

Welsh School of Architecture

**Undergraduate
Degree
Programmes**

www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture



Welsh School of Architecture
Ysgol Pensaernïaeth Cymru

We hope that the diversity and richness of the Welsh School of Architecture experience is reflected in the illustrations in this brochure and we would like to thank and acknowledge the very wide range of contributors for providing the pictures.

Welsh School of Architecture

Cardiff University

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United Kingdom

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www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture

[linkedin.com/edu/welsh-school-of-architecture-cardiff-university-156027](https://www.linkedin.com/edu/welsh-school-of-architecture-cardiff-university-156027)

twitter.com/WSofArchi

[facebook.com/welshschoolofarchitecture](https://www.facebook.com/welshschoolofarchitecture)

[instagram.com/WSofArchi](https://www.instagram.com/WSofArchi)

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some of our teaching, learning, research and services may need to change at short notice to ensure we fully adhere to the relevant government guidance. Please consult our website for details on how any changes may affect your studies in the 2021-22 academic year.

The distinctiveness of this School lies in a combination of a strong tradition of architectural education, an international reputation for research excellence, a highly diverse community of staff and students and our location in Cardiff – a gateway to the stunning Welsh landscape.

Cardiff is an affordable and friendly capital city, offering easy access to other cities in the UK, as to Europe and beyond. It also offers diverse physical, social and cultural contexts that we can explore in our teaching and research.

**Disclaimer:**

This brochure will provide you with more details of our programmes. We hope that they will give you more than just a flavour of what we have to offer you. However, we are always ready to answer any questions you may have, by post, telephone or email, or when you come to Cardiff for a visit. You will find the appropriate contacts at the end of this brochure.

Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2020 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in October 2020. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website [www.cardiff.ac.uk] before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Any offer of a place to study at Cardiff University is subject to terms and conditions, which can be found on our website [www.cardiff.ac.uk/offerterms] and which you are advised to read before making an application. The terms and conditions set out, for example, when we might make changes to your chosen course or to student regulations. It is therefore important you read them, and understand them.

If you are not able to access information online please contact us:

Email: enquiry@cardiff.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)29 2087 4455

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.

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Welcome



Architecture is a fulfilling and creative pursuit. As a practice, it offers the opportunity to make the world a better place in

