Sheffield School of Architecture

Postgraduate Courses
The Sheffield Approach

Architecture with a view

Our School is known around the world for its strong social conscience. We believe in architecture that makes a difference and know that it has the potential to significantly enhance the quality of life of those who inhabit and use it.

Architecture is a network and the influence of a building spreads well beyond its site. Its impact, both on lives and on the wider environment, must be considered in the long term.

A LIVE SCHOOL

As a Sheffield student you will engage with real societal, environmental and architectural issues.

Our staff and students can often be found working not only with communities in Sheffield, but more widely across the United Kingdom and beyond.

RESEARCH LED TEACHING

As one of the UK’s top 4 research schools of architecture, we attract excellent national and international students and academic staff who all contribute to a socially vibrant student community and an academically challenging environment.

We fully integrate research and design at all levels. Teaching is delivered by academic staff at the forefront of their field and students develop into skilled and critical researchers.

ARCHITECTURE OF VALUE

Our students, staff and alumni produce outstanding architecture and are having a positive and lasting impact on the global built environment.

PIONEERS

We are shaping the future of practice and leading on cutting edge, interdisciplinary architectural education through our teaching initiatives, research and collaborations.

We are critical of the ways in which architectural education has traditionally been delivered and of the nature of the architectural profession. It is our aim, through rigorous research and reflection, to open up the field of architecture, embracing all those who engage with it, so making it more relevant and effective in its social purpose.

REPUTATION

The University of Sheffield is a World Top 100 University. The School of Architecture is consistently ranked as one of the best in the UK and has a strong record in league tables.

3rd in the Times Good University Guide 2017
4th in The Guardian University League Tables 2018
Top 4 UK School in QS World Rankings 2017

World Class Research

We are one of the longest established but most forward looking schools of architecture in the UK and a world class centre for research. We explore the social and political implications of architecture in order to build better environments and better lives.

We carry out international projects and collaborate with researchers worldwide. All academic staff bring their individual expertise and specialisms to teaching.

We foster an active research culture through regular seminars and specialised subject groupings and engage in an ongoing architectural research discourse with students, particularly at postgraduate level.

We are recognised for world leading and internationally excellent research by the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014.

Research covers a wide subject range, including history and theory of architecture, design, sustainable environments, digital communication, and architecture for health and wellbeing. Whilst the range of research activity is wide, there is a common interest in research that concerns the relationship between architecture and society and is interdisciplinary in scope.

Our aim is to make an impact on policy and practice, and to be involved in the national and international debate about the shaping of future architectural environments.
A Unique Place

The city of Sheffield is an excellent place to learn, teach and research architecture and we are firmly placed within this environment.

As an architecture student you will have access to a range of dedicated, high quality facilities and our expert technical staff will be on hand to offer you advice and support.

DESIGN STUDIO
Our generous, open plan studios promote collaboration and a community feel. The Well is the physical and social heart of the School and The Arts Tower offers unrivalled, panoramic views across our green city and beyond.

We are proud to have an open and inclusive working environment. Our dynamic studio culture will support and enable you to develop your own approach as an individual.

MODEL MAKING
Our workshop offers you a suite of equipment for modelling and fabrication with a range of materials. Facilities include laser cutters, CNC router, table saw, bandsaw, pillar drill, professional sanders and a huge range of battery powered and hand tools. The model making studio offers an extension of the studios for light tooling and large scale modelling.

PRINTING
Our print unit offers a full range of printing, scanning and binding equipment. You will also have the opportunity to explore 3D technology including printing 3D models from digital files.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
In our computer lab you will find recently upgraded PCs which host a suite of Professional BIM, CAD and design software.

DIGITAL MEDIA
The media unit brings together the latest research, technology and expertise in digital media, photography and environment simulation. It will offer you resources such as artificial sky, heliodon and a fully equipped photographic studio with an equipment loans service. The media unit specialises in 360-degree capture, photogrammetry and virtual environments, with a dedicated virtual reality interaction space available. It also supports and facilitates digital media content creation and related skills teaching.

LIVE WORKS
As the first permanent University funded Urban Room in the UK, Live Works creates a shop window for the School in Sheffield City Centre where local people and organisations can learn about our civic engagement activities and suggest and collaborate with us on Live Projects.
Sheffield Graduates

Our Alumni are producing outstanding architecture and are shaping the future of our cities and communities.

Sheffield graduates come from all over the world and have pursued successful international careers in the built environment and creative industries. We have a global network consisting of over 4000 alumni in over 90 different countries.

