Programme Specification

Architecture and Environmental Design [SriLanka]

Version: 2025-26, v1.0, Validated

Contents

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Architecture and Environmental Design [SriLanka]

Highest award: MArch Architecture and Environmental Design

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Affiliated institutions: City School of Architecture Sri Lanka

Teaching institutions: City School of Architecture Sri Lanka

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: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Full-time

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

Candidates for admission to the programme must hold one of the following: · Qualification equivalent to RIBA Part I It is a pre-requisite to have one year of practical experience before being able to enrol in the MArch Architecture and Environmental Design All students will have to follow an interview process before being admitted to the programme, to ensure that the standards are being met. Applicants whose first language is not English or whose previous qualification was not taught and assessed in English must provide evidence of attainment in English Language by achieving an IELTS score of at least 6.5 or an equivalent qualification. Transitional arrangements have been made for those students who are at present studying under CSA old Structure. Please see appendix at the end.

For implementation from: 01 October 2023

Programme code: K10F10

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: This course is directed to an advanced level of learning with a philosophical approach to architecture with specialist input in key areas of design orientations, encouraging students to generate interest towards academic research, specialisations and advanced degrees.

This is an arrangement whereby successful completion of the programme leads to:
· the award of Master of Architecture (MArch) Architecture and Environmental Design, which is conferred by UWE Bristol; and
· the award of Higher Diploma in Architecture which is conferred by CSA.

The Higher Diploma in Architecture is validated by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and gives exemption from the RIBA Part 2.

The UWE Bristol MArch Architecture and Environmental Design is not validated by the RIBA.

Appendix 1 is an example of the mapping and assessment pattern for the MArch(Hons) Architecture and Environmental Design.

Features of the programme:

Educational Aims: Provide students with in-depth knowledge and skills necessary to discourse and implement architectural designs at a macro level, acknowledging the wider urban, contextual and societal issues in addition to displaying an

interdisciplinary approach to architecture.

Enable students to develop sustainable design solutions in response to the natural environment and addressing the needs of future generations.

Provide students with a general understanding of practice within the dimensions of the architectural profession and the construction industry and prepare them for work as professional architects.

To provide a professional education for the architect to a level which is equivalent to Part II of the RIBA examination as determined by the RIBA.

To enable students to form working relationships and establish direct links with the construction industry through the “Learn while you work” concept of the programme.

To encourage critical debate, innovative design thinking and a quest for creative design through a combination of theory, practice, peer interaction and review.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

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

Knowledge and Understanding

A1. The social, political, economic and professional context that guides building construction

A2. The regulatory requirements, including the needs of the disabled, health and safety legislation and building regulations and development control, that guide building construction

A3. Originality on the application of knowledge and the principles and theories associated with visual, thermal and acoustic environments

A4. The histories and theories of architecture and urban design, the history of ideas, and the related disciplines of art, cultural studies and landscape studies and its application in critical debate

A5. he contribution of other professionals in the design process, recognizing the importance of teamwork and the use of current methods in the construction industry

A6. Cost control mechanisms and how these operate within the development of an architectural project

A7. The basic principles of business management and factors related to running a design practice and how architects organise, administer and manage an architectural project, recognizing current and emerging trends in the construction industry such as partnering, integrated project process, value engineering and risk management

A8. The inter-relationships of individuals and organisations involved in the procurement and delivery of architectural projects, and how these are defined and effected through a variety of contractual and organisational structures

A9. The fundamental legal, professional and statutory requirements as they are relevant to building design and practice, with particular reference to matters relating to health & safety and universal design for access.

A10. The professional duties and responsibilities of architects, as defined and described in the Codes and Standards relating to their professional practice

Intellectual Skills

B1. Critically appraise design briefs to ensure that the design response is appropriate to site and context, and evaluate them in terms of sustainability and budget.

B2. Demonstrate an appropriate philosophical approach which reveals an understanding of theory in a cultural context

B3. Evaluate the influences on the contemporary built environment of individual buildings, the design of cities, past and present societies and wider global issues

B4. Critically appraise and form considered judgements about the spatial, aesthetic, technical and social qualities of a design within the scope and scale of a wider environment

B5. Employ the relationships between climate, built form, construction, life-style, energy consumption and human well-being in the development of climatic designs

B6. Evaluate building technologies, environmental design and construction methods in relation to human well-being, the welfare of future generations, the natural world, the consideration of a sustainable environment.

Subject/Professional Practice Skills

C1. Generate and systematically test, analyse and appraise design options, and draw conclusions which display methodological and theoretical rigour

C2. Assess the impact on design of legislation, codes of practice and health and safety both during the construction and occupation of a project

C3. Devise structural and constructional strategies for a complex building or group of buildings, employing integrative knowledge of structural theories, constructional techniques and processes, the physical properties and characteristics of building materials and components and the environmental impact of specification choices, and the provision of building services

C4. Use architectural representations having critically appraised the most appropriate techniques available

C5. Use visual, verbal and written communication methods and appropriate media (including sketching, modelling, digital and electronic techniques) to represent the testing, analysis and critical appraisal of complex design proposals and their resolution to a range of professionals and lay audiences

Transferable Skills and other attributes

D1. Work as part of a team

D2. Independently define, and critically appraise, ideas in relation to a design and to the work of others

D3. Use visual, verbal and written communication methods and appropriate media to convey ideas to professionals and lay audiences

D4. Produce documentation and reports which are clear, analytical and logical

D5. Identify and manage individual learning needs so as to prepare for and maintain professional standards commensurate with qualification

Assessment strategy: The assessment and examination for each year of study in the design studio will be done through continuous studio based assessment, term based reviews end of year examination and course end examination of the design

studio work. Theoretical subjects are assessed through coursework and sessional and course end examinations.