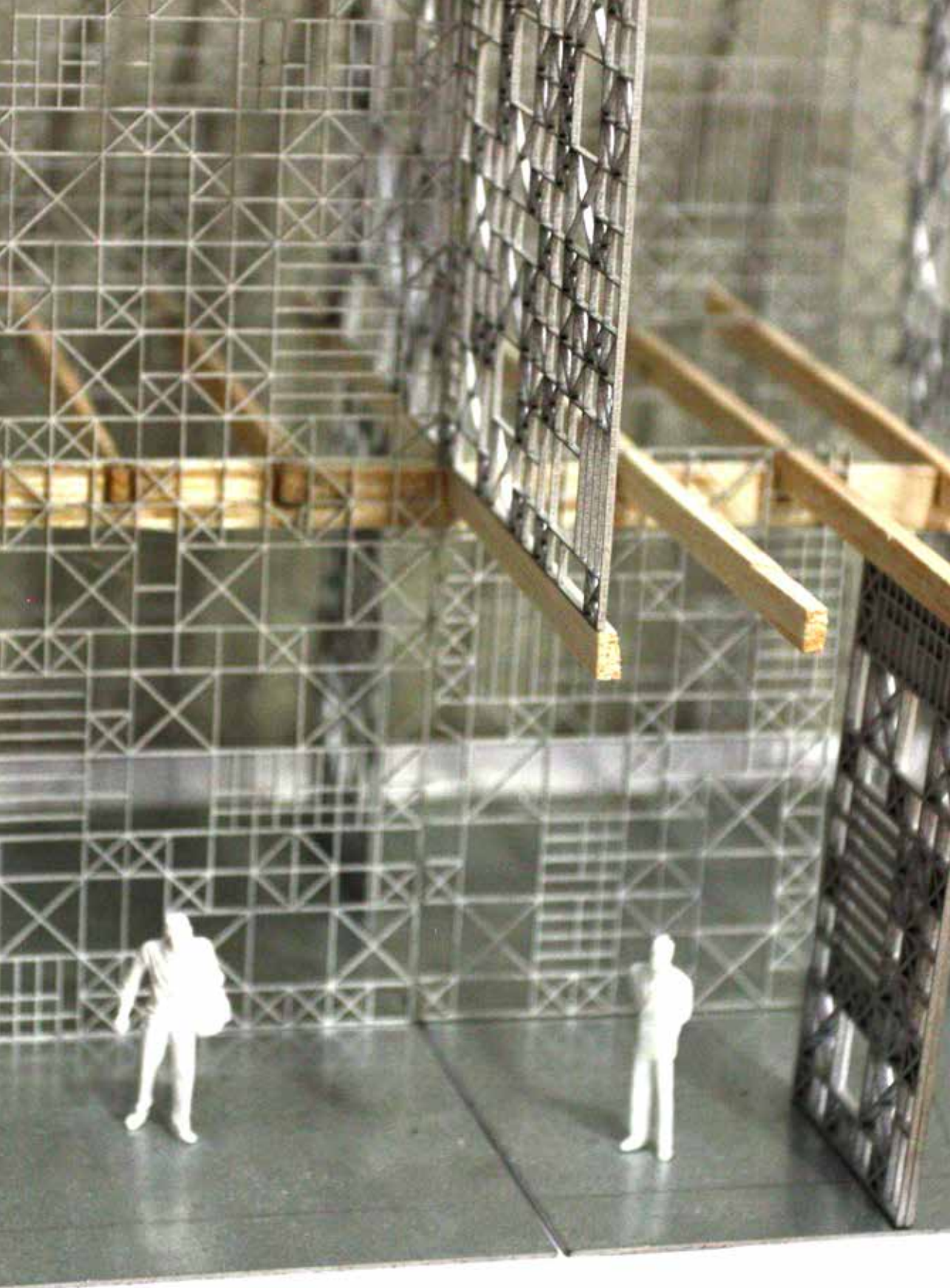
countless ways as to have long-lasting impacts on the built environment. As a field of study at university, architecture offers the significant benefit of breadth.

As designing buildings involves a wide knowledge base, so architectural studies incorporate elements of the arts, humanities, STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematic), and social sciences, with design often involving the creative synthesis of diverse sorts of information, understanding, context, established principles and ideas. An architectural education also develops skills in research, in formulating arguments, in defending ideas, and in aspects of professionalism and management.

At the Welsh School of Architecture, our undergraduate programmes foster the development of critical, informed, reflective and creative approaches to design. Our teaching is research-led, benefitting from the expertise of scholars who are experts in their fields and a highly diverse research base. The school has been educating architects for over a hundred years and prides itself in producing graduates who demonstrate imagination and creativity but who are also well prepared for the challenges and opportunities of practice.

While our knowledge base is broad, our endeavours are linked by a passion for architecture that enhances people's lives while also safeguarding the planet for future generations, and for addressing the major challenges of sustainable development in our times.

Dr Juliet Davis
Head of School



Introducing the Welsh School of Architecture

The Welsh School of Architecture is located at the heart of Cardiff's Edwardian civic centre of buildings, close to the city centre and just over a mile from Cardiff Bay, one of Europe's major dockland redevelopments.