We are proud that our Alumni are having an impact on the world, whether it’s via their work in practice and industry or through further academic research and teaching. Our alumni are part of some of the top architecture practices in the UK and overseas, some start their own companies or work in grassroots organisations. They regularly win awards and attract positive attention for their work.

One of the main tasks of a school of architecture is to prepare students for architectural practice and the profession. We educate our students to be knowledgeable, open, enquiring, and critically aware, thus enabling them to lead and change the profession over the next 50 years.

“The great thing about Sheffield graduates is that they are really good at thinking around a problem, instead of just crashing straight into it”

Andy James, Director at OMI
Master of Architecture (MArch)

Our MArch courses are two year, full time, professionally validated courses in architecture that carry RIBA Part 2 exemption.

The courses acknowledge that architectural practice is a diverse field. Students are prepared for such diversity by developing a range of transferable skills in research and design.

The School adopts the model of architectural education which focuses primarily around the design studio. This is supported by lectures, seminars, and workshops in the humanities, technology, management and communication.

Students are assigned work individually or in groups, undertaking design projects under the guidance of a designated tutor.

Whilst considered in a global context, much of the design studio work is focused on regional and local issues, with students undertaking a range of Live Projects, which respond to issues emerging from real client needs.

Our students are equipped to enter a profession that is multi-faceted, diverse and changing.

Your Career

Our graduates are sought after by employers who recognise that our students have excellent transferable skills, many developed ‘live’ in real world settings.

We have strong links with numerous high profile practices who are keen to recruit Sheffield graduates, setting us above the majority in the UK.

We work closely with the University’s Careers Service to offer you guidance and support in developing your employability. There are a number of schemes you can take advantage of including Alumni mentoring which offers a fantastic opportunity to discover what career options are available to you by talking to someone actually doing the job.

Many of our graduates on the professional courses go on to register as an architect and are employed by some of the top Architecture Practices in the UK and overseas. Our graduates also pursue careers in the built environment.

Employers include ARUP, Building Design Partnership, Farrells, Fielden Clegg Bradley,Grimshaw Architects, Hawkins\Brown, AHMM and Penoyre & Prasad.
Our MArch in Architecture course is one of the most innovative and influential in the country. At the heart of the course is a series of thematic studios which contain both fifth and sixth year students. The themes develop out of the studio leaders’ own research interests. The aim is to consider design within the context of rigorous and innovative research. This implies that the product of the studio courses will extend beyond the comprehensive design of a building and into other areas such as participation, historical analysis, technical innovation or cultural investigation.

Live Projects have now established themselves as a core part of the MArch course, and are seen as a pioneering initiative in architectural education. For a six-week period in both fifth and sixth years, students work on Live Projects with a range of clients from local community groups and charities, to regional authorities. In some cases the projects involve actual building or design of urban frameworks, in others, engagement exercises. In all cases the projects have a two way benefit. Students get the opportunity to bring their developed skills into the real world, often with immediate social benefit. Secondly, the Live Project develops communication skills and group working, both of which are essential skills for future life in practice; a practice that can listen, negotiate and advocate client’s and user’s needs, whilst at the same time, produce ambitious and innovative architecture. Students are encouraged to be canny, flexible, responsive and socially enterprising; in doing so we believe they may be able to not only negotiate and respond to the challenges of our time but, also lead on what ‘Future Practice’ might be.

Entry Requirements
An upper second or first class degree in architecture, together with exemption from RIBA Part 1. 9 months or more practical work experience in the field of architecture. IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component (or an equivalent qualification).

Further Information
www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/march/architecture

Core Modules
Design 1, 2, 3 and 4
Live Projects 1 and 2
Theory and Research
Design Report
Environment and Technology 1 and 2
Management and Practice 1 and 2
Dissertation 1 and 2

Optional Modules
In the first year of this course you will choose one additional module from a selection in the School of Architecture.
MArch in Architecture and Landscape Architecture (RIBA and LI Part 2)

MArch with Landscape Architecture is an innovative course which provides an integrated learning opportunity in the fields of both architecture and landscape architecture.

It forms a follow on course to our unique dual architecture and landscape architecture degree and aims to offer a fully accredited route to qualification as both an architect and landscape architect.

The course balances creative design through studio led teaching with reflective and technical written explorations. Specialist teaching is delivered in both departments and offers a unique environment in which our students are able to determine their own critical path.

The course is heavily embedded into the MArch Architecture course and students follow the Live Projects programme and design studios.

Sixth year students undertake a specialist studio delivered by both architecture and landscape architecture tutors. This enables them to make sophisticated architectural and landscape architectural propositions that explore core urban design issues which respond to ecological, cultural, social and technical contexts.

