



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Department Of
Civil &
Structural
Engineering.



School
Of
Architecture.

A stylized illustration in shades of red and black showing various drafting tools: a ruler, a pencil, a pen, and a pair of scissors. The tools are arranged in a dynamic, overlapping composition. In the background, there is a piece of paper with large, bold, vertical Chinese characters and smaller text on the left side.

Portfolio Submission Guidance.

For Applicants to:
MEng – Structural Engineering & Architecture (HK21)

What is a portfolio?

People apply to the dual Structural Engineering and Architecture course (HK21) with a variety of skills, and having studied a number of different subjects.

Since it is not always the case that applicants have studied Art at GCSE or A-level we request a portfolio submission from all applicants as it gives us an important understanding of, not only your representational and creative skills, but also your critical thinking. The portfolio should

therefore be a selection of work that you think best demonstrates both your creative skills and the way you look at the world around you.

As you will not be present to explain your work it is important that it is clear what it is about, and laid out in a manner that you feel best represents your approach.

Work that demonstrates your ability to think in three dimensions and ability to use different media is

encouraged. You don't have to do a lot of drawings of buildings at the expense of any other work.

If you choose to represent buildings in your portfolio it may be useful to note why you have chosen a particular building or view of it.

If your strengths lie in a particular field think of how you can use this in an innovative and appropriate way. What is vital is that the work submitted is all your own work.

“What we want made visible are your perceptions of the subject, your skill in interpreting it, and your manual dexterity and control of media in producing the representation.” **Prof. Peter Blundell-Jones (Professor)**

Work suitable for inclusion as part of your portfolio may include:

Drawing	[i.e. Pen/Pencil/Charcoal of Objects/ Buildings/People etc.]
Painting	[i.e. Watercolour/Oil/Acrylic - figurative/abstract]
Screen-printing	
Typography	[i.e. font design, lettering layout]
Graphic Design	[i.e. Poster, Magazine, Flyer, Book]
Sculpture	[Small or large scale, wood/metal/plastic/clay etc.]
Ceramics	[i.e. pottery, sculptural]
Textile Design	[i.e. 2-d pattern design, creation of the fabrics themselves i.e. weaving]
Fashion Design	[Design of clothing, or the making of clothing]
Theatrical Work	[Stage set design, Lighting, Costume, Furniture, Building]
Product Design	[Development sketches to finalised/ built designs]
Still Photography	[To highlight compositional skills and/ or observational skills]
Film	[stills of short films]
Jewellery	[design, or finished pieces]
Collage	[digital, paper, fabric, mixed media]
Animation	[stills only]

“What is more important to me than you producing accomplished artwork is that your drawings demonstrate a sense of exploring a set of ideas in an imaginative and thoughtful way.” **Russell Light (Senior University Teacher)**



What should your portfolio contain?

We ask that your portfolio contains **six original** pieces. Your work should be easy to look through and it should be clear what each piece is – remember that you will not be there to explain individual items to the people looking at your portfolio. Text, neat labels, or a sheet of contents, for example, can all help to explain what you have produced.

As a further test of your critical, representational and observational

skills, we ask that one of the six pieces of work you submit illustrates an aspect of the street/road/lane that you live on. This can be in any form and should be accompanied by a short text of 200 words.

We are interested in a creative, rather than strictly representational approach. For example a straightforward sketch of the house opposite yours may show how well you can sketch, but not demonstrate an ability to look beyond what is

immediately apparent.

You do not have to live in an area of particular architectural significance, in fact looking below the surface of (or in more detail at) what you consider to be an 'ordinary street' may create the most interesting pieces of work.

Similarly, the text accompanying your representational work should be imaginative, insightful and expressive - not purely descriptive.



“The best portfolios are those that show personal explorations, experiments and reflection, through a variety of techniques and types of work.” **Dr. Cristina Cerulli (Lecturer)**

Submitting your portfolio...

Since we ask that your portfolio is submitted digitally you need to submit photos of three-dimensional work and photos or scans of two-dimensional work. Please ensure that:

- Photographs are taken at a resolution that ensures that the file you submit is easy to see and is not distorted or blurred.
- If you are scanning a drawing, check that the resolution is set high enough and that the image isn't too small.

We are unable to review videos. If you wish to include them, please

submit a selection of still images/story board.

We prefer you to combine all of your work into one file, allowing you to control the order that your work is seen in and to add a title page or contents page. We accept the following file formats for combined files: Adobe Acrobat (.pdf), MS Word (.doc or .docx) and MS PowerPoint (.ppt or .pptx).

We advise against submitting a collection of single image files (i.e. jpegs) as this is time consuming to look through for staff who will have large volumes of portfolios to assess. If it is unavoidable, make sure to label

files clearly, number them and provide a cover sheet or key.

We cannot accept archived files (ZIP, RAR etc.), and you must ensure that, uncompressed, your chosen file type is no larger than 6Mb. Each file must be clearly labelled with your full name and with your UCAS ID or application number.



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“ Replicating a specific art style (impressionism, cubism, pop etc.) , even with a great deal of skill, doesn't demonstrate an ability to be creative. What I like is when I see that someone took these skills and made something else with them, shifted them to another meaning, or applied them in a different way. There must be a certain level of reflection that becomes apparent in the work” **Dr. Florian Kossak (Senior Lecturer)**

For more course information

www.shef.ac.uk/civil/ug/courses/hk21



“For me, the most useful portfolios are those that carry something of the personality of their authors; this usually comes through in ‘drawings’ (or sheets) that are experimenting, trying things out, and not always succeeding. They reveal much more than generic, highly polished and finished things.” **Dr. Stephen Walker (Design Tutor)**