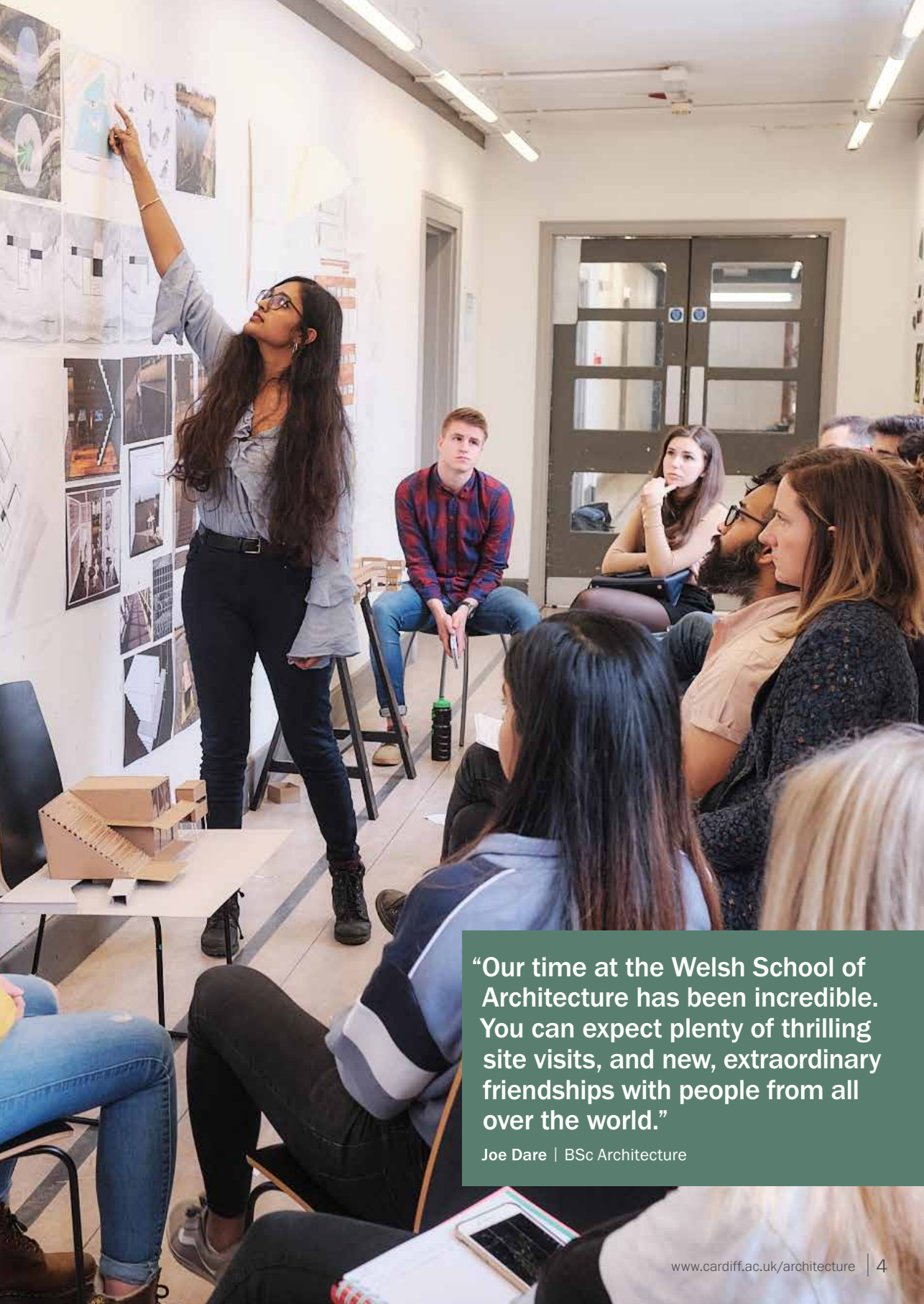
Established in 1920, we have a history of attracting undergraduate and graduate students from around the world who benefit from the unique experience of studying and living in the vibrant capital city of Wales.

We have productive research links with practice, industry and with universities in many other countries, and see our contribution to the cultural life of Wales, and to the dynamic city of Cardiff, as a significant part of our identity.

The distinctiveness of this School lies in its tradition of combining creativity with a focus on making, its research portfolio, the calibre of its staff and in its unique location, a gateway to the stunning landscape of Wales. We're not London, we're Cardiff, and that gives us easy access to diverse physical, social and cultural contexts we can explore in our teaching and research.

Studying with us is not an easy option. We set high standards for students and staff and expect great things from them. But we stand by the quality of our graduates and are proud of what they achieve. You will find them working around the world, and prospective employers keep coming back for more. That's the greatest reward for us.





“Our time at the Welsh School of Architecture has been incredible. You can expect plenty of thrilling site visits, and new, extraordinary friendships with people from all over the world.”