The course validation is currently under consideration by the RIBA, ARB and LI.

Entry Requirements
An upper second or first class degree in architecture and landscape architecture, together with exemption from RIBA Part 1 and LI Part 1.

9 months or more practical work experience in the field of architecture.

IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component (or an equivalent qualification).

Further Information
www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/march/architecture-landscape

Core Modules
Design 1, 2 and 3
Theory and Research
Environment and Technology 1 and 2
Management and Practice 1 and 2
Professional Practice Law and Contracts
Live Projects 2
Design Report
Urban Landscape Planning
Design Research Study
Special Project
Our MArch in Architecture: Collaborative Practice course places us at the forefront of architectural education by blending practice-based experience with academic research and learning.

The course is a two-year, full-time course with two semesters of practice-based education in the initial year (Year 5) and two semesters of University-based education in the final year (Year 6). This means that students will overlap a year of studies with their professional experience which aims to shorten the time taken to professional qualification.

The course offers students unique opportunities to develop their experience working with some of the country’s top architecture practices. It is built around strong partnerships with leading and reputable practices, many of which are alumni of the School.

The course will build on, and run alongside, our innovative and influential MArch in Architecture course, with students studying together in Year 6. It has five new modules as well as sharing existing modules with the MArch in Architecture course.

Entry Requirements
An upper second or first class degree in architecture, together with exemption from RIBA Part 1.
9 months or more practical work experience in the field of architecture.
IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component (or an equivalent qualification).
To apply for this course you should be currently working at a partner practice (see website). However, if you are interested in the course and not working in one of the partner practices, we encourage you to contact Satwinder Samra, s.samra@sheffield.ac.uk, to discuss your situation.

Further Information
www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/march/collaborative-practice

Core Modules
Reflective Design Practice
Live Project 1 and 2
Theory and Research
Environment and Technology in Practice 1
Management and Practice 1 and 2
Dissertation Proposal: Collaborative Practice
Reflections on Architectural Practice
Design 3 and 4
Design Report
Environment and Technology 2
Dissertation: Collaborative Practice
Taught Masters

We offer a range of studio based Postgraduate Taught Masters courses which allow students to develop their skills and knowledge in a particular field of architecture.

These courses are built on the research strengths of contributing academic staff and draw strongly on our intellectual ethos, which emphasises social and environmental responsibility in relation to the design and production of the built environment.

Our masters courses are tailored to meet your specific needs and interests through flexible modular teaching.

The postgraduate studio culture makes the School a thriving and creative place to be. Studying within this community provides a strong support network from staff members and fellow students, assisting you in realising your full potential.

As a masters student you will benefit from the School’s wider research environment. We foster links between postgraduate students and research staff which supports the flourishing research culture within the School.

Each of the courses also gives training in research methods in different areas, relevant to students wishing to pursue further study at PhD level.

Your Career

Our students have won numerous awards and their work has attracted positive attention in the media and achieved great acclaim in the design community.

The aim of our courses is to equip students with the knowledge and skills for international careers in academia, research, practice and other commercial and professional fields where an advanced understanding of the built environment is an advantage.

We work closely with the Careers Service to help enhance your employability. There are a number of schemes you can take advantage of including Alumni e-mentoring which offers a fantastic opportunity to talk to someone with experience in the career you are interested in. The Postgraduate Advantage Scheme gives you the chance to take part in a 100 hour internship with an organisation that may not normally be able to provide paid internships, including charities, community groups, social enterprises, small commercial firms and public sector organisations.

In the School we host events and activities designed to support students in understanding the full range of options available to them in their career.

Our strong and diverse links with employers from practice and industry provide a range of opportunities, setting us above the majority in the UK.
MA in Architectural Design

The focus of this course is on knowledge of design approaches, processes and architectural research methodologies.

The course will encourage you to develop a distinctive design practice, underpinned by a deep interest in social dynamics and architectural culture. You will explore, challenge and inform contemporary architectural design practice through seminars, research, studio project work, field trips and participation in design-led practice.

As part of the pioneering ‘Live Projects’ initiative you will work with real clients in the community. In some cases, the projects involve actual building, in others, design of urban masterplans, or consultation exercises. In every case, the project is real, happening in real time with real people.

You will specialise in the theory and practice of design thinking to develop the skills and knowledge to be a thoughtful, creative and original practitioner or scholar.

Graduates have pursued careers both in architectural and design practice and in academia.

The MA in Architectural Design also supports the PhD by Design course, providing an appropriate entry level one year masters course as a foundation for doctoral research.

Entry Requirements

An undergraduate degree (2:1 or above) from the built environment and creative disciplines or equivalent experience in this area. Submission of a portfolio of design work is required.