Student support: The programme is managed by the Head of School who oversees the operation of the programme and the delivery of the modules, assisted by the Deputy Head for Part II and faculty staff (in charge of each year of study). The University of the West of England (UWE) Faculty of Environment and Technology has a Link Tutor who manages the collaboration between City School of Architecture (CSA) and the University.

Induction

New entrants to the programme attend an induction programme to familiarise them with the structure and operation of their programme and facilities to support their studies. All students are briefed on the academic calendar, as well as academic programmes and events for the year at the beginning of the year The students are also briefed in relation to the physical and educational resources available to them.

Academic Support and Guidance

The Faculty who are in charge of a year of study are the immediate support mechanism available to students. Students could also discuss their learning needs and obtain advice and guidance on personal issues and job placements from the Deputy Heads of the Parts I & II Courses. External Tutors, Supervising Architects at the Trainer Practices and the Practical Training and Welfare Counselors act as additional mentors whom the student can turn to for advice and guidance.

Practical Training Support and Guidance

Support and guidance on practical training is given to the students by the Practical Training Counsellors and the Supervising Architect at the Trainer Practice. CSA has a well established consortium of architectural practices who have the experience to guide and equip students with the knowledge and understanding of the Architect’s Plan of Work.

Financial Support and Guidance

Financial support and guidance is given to students through Welfare Counsellors and the Awards and Bursaries Committee that administers financial support to the students together with the Head of School through student scholarships and bursaries. Supervising Architects at the Trainer Practices also act as mentors to the students on these matters and some Trainer Practices bear the course fee payments of students or provide them loans for such purposes. More detailed information can be found in the CSA Student's Handbook.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

The student must take 80 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 80 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules. Students commence teaching on Urban Design 5,6 in Year 1 and complete the module in Year 2.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBPLWK-8-3	Conservation 5 2025-26	8
UBPMVF-12-3	Design 5 2025-26	12
UBPMXW-8-3	Environment 5 2025-26	8
UBLF87-16-3	Planning and Sociology 5 2024-25	16
UBPMYX-12-3	Practical Training 5 2025-26	12
UBPMXF-8-3	Profession 5 2025-26	8
UBLMX8-8-3	Technology 5 (Water Supply, Drainage, Sewage, Electrical, Hvac, Other) 2025-26	8
UBPMVW-8-3	Theory of Architecture 5 2025-26	8

Year 2

The student must take 80 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules
The student must take 80 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules. Students commence teaching on Urban Design 5,6 in Year 1 and complete the module in Year 2.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBPMWX-12-M	Design 6 2026-27	12
UBPLXK-16-M	Environment 6 2026-27	16
UBPLW4-12-3	Practical Training 6 2026-27	12
UBPLWJ-16-3	Profession 6 2026-27	16
UBLMXP-8-M	Technology 6 - Smart Materials 2026-27	8
UBLMY8-8-M	Technology 6.2 - Advanced Structures and Fire Services 2026-27	8
UBLFGA-8-3	Urban Design 5,6 2026-27	8

Year 3
The student must take 80 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Year 3 Compulsory modules
The student must take 80 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBPMXG-64-M	Comprehensive Design Project 7 2027-28	64
UBPMXX-16-M	Dissertation 7 2027-28	16

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

QAA benchmark statements.

The aims and learning outcomes of the programme reflect the subject-specific guidance of the QAA benchmark statements for architecture. The prescriptions set out in the benchmarks describing knowledge, intellectual skills, subject-specific and transferable skills informed the learning outcomes of the programme. The teaching and learning and assessment strategies adopted on this programme are consistent with those contained within the benchmark statements. Transferable skills are developed, practiced and assessed within modules throughout the programme.

Professional Validation/Accreditation.

The UWE award of MArch Architecture and Environmental Design is not validated by the RIBA or prescribed by ARB. However, the curriculum, learning methods, aims and learning outcomes correspond to the guidelines and requirements set out by the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

Standards and QA

The standard of the UWE award is ultimately the responsibility of UWE's Academic Board. On a day to day basis, the programme and modules are the responsibility of the Board of Academic Studies at CSA. The Award and Module Boards are responsible for awarding credit, considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with the assessment requlations. CSA will be required to report to UWE on an annual basis in accordance with UWE's process for the annual monitoring and review of taught provision. UWE External Examiner(s) will report annually on the programme and their views will be considered as part of the annual monitoring and review process for taught provision.

Internal monitoring and review at CSA includes:

Reviews with the Head of School and Deputy Heads of School Monthly reviews are conducted with the staff and student representatives of each studio. Staff and student concerns are addressed and feedback is given at the next meeting after the Head of School has deliberated such issues and concerns with the Board of Academic Studies.

Quality Audits Quality Audits are conducted at the end of each academic session and the Head of QA forwards his/her report to the Head of School. The report contents are discussed at the Board of Academic Studies and the recommendations of the Board are then taken up for discussion by the Head of School with the Board of Directors. For more detailed information please see the CSA Quality Assurance Handbook.

Part E: Regulations

Approved variant to University Academic Regulations and Procedures