Joe Dare | BSc Architecture

Undergraduate programmes

- Study in one of the top-ranked schools of architecture in the UK
- Accredited by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Architects' Registration Board (ARB)
- Opportunities to experience historical and contemporary precedent spaces, places and buildings through both physical and virtual tours
- Design-led programme with a focus on making – two thirds of our BSc is currently based on project work in the studio
- Our MArch includes a full year spent in paid employment in an architectural practice placement organised by the student

We offer the full range of qualifications needed to become a registered architect in the United Kingdom. Our BSc Architectural Studies (Part 1), Master of Architecture (MArch, Part 2), and Postgraduate Diploma in Architecture: Professional Practice (Part 3) are accredited by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Architects' Registration Board (ARB).

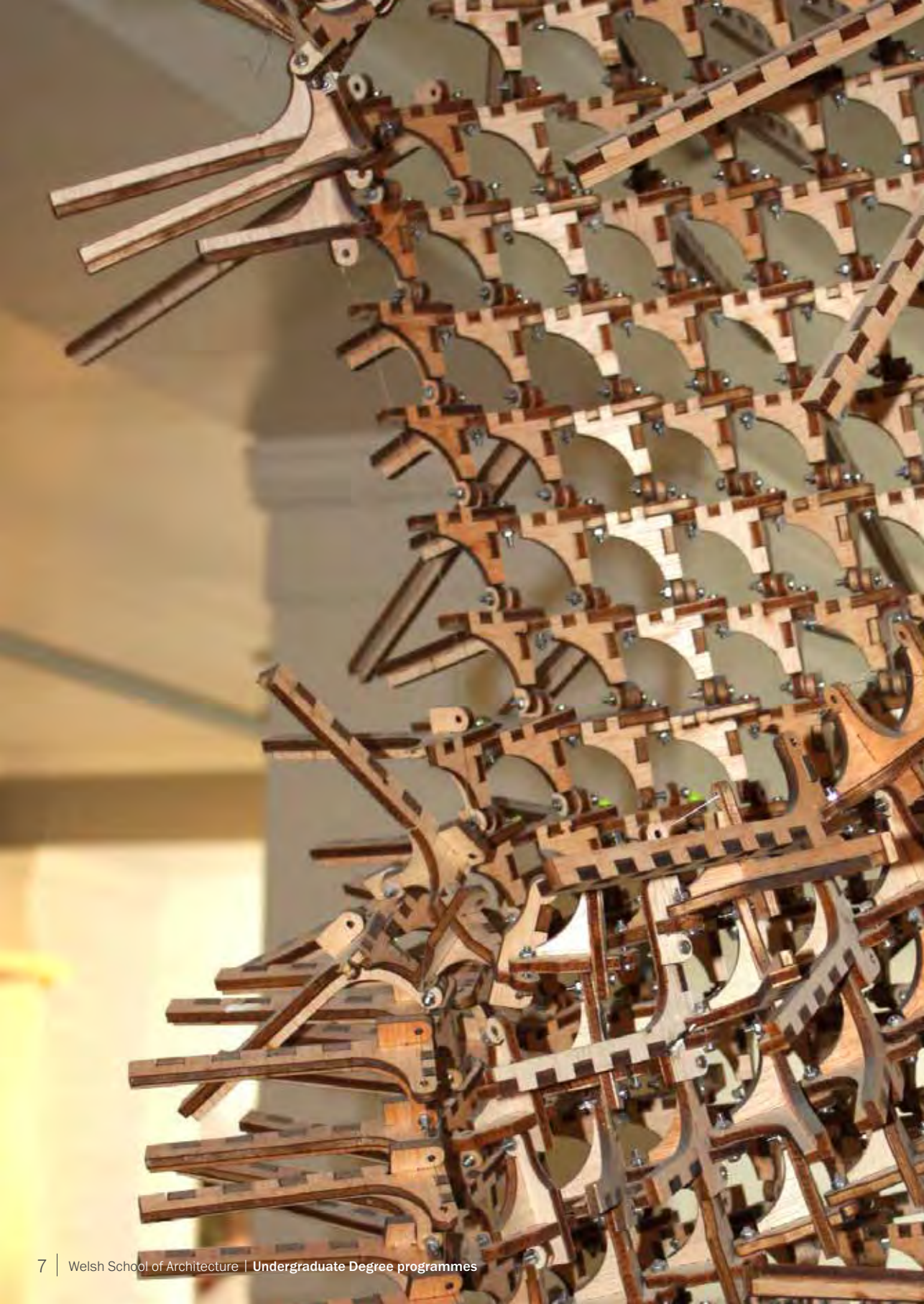
We produce graduates who can address the diverse demands of practice. We encourage a holistic, integrated approach to design, based on a thorough understanding of how buildings are made, how they are used and their impact on the wider world, including cultural, social and physical contexts.