If English is not your first language, IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component (or an equivalent qualification).

Course Structure

Start date: September
Duration: 1 year full-time

Core Modules

Special Design 1 ‘Live Project’
Design Project 1 and 2
Reflections on Architectural Design
Thesis Project
Environment and Technology in Design

Routes

Option 1
Critical Spatial Theory
+ 1 Option Module

Option 2
Theory and Research in Design
+ 1 Option Module

Option 3
Politics of Architecture and Urbanism
+ 1 Option Module

Further Information

www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/postgraduate/masters/architectural-design

"The live project was a great opportunity for me to interact with other students, share my ideas and gain experiences that helped me throughout the course. In other words, the project helped me to understand that architecture is much wider than a building."

Farouq Tahar, MA in Architectural Design
MA in Urban Design

Our design-based course has a strong emphasis on community participation. The aim is to address the challenges of uneven urban development, both locally and internationally.

The course seeks to establish innovative modes of practice involving agency and community participation, and to investigate which approaches might allow for rethinking the role of both designers and citizens in the processes of city-making.

The course is underpinned by a desire to critically examine the key urban development challenges that cities are facing today. Who is addressing them? In which ways? To whose inclusion, and exclusion?

You will take local urban areas in Sheffield as a reference for comparison with other UK and international contexts in Europe as well as in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Central to the course is a design studio, supported by core modules, exploring urban design theory, participatory methodologies and reflections on urban design practice. These are complemented by a range of optional modules, field trips, thematic workshops and lecture series.

Our research-led design methods aim to prepare you for cross-disciplinary work in design offices as well as local authorities and non-governmental organisations working towards socially responsive urban development.

Entry Requirements

An upper second or first class degree in architecture or other equivalent qualification related to design in the built environment. Submission of a portfolio of design work is required.

If English is not your first language, IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component (or an equivalent qualification).

Further Information

www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/postgraduate/masters/urban-design

Course Structure

Start date: September
Duration: 1 year full-time / 2 years part-time

Core Modules

Urban Design Project 1, 2 and 3
Urban Design Tools and Methods
History and Theory of Urban Design
Participation in Architecture and Urban Design
Trajectories on Urban Design Practice

Optional Modules

Students can choose one further option module according to their particular areas of interest.

This module can be selected from a rich range of options offered by the School of Architecture, the Department of Landscape Architecture and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

“The University of Sheffield is well respected both nationally and internationally with employers so I hope I can use this to my advantage.”

Chris Hall, MA in Urban Design
MSc in Digital Architecture and Design

Digital technologies are rapidly changing the way buildings and urban spaces are designed, constructed and inhabited. On this course, you’ll gain the knowledge and skills required to produce innovative blueprints for architecture in the digital era.

The past decade has shown growing expectations for built spaces with capacity to respond dynamically to change. Emerging global challenges demand architects and designers with the ability to shape the way that buildings, landscapes and cities adapt over time. This course examines how digital tools and processes can be developed and applied to design built environments with capacity for change.

You will undertake a rich array of modules and use a creative blend of techniques to produce innovative digital architecture. The studio and dissertation projects allow you to creatively apply your digital design knowledge and skills, guided by tutors.

Teaching is delivered through studio work, lectures, workshops, seminars and field trips. Lecturers provide a range of research expertise in Parametric Design, Computer Programming, 3D Interactive Prototyping, Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Environmental Simulation.

Course Structure

- **Start date:** September
- **Duration:** 1 year full-time / 2 years part-time
- **Core Modules**
  - Parametric Architectural Geometry
  - Advanced Simulation for Modelling Adaptive Architecture
  - Critical Applications of Building Information Modelling
  - Digital Architecture and Design Studio Project
- **Elements of Computational Design I and II**
- **Dissertation Project**
- **Optional Modules**
  - In consultation with a postgraduate tutor, you may also choose one optional module aimed to enhance understanding of a specific field of interest. Topics can include building information modelling or advanced simulation for bioclimatic design.

Entry Requirements

- An undergraduate degree (2.1 or above) from the built environment and creative disciplines or equivalent experience in this area.
- Submission of a portfolio of design work is required.
- If English is not your first language, IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component (or an equivalent qualification).

Further Information

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/postgraduate/masters/digital-design](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/postgraduate/masters/digital-design)

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“**The skill-set I am acquiring should greatly improve my job opportunities, quality of work, and will be an asset in any architectural firm I work in.**”

Reema Kadri, MSc in Digital Design and Interactive Built Environments
"Building of a smart and elegant sustainable concept was at the heart of every new assignment. Exciting lectures from visiting architects, workshops, field trips and architectural competitions created a new understanding for me of my future profession. The world of architecture had suddenly appeared to be much more intriguing, diverse and challenging for a young architect, than I used to think before."

