



## **Programme Specification**

### **Professional Practice and Management in Architecture**

**[Frenchay]**

Version: 2026-27, v1.1, Validated

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## **Section 1: Key Programme Details**

### **Part A: Programme Information**

**Programme title:** Professional Practice and Management in Architecture [Frenchay]

**Highest award:** PGCert Professional Practice and Management in Architecture

**Interim award:** PGCert Architectural Studies

**Awarding institution:** UWE Bristol

**Teaching institutions:** UWE Bristol

**Study abroad:** No

**Year abroad:** No

**Sandwich year:** No

**Credit recognition:** No

**School responsible for the programme:** CATE School of Architecture and Environment, College of Arts, Technology and Environment

**Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:**

Architects Registration Board (ARB)

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

**Modes of delivery:** Part-time

**Entry requirements:** For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

Students should have completed undergraduate studies in Architecture and ARB/RIBA Part 2 in Architecture.

**For implementation from:** 01 December 2025

**Programme code:** K10Q32

## Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

### Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

**Overview:** The Professional Practice and Management in Architecture Programme provides a routeway to enable students to complete the final stage (ARB/RIBA Part 3) of an architectural student's formal education. This is the point at which they cease to be students and are eligible to become architects. It is the culmination of the formal, academic training and the practical, work-based learning, and it provides the basis for 'life-long learning' in the architectural profession. Its primary purpose is to enable the student to demonstrate competence for the practice of architecture.

**Features of the programme:** The programme provides the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and develop necessary skills relating to architectural practice, professionalism, and managing the relationship between the architect and the wider construction industry and society. These correspond to the requirements set out in the requirements published by the ARB and RIBA. The programme offers varied and flexible patterns of study, through a blended learning approach, well-suited to part-time students working in practice. In addition to meeting the skills requirements for Part 3, the development of transferable skills such as business, marketing, project management, and communication is an important aim of the programme. Importance is placed on appropriate visual, written and oral communication skills as well as listening skills.

The Professional Context in Architecture module is structured around a combination of lectures, seminars, and digital content delivered via a virtual learning environment, focusing on essential themes in professional practice, procurement, and contract management. The module includes contributions from members across the College as well as visiting industry speakers, offering a broad perspective on contemporary issues. Students engage with a scenario project that enables them to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations, linking it to their own professional experiences. This preparatory work builds toward their final career evaluation and case study report in the concluding module.

The teaching and learning strategy for the final Professional Experience module is primarily self-directed, with individual guidance provided through tutorials. This module emphasizes the development of professional experience and competence for practice. The foundational knowledge and skills gained in the Context of Practice module, combined with practical experience, support students in achieving the learning outcomes of this final module.

On completion it allows the candidate to apply to the ARB (Architects' Registration Board) to be entered on to the Register of Architects. The candidate once officially registered may also, if they so wish, apply to become an RIBA Chartered member. For both organisations candidates will need to have provide evidence that they have completed each stage of their architectural education.

The 'Part 3 Course' is prescribed by the ARB and validated by the RIBA.

**Educational Aims:** The Educational Aims of this programme are:

To provide a coherent programme of advanced postgraduate study in the professional practice and management of architectural practice that is informed by research (including that carried out by academic staff at UWE);

To educate critically engaged architectural professionals with an ethically responsible attitude towards society, clients, users and the environment;

To encourage students to develop the capacity for reflexive practice and critical judgement necessary to work as architectural professionals in a range of contemporary contexts within the construction industry and wider society;

To achieve the knowledge and skills needed to meet the requirements for prescription by the Architects' Registration Board [ARB] and validation by the Royal Institute of British Architects [RIBA] as a Part 3 qualification in architecture.

**Programme Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**Programme Learning Outcomes**

- PO1. Demonstrate professional competence and integrity by adhering to the ethical standards and conduct expected of architects, with a focus on responsibilities related to fire safety, life safety, and climate change within architectural practice.
- PO2. Apply essential professional skills and behaviours, including effective communication, collaboration, and leadership, that are fundamental to the role of an architect.
- PO3. Exhibit ethical decision-making used to advise clients on their responsibilities, promoting actions that align with statutory requirements including safety considerations, sustainability, and social responsibility in architectural projects.
- PO4. Critically evaluate the range of services provided by architects, ensuring actions and services are delivered in accordance with the Code of Conduct and prioritise the interests of the public, clients, and other stakeholders.
- PO5. Demonstrate understanding of the legal framework governing architectural practice to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.
- PO6. Apply knowledge of UK construction and contract law, as well as construction procurement processes, and understand the roles and responsibilities of various built environment professionals.
- PO7. Critically assess business priorities, management processes, and risks associated with running an architectural practice, and analyse the relationship between the practice architecture and the broader UK construction industry.

**Assessment strategy:** As per the ARB requirements compensation and/or condonement are not permitted for any module within the programme that will assess ARB's Outcomes to passing standard. The Module Learning Outcomes for the Professional Context in Architecture map directly to the ARB Practice Outcomes and the RIBA Part 3 Graduate Attributes and these are assessed through the completion of the coursework set. The Module Learning Outcomes for the Professional Experience in Architecture: Part 3 reflect the holistic appraisal of the

student's professional competence and suitability for registration.