The majority of our graduates proceed to a career in architectural practice, and can be found in many eminent practices in the UK and across the world. Whilst most of our students go on to become architects, those who do not are prepared for careers in a variety of other creative, entrepreneurial and managerial fields because of the skills they acquire through their studies.

Undergraduate Programme			Graduate Programme		Postgraduate Programme	
BSc Architectural Studies			Master of Architecture (MArch)			PG Diploma in Architecture: Professional Practice
PART 1			PART 2			PART 3
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7





Bsc Architectural Studies

The BSc in Architectural Studies is a three-year undergraduate degree course. It satisfies Part 1 of the UK professional qualification for architects and is accredited by RIBA and ARB.

On enrolment, the school will provide all first year students with a kit including tools and equipment we consider to be essential to you as you embark on your architectural education. You are also provided with a copy of the architectural student handbook 'Studio Craft and Techniques for Architects' by Miriam Delaney and Anne Gorman.



Year one is intended to build your design skills whilst fostering individual creativity. A range of projects will focus on aspects of making, generation of ideas and response to both urban and rural contexts. During this year students will often participate in a Vertical Studio project, (see page 11 for information) as well as opportunities to experience historical and contemporary works of architecture through both physical and virtual tours.

In **year two**, we focus on developing your understanding of domestic and medium sized buildings and skills in the prediction of building performance combined with technical imagination. You will often participate in another Vertical Studio project, as well as the opportunity to do a study visit to a European city.

In **year three** you will be offered a range of thematic studio units to work in for the year. You will work on one particular proposal or theme throughout the year and develop it from initial investigative and propositional work at the scale of the urban block or neighbourhood, to a subsequent close focus on a particular moderately complex building. You will also participate in a study visit which will allow you to reflect on your unit in an international context.

Master of Architecture (MArch)

The MArch is a unique two-year degree scheme, taken after the BSc (or equivalent qualification from another university). It satisfies Part 2 of the UK professional qualification for architects, and is approved by RIBA and ARB.

In the first year of the MArch — the year of education in practice — you will be based full-time in paid employment in an architectural practice.

Students are expected to find a suitable placement in an architectural practice themselves. Our students have an excellent record in obtaining placements and many of our past graduates have taken the opportunity of the year of education in practice to spend time in practice abroad. We maintain contact with you throughout the year, and you are required to attend three short courses held in the School and complete associated coursework.

Your second year is spent entirely in the School, where you will develop an advanced level of architectural design. It offers an intense and lively forum for the exploration and discussion of contemporary issues in architecture, and includes courses in building economics and professional practice. You will apply your skills and interests to a design thesis and dissertation, with support from internal and external tutors.







Our approach to teaching

After completing a degree with us, we want our students to be independent critical thinkers, equipped with the knowledge to make informed observations on design and architecture and versed in a range of design and building techniques. This is why our approach to teaching is so focused on elements of practice.



We engage external practitioners (many of them are practicing architects) and invite professionals from industry to give talks and lead studio work. This gives students a view of what modern practice is like and what issues are currently facing the industry.

As part of years one and two of the BSc Architectural Studies, our students often participate in Vertical Studio, an opportunity to split into small project groups and experiment with different themes and practical techniques. Past Vertical Studio options have explored themes as varied as refugee housing, 3D representations of crystal structures, and buildings constructed for communities using found materials.

We encourage students to see the bigger picture by looking at the context of design and the environment surrounding them. This is ingrained in regular field trips, both physically and virtually in the UK and further afield, throughout the BSc and MArch. The School will pay for your travel and accommodation on these course-essential field trips.