Anton Bashkaev, MSc in Sustainable Architecture Studies

MSc in Sustainable Architecture Studies

Combining social and technical aspects of sustainable architecture, this course has an interdisciplinary approach. It will inspire and enable you to pursue innovative research and design strategies for the built environment.

You are encouraged to develop a critical stance in relation to theories of sustainable architecture. By the end of the course, graduates will possess skills to produce complex design proposals which adopt a holistic approach to design and address the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable architecture.

The course is taught through seminars, workshops, lectures, field trips and study visits, conference participation, debates, studio-based project work and independent study.

The sustainable design projects enable you to apply your research agenda in the studio. Many of the design projects work with a range of clients including local community groups, charities, health organisations and regional authorities. Studio projects can involve consultation and construction as well as design. The course provides a foundation for those seeking to go on to further research which may influence national and international research agendas and for those wanting to pursue leadership roles in the design of a sustainable built environment.

Entry Requirements

An undergraduate degree (2.1 or above) from the built environment and creative disciplines or equivalent experience in this area.

Submission of a portfolio of design work is required.

If English is not your first language, IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component (or an equivalent qualification).

Further Information

www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/postgraduate/masters/sustainable-architecture

Course Structure

Start date: September
Duration: 1 year full-time / 2 years part-time

Core Modules

Building Environmental Simulation and Analysis
Renewable Energy
Sustainable Design Project 1 and 2
Principles of Building Physics for Sustainable Design
Sustainable Design Thesis Project

Optional Modules

In consultation with a postgraduate tutor, you may also choose one optional module aimed to enhance understanding of a specific field of interest. This module can be selected from a rich range of options offered by the School of Architecture and other departments within the University.
The Sheffield School of Architecture is renowned for the quality of its PhD degrees and has a vibrant research environment embracing postgraduate students and academic staff.

We are interested in passionate, rigorous and ambitious proposals that challenge standard perspectives of the field of architecture.

As a PhD student, you will belong to one of our three Research Groups, which support the broader research culture within the School:

- People, environments and performance
- Design, engagement and practice
- Space, culture and politics

A training programme will support your individual research. You are also encouraged to take part in conferences and academic life both inside and outside the University.

In addition to our written doctorates, we also offer and award a PhD by Design and a PhD by Practice.

The PhD by Design is assessed principally through an original design proposition, informed and supported by the investigation of a theoretical or an empirical position or critical interpretation. It is intended to encourage interdisciplinary working and to call on knowledge and expertise across a range of fields.

The PhD by Practice supports a practice-based investigation or a research project that is professionally driven. It is assessed principally through the agency of a critical design practice portfolio, contextualised, informed and supported by the investigation of a theoretical or an empirical position or critical interpretation.

**Supervision**

PhD supervision is provided by leading specialists and mentors with international reputations covering a wide range of research areas.

Successful applicants will be allocated a primary and secondary supervisor, offering you careful, sympathetic and expert supervision from active researchers with relevant expertise.

**Entry Requirements**

Good first degree, usually a masters, MArch or equivalent. We also recognise the value of practice-based experience and will consider applicants with substantial experience but less in the way of academic qualifications.

IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component (or an equivalent qualification).

**Further information**

www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/postgraduate/research
The Sheffield University Architecture Society (SUAS)

The School has a dedicated and active student society which is in charge of executing our more sociable agenda.

Following long standing traditions, SUAS hosts the School of Architecture Ball in a range of diverse venues. The ball provides a chance for students and staff alike to celebrate what unites them.

Each year SUAS presents an exciting guest lecture series, with a variety of speakers from within and outside the profession. From fashion designers to developers and architects, our guests deliver a truly inspirational range of talks, fuelling long debates amongst students.

SUAS also offer support, connecting students from different years through their mentoring scheme. ‘Lunchtime Specials’ invite students to learn from one another, through talks and workshops on a range of topics.

In 2017, SUAS won Best Departmental Society of the Year for the second year running, at the University Activities Awards.

SUAS reinforces the unique cohesion that makes this School of Architecture one of the most attractive and energetic departments in the country.
The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it’s up-to-date and relevant. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication, for the reasons detailed above, changes may need to be made to modules, courses, entry requirements and fees between the date of this publication and the start of your course.

This publication is correct as at the time of print, but please see www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture for the most up-to-date information. If there is any inconsistency between this publication and the website, the information on the website should be taken as correct.