invited to interviews during which applicants are given the opportunity to reflect on their previous submissions in discursive format. This Round acts as a final summative assessment. MemberS of the interview panel award a final score and the average score is used to rank the applicants.

Minimum duration of study

3 years, full-time

Faculty Notes

All modules will only be presented in English, which is the University's official language of tuition, communication and correspondence.

The Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology at the University of Pretoria is a leading source of graduates in the engineering, built environment and information technology professions. We achieve this by a focus on research to drive innovative and enquiry-led teaching for educating and positioning our students to be leaders in their professions. The Faculty has extensive and cutting-edge teaching, learning and laboratory facilities integrated with the excellent suite of facilities and services offered by the University. We facilitate access to our qualifications through our extended programmes but expect our students to excel and develop as future professionals through our

programme offering. We invite you to consider enrolling in one of our programmes if you share our vision of excellence and want to position yourself as a leader in the professions that we support.

The Faculty is organised in four schools: the School of Engineering, the School for the Built Environment, the School of Information Technology and the Graduate School of Technology Management. The School of Engineering is the largest of its kind in the country in terms of student numbers, graduates and research contributions and offers programmes in all the major engineering disciplines with many specialisations also offered at undergraduate and graduate level.

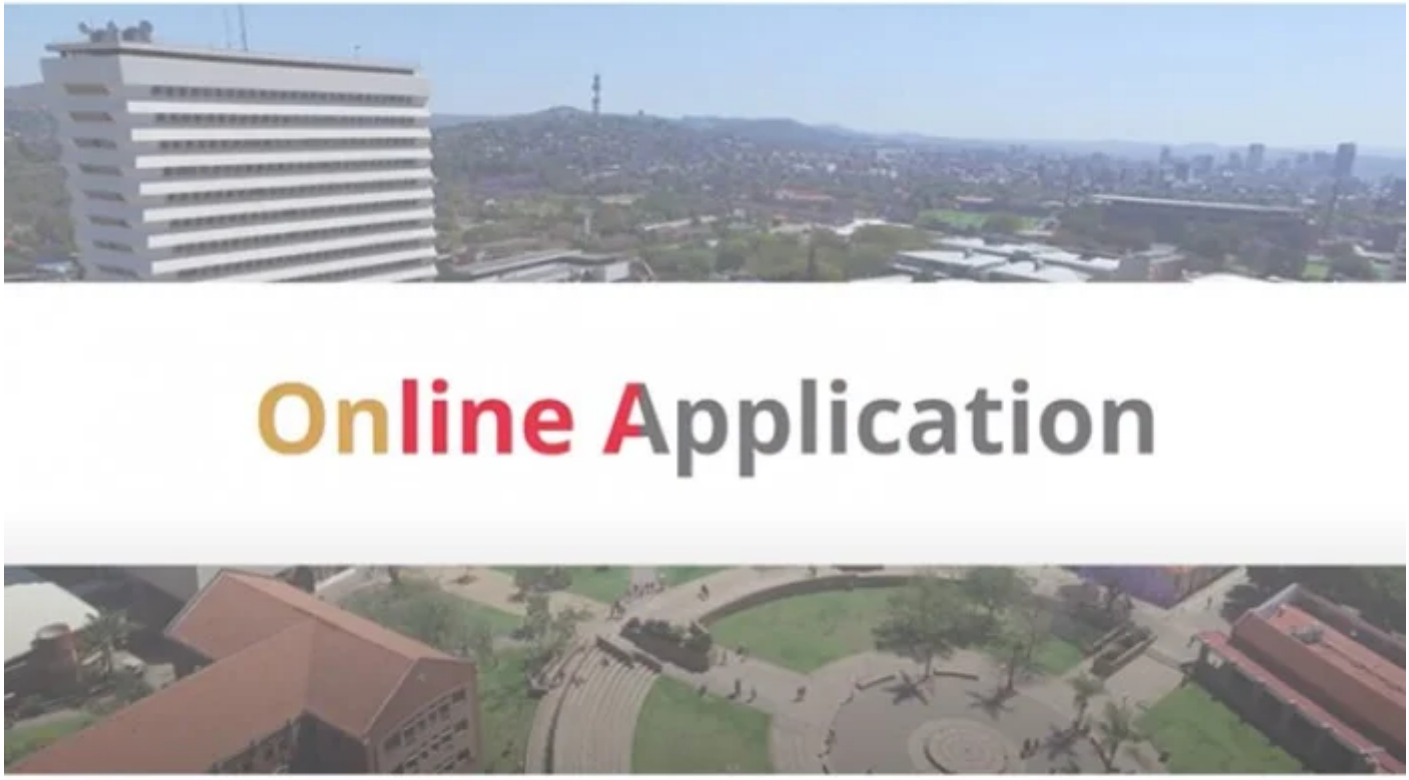
The University of Pretoria aims to be internationally competitive while also locally relevant. Advisory boards at both faculty and departmental level promote alignment and excellence in our teaching and research activities. Where applicable and available our programmes are accredited by statutory and professional bodies at both national and international level.

- ***Disclaimer:*** *This publication contains information about regulations and programmes of the University of Pretoria. Amendments to or updating of the information may be effected from time to time without prior notification. The accuracy, correctness or validity of the information contained here is therefore not guaranteed by the University at any given time and is always subject to verification. The user is kindly requested to verify the correctness of the information with the University at all times. Failure to do so will not give rise to any claim or action of any nature against the University by any party whatsoever.*

Enquiries about the programme

Click Here

How to apply


Online Application

Note: Also consult General Rules and Information on the Yearbook website for additional information.

Disclaimer: Due to the continuous restructuring of the Faculty and this website, some of the information displayed here may not fully reflect the most recent developments in the Faculty. Any discrepancies that are experienced may be taken up with Student Administration of the Faculty.