At the end of each year, we organise a summer exhibition of student work in Cardiff to celebrate their progress. This ensures maximum exposure to potential employers and gives our students a sense of recognition and achievement for all their hard work.

www.wsa-ondisplay.co.uk







Our facilities

In the city centre, nestled between parks and green spaces, stands the Bute Building, home of the Welsh School of Architecture. The majority of our facilities are housed here, including lecture theatres, exhibition galleries, studios and other teaching spaces.

Making is at the heart of the School so we are extensively renovating our beautiful Grade II listed Bute Building to incorporate a wide range of cutting-edge facilities. These will include: a dedicated zone for craft and digital fabrication which includes a robotic arm for students dealing with complex fabrication techniques, brand new design studios providing greater space for collaborative working along with the addition of a hybrid studio and a Living Lab.

We are fortunate to have our own **Architecture Library**, situated alongside the design studios. It has an extensive collection of teaching and research books, subscriptions to over ninety architecture and subject-related journals, a collection of building product manufacturer and suppliers' catalogues, a wide range of databases and an expanding rare books collection. The Library also provides networked computers, a wireless service for laptop users, scanning, printing and photocopying facilities.

The **design studio** is the focus of life in the School, the place for design, discussion, model-making and tuition. All students are encouraged to promote a culture of collaborative learning and mutual criticism of project work. Studios are equipped with configurable furniture, light tables, cutting areas and networked computers all available during extended working hours. Alongside the studio, the School has a dedicated **IT suite** for teaching computer aided design and advanced visualisation techniques.

A **well-equipped workshop** provides tools and expertise necessary for student model making along with a ventilated spray booth, model testing facility and a laser cutter, a robotic arm, 3D printer and CNC router.



SAWSA

Student Association
Welsh School of Architecture





Our School community is vibrant, welcoming and diverse and our students are engaged and enthusiastic about design. SAWSA, the Student Association at the Welsh School of Architecture, embodies this.

Every year, SAWSA organises a variety of academic and social events, including a lecture series, creative classes such as life drawing, and a film series. They also organise the annual SAWSA ball. This is a society run by design enthusiasts for design enthusiasts and is a great way to make friends when you begin your course, so make sure you sign up when you enrol.



Living in Cardiff

“With an exhilarating mix of heavyweight cultural sights, exciting regeneration projects – not least the revitalised Cardiff Bay – world-class sport, a prolific music scene and some seriously banging nightlife, it’s easy to see why Cardiff now ranks alongside London and Edinburgh as one of the UK’s most compelling destinations.”

The Complete University Guide, 2017





“CARDIFF HAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST, BEST AND MOST ACTIVE STUDENTS’ UNIONS IN THE UK, WITH HIGH QUALITY FACILITIES INCLUDING Y PLAS, A 2,150 CAPACITY NIGHTCLUB; AND THE GREAT HALL, A MAJOR CONCERT VENUE.”

Guardian University Guide 2019

Cardiff is a compact city with an enormous character. Nestled between the rugged coastline and breathtaking mountainous scenery of Wales, the country’s capital is a cornucopia of culture, marrying historical delights with cosmopolitan amenities.

Providing an endless array of activities, one stroll through its cobbled streets can see you learn about the rich tapestry of Cardiff’s past at **Cardiff Castle** before soaking in the atmosphere as the crowds spill from the Principality Stadium after one of the many sporting events it holds year round.

The vibrant and independent culinary scene is the heartbeat of the city. With something to please every palate, you can enjoy fine dining, plant-based treats and exotic cuisines from almost every corner of the globe, without forgetting Welsh cakes for dessert!

Wales is the land of song, and Cardiff certainly contributes heavily to this legacy. This city is built with music running through its veins, from the oldest record store in the world **Spillers Records**, which is tucked away in Morgan Arcade, to more contemporary and intimate venues which host some of the world’s most exciting new musical talent.

Though your Cardiff bucket list may be bursting at the seams, be sure to make a little room for our **National Museum** which is a place of true wonder, while the iconic **Wales Millennium Centre** in the idyllic setting of Cardiff Bay is simply not to be missed.

Bustling with personality, Cardiff is a city made for students, offering an endless string of entertainment opportunities while remaining inexpensive and easy to navigate.