Testing of knowledge and understanding is through a set of portfolios (which includes essays, reports, scenario-based exercises, and presentations) and the oral exam/professional interview.

Intellectual skills are assessed in relevant coursework including the Case Study, the Career Evaluation, scenario-based exercises, and the Oral Exam/Professional Interview.

Subject, professional and practical skills are assessed through a set of portfolios (which includes essays, reports, scenario-based exercises, and presentations), the Case Study, the Career Evaluation, the record of professional experience (e.g. logbook, PEDR or equivalent, and the Oral Exam/Professional Interview.)

Transferable skills and other attributes are assessed by evidence of career progression, including the Career Evaluation, the record of professional experience (e.g. logbook, PEDR or equivalent, the Case Study, and the Oral Exam/Professional Interview).

A Record of Professional Experience (eg pedr or equivalent) forms a compulsory part of the documentary submission required for the final module prior to the professional interview.

The completion of a RIBA PEDR or Certificate of Experience, if eligible, fulfils the requirement for the Record of Professional Experience. The RIBA PEDR website gives information about the PEDR process. To use their PEDR recording system you will have to register and pay for a subscription.

UWE offers professional experience supervision for architecture students undertaking work in practice and who are completing a Record of Professional Experience (eg logbook, pedr) delivered through a non-accredited UWE module. Registering for this module provides supervision, advice and guidance from a

Professional Studies Advisor (PSA). An additional fee is charged for this module, please see the website for further details.

**Student support:** The Context for Professional Practice module is taught on campus which allows student support to be configured towards face to face sessions.

The Professional Experience module, is a supervision type module delivered online or in person depending on the individuals preference.

With the exception of Professional Experience Record costs (engaging with a Professional Studies Advisor at a UK School of Architecture and associated subscription costs to RIBA PEDR website) there are no fieldtrips, extra- or co-curricular activities associated with this course. If the student prefers to use UWE to support their Professional Experience then that is managed with UBLLPJ-10-3 (Stage one) or UBLMCN-10-M (Stage two).

## **Part B: Programme Structure**

### **Year 1**

The programme consists of 2 masters level modules, both of which must be completed to achieve the award.

The programme is taken as two 4-day block-taught deliveries and three opportunities for Case Study supervision meetings in support of the Professional Experience module.

The programme is completed by the Professional Experience Module which includes the professional interview. All other modules are a co- or pre-requisite for this module.

### **Year 1 Compulsory Modules**

The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

| <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Title</b> | <b>Credit</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|

|             |                                                         |    |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----|
| UBLL4N-30-M | Professional Context in Architecture 2026-27            | 30 |
| UBLMDX-30-M | Professional Experience in Architecture: Part 3 2026-27 | 30 |

### **Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis**

In the Professional Practice and Management in Architecture programme students acquire the knowledge and develop necessary skills relating to architectural practice, professionalism, and managing the relationship between the architect and the wider construction industry and society. These correspond to the requirements set out by the ARB and RIBA.

In addition to meeting the skills requirements for Part 3, the development of transferable skills such as business, marketing, project management, and communication are developed in the programme; and the enhancement of professional skills in visual, written and oral communication, as well as listening skills, continues throughout this programme. On successful completion of this programme a student will have demonstrated competence for the practice of architecture.

### **Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks**

The programme is designed to align with both the Architects Registration Board (ARB) document Tomorrow's Architects: Competency Outcomes for Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Themes and Values for Architectural Education (T+V4AE), as a Part 3 qualification in architecture, the final step towards becoming a Registered Architect in the UK.

The ARB document defines the threshold competencies required for registration as an architect, while the RIBA framework outlines the themes and values that underpin their validation process for architectural education. Together, these documents provide a comprehensive foundation for the programme's structure and objectives.

**Part E: Regulations**

## Approved variant to University Academic Regulations and Procedures

Variances were approved in 2008. Current UWE regulations apply except for the following variances listed below. The variances are required to ensure that the programme meets the requirement of the ARB/RIBA in relation to its accreditation of Part 3 programmes.

Variations to individual module requirements will be set out in the module specifications.

1. There will be a Professional Examiner for the Professional Experience module, as is required by ARB/RIBA to conduct the final assessment Oral Examination/Professional Interview and to be involved in the assessment of all the elements within the module. S/he will work with a second examiner on the assessment of this module. As part of this role, the Professional Examiner will recommend to the Award Board whether a failing candidate can be referred to Resit at the next assessment opportunity or is recommended to defer that Resit assessment in order to further develop their profession experience. This Professional Examiner role is defined by the relevant PSRBs and is a separate and different role from that of the external examiner as understood by the University's Academic Regulations and Procedures. (Variant to UWE Regulation 6 Failure of a Module).

2. Where students have not been able to meet the work experience requirement required to pass the Professional Experience module, they may be permitted to defer the assessment until a later assessment date when they will have been able to meet this requirement (up to a maximum period of deferral of 3 years). Students deferring in these circumstances only shall not incur any penalty in terms of marks capping or an additional fees requirement.

(Variant to UWE Regulation 4 Module Assessment).

As per the ARB requirements compensation and/or condonement are not permitted for any module within the programme that will assess ARB's Outcomes to passing standard.