The modern shopping centres, aesthetic arcades, luscious green parks and thriving nightlife are a huge draw for living in Cardiff, though you’ll always find your way back to our **Students’ Union**, which is the true home of the student scene in the city.

The University

Our students learn from leading researchers in over 300 courses across the University. As Wales' only Russell Group institution, we have gained an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research, which is built from our history of achievement since 1883.

Virtual campus tour

Discover more about the University and the city of Cardiff through our interactive online tour at:

virtualltour.cardiff.ac.uk






Find out more...

Accommodation:

For further information please visit our website: www.cardiff.ac.uk/residences

You can also watch our residences film online at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzX-dYLFb8

Students' Union:

-  facebook.com/cardiffstudents
-  snapchat.com/add/cardiffstudents
-  instagram.com/cardiffstudents
-  [@cardiffstudents](https://twitter.com/cardiffstudents)
-  www.youtube.com/cardiffstudents

Cardiff University becomes home for approximately 5,500 new undergraduate students every year. While competition for places is strong, we pride ourselves on being an inclusive university, welcoming applications from everyone who wishes to study with us.

We are a global university with over 7,900 international students from more than 100 countries and open our doors to all applications, irrespective of background.

Facilities and development

Committed to investing in our services, Cardiff University is home to new and well-equipped laboratories, lecture theatres, libraries and computing facilities to name a few, with more exciting developments continuously underway. We take our environmental, safety and security responsibilities seriously, embracing our comprehensive Energy, Water and Waste Policy, which is already making great savings in energy consumption and helping us to do our bit to tackle climate change.

Global Opportunities

We are partnered with over 300 leading institutions across the world, and our Global Opportunities team will help you to gain valuable international experience, through study, work or volunteering.

“CARDIFF HAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST, BEST AND MOST ACTIVE STUDENTS’ UNIONS IN THE UK, WITH HIGH QUALITY FACILITIES, INCLUDING Y PLAS, A 2,150 CAPACITY NIGHTCLUB; AND THE GREAT HALL, A MAJOR CONCERT VENUE.”

The Complete University Guide, 2019



Supporting you

Our student support and wellbeing centres deliver a substantial range of services available to all students that are free, impartial, non-judgemental and confidential, aimed to help you make the most of student life and support you during your study.

We are also rated as one of the best universities for supporting LGBT+ students and are proud to be ranked highly in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index.

A guarantee of accommodation

If you accept your offer of a place at Cardiff on a firm basis, you are guaranteed a single occupancy place in University accommodation during your first year, living with other first year undergraduate students. The residential dates for your particular accommodation will be confirmed in your Offer of Residence.

Residence Life

While staying in Cardiff student accommodation, you will have access to the incredible service provided by the Residence Life Team who work tirelessly to enhance your student experience.

Working in partnership with Student Support and Wellbeing, the Residences Office and the Students’ Union, Residence Life will welcome you to Cardiff and help you to make a smooth transition into University.

They also help foster a strong sense of community through social events and cultural activities, as well as practical support too.

Students’ Union

Our Students’ Union is at the heart of the Cardiff student experience. It’s a student-led and independent part of the University, dedicated to making your time with us the best it can be.

Built on the foundation of inclusion, diversity, personal development and friendship, the Students’ Union runs a range of activities and services to help enhance your Cardiff University experience.

These include advice, training, skills development, entertainment, volunteering opportunities and employment throughout your time at Cardiff and to prepare you for a career after university.

Applications

BSc Architectural Studies

UCAS code - K100

Our typical entry requirement for admissions onto the BSc Architectural Studies is AAA/A*AB (A-level) or AAB with an A in an Extended Qualification Project (EPQ).

To be considered for entry, you should apply online via the UCAS website using the 'UCAS Apply' facility. To use this facility, you need to log on to: www.ucas.ac.uk/apply

The website will provide you with information on how to apply and explains the UCAS procedure.

We require all candidates to submit an 8-page A4 digital portfolio: this must be submitted as a PDF document which is no more than 10MB in size. Following submission of the UCAS form, applicants will be contacted by the University to upload a portfolio. It is recommended that you do so within two weeks. An application will not be considered until we have received both the UCAS form and the portfolio. An application will be rejected automatically if we do not receive a portfolio within 6 weeks.

The portfolio need not be architectural in any way and may include drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, graphics, product design or any other work in visual design. You can include as many images as you wish, but please ensure that these are clearly defined and are of sufficiently high quality to do justice to your work.

Where a portfolio is of exceptionally high quality, lower academic qualifications may be acceptable. Mature students who do not have these or equivalent qualifications, but who have strong motivation and relevant skills and experience, should contact us to discuss the possibility of being admitted.

Master of Architecture (MArch)

We invite graduates from other universities who have at least a 2:1 RIBA accredited Part I degree (or exempted) with a strong design portfolio to apply to our MArch programme. We will consider those with a 2:2 degree who have exceptionally strong grades in design modules at degree level.

Graduates from our own BSc programme with a 2:1 degree receive an automatic offer to continue onto the MArch programme. Those with at least a 2:2 degree may still apply, and their application will be considered based on their overall academic qualifications and portfolio.

For entry directly to the MArch degree, please go to: www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture/courses/undergraduate/master-of-architecture



Equal Opportunities

Cardiff University is committed to promoting equality and diversity in all of its practices and activities, including those relating to student recruitment, selection and admission.

The University aims to establish an inclusive culture which welcomes and ensures equality of opportunity for applicants of all ages, ethnicities, disabilities, family structures, genders, nationalities, sexual orientations, races, religious or other beliefs, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

This commitment forms part of the Equality and Diversity Policy which is available at: www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/equality-and-diversity

Applicants with Disabilities/ Specific Needs

All offers to study at Cardiff University are made solely on the basis of academic merit.

Where applicants have specific requirements that relate to a disability or medical condition, they are encouraged to discuss these with relevant staff in order that appropriate arrangements can be made to ensure the University provides an accessible environment. Specifically, applicants are invited to contact the Disability Adviser who can provide information about the applications procedure, course delivery and access to the physical environment. Where appropriate, informal visits can be arranged in which applicants can view accommodation and meet academic staff.

For further information please contact the Disability Adviser:

Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4844

Email: disability@cardiff.ac.uk





Open Day

University-wide Open Days are held throughout the year and provide the opportunity to visit all Schools in addition to residences, the Students' Union and sports facilities.

For further information please visit our website at: www.cardiff.ac.uk/opendays

Deferred Entry

The School has no objection to the possibility of deferred entry provided the intervening year is spent in a positive and worthwhile way. Application is made through UCAS in the usual way, although the UCAS application must show the deferred year of entry.

Admissions Contacts

For information on applying and enrolling on a BSc or MArch programme, please contact:

Undergraduate Admissions
Welsh School of Architecture
Cardiff University
Bute Building
King Edward VII Avenue
Cardiff CF10 3NB

Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 5963

Email: architecture-ug@cardiff.ac.uk

Web: www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture

Tuition Fees and Financial

Assistance

The University charges an annual fee which covers all tuition fees, registration and examinations other than the re-taking of examinations by students not currently registered. Please note charges for accommodation in University residences are additional.

Please see the following website for more information: www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees

Scholarships and Bursaries

For more information please visit the following website:
www.cardiff.ac.uk/funding-ug

Useful websites

Cardiff University website:
www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees

Student Support Centre website:
www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/campus-life/facilities-and-services/student-support

Student Finance Wales:
www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

Student Finance England:
www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

Student Loans Company:
www.slc.co.uk







Terms and Conditions

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this brochure is correct at the time of going to press. However, the University does not accept any liability for any errors that it may contain, or for any subsequent changes to the University or Government policy that may affect the information given. Cardiff University expressly excludes any representations or warranties (whether expressed or implied) and all liability including direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages arising out of the use of the information on these pages, to the fullest extent possible under law.

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FSC certificate 

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When you have finished with this brochure it can be recycled, but please consider passing it onto a friend or leaving it in your careers library for others to use. Thank you.

This document can also be made available in large print (text), Braille and on audio tape/CD.

To request an alternative format, please contact:

Laura Roberts

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Email: RobertsL9@cardiff.ac.uk

To find out more about the Welsh School of Architecture please visit our website:

www.cardiff.ac.uk/architecture

Enquiries

Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4023

Email: architecture-ug@cardiff.ac.uk

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