

**UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS**

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION FOR:**

**POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN ARCHITECTURE –  
PART 3**

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION [ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22]**

*This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each unit can be found in the Unit Descriptors.*

## Section A – Material Course Information

Validating Body	University for the Creative Arts <sup>1</sup>		
Teaching Body	University of the Creative Arts		
Final Award Title and Type	Postgraduate Certificate		
Course Title	Professional Practice in Architecture - Part 3		
Course Location and Length	Campus: Canterbury	Length: 1 year Part time	
Mode of Study	Full-time	Part-time	X
Period of Validation	2019/20 to 2023/24		
Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body	Architects Registration Board, ARB Royal Institute of British Architects, RIBA		
Type of Accreditation	Accredited by the ARB for the purpose of a Part 3 qualification and eligibility for registration with that body.  Applying for validation by RIBA for the purpose of a Part 3 qualification and eligibility for membership of that body.		
Accreditation due for renewal	ARB – 2 October 2020 – 30 September 2024 RIBA – pending accreditation approval		
<p>Entry criteria and requirements</p> <p>Applicants should have a RIBA/ARB Part 1 and Part 2 in architecture or equivalent.</p> <p>If your first language is not English a certificate is required as evidence that you have an average IELTS score of 6.5 or <a href="#">equivalent</a> (with each component 5.5 or above).</p> <p>You may be offered a place on a course on the condition that you improve your English language and study skills. We offer <a href="#">pre-sessional English language courses</a> which can improve your IELTS score by a maximum of 1.0 and 0.5, or equivalent<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Please Note:</p> <p>Upon reaching the Part 3 oral examination, applicants should have recently completed a minimum of 24 months' practical experience under the direct supervision of a professional working in the construction industry. This should include at least 12 months working in the EEA, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, under the direct supervision of an architect.</p> <p>To gain access the ARB register one must obtain ARB/RIBA Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3.</p>			
Overall methods of assessment <sup>3</sup>	Written	Practical	Coursework:

<sup>1</sup> Regulated by the Office for Students

<sup>2</sup> International students – this course is not eligible for Tier 4 Sponsorship

	exams:	exams:	
Course	25%	10%	65%
Overall Learning & Teaching hours <sup>4</sup>	Scheduled:	Independent:	Placement:
Course	15%	85%	0%
	90	510	0
General level of staff delivering the course <sup>5</sup>	The University's current recruitment policy for Lecturers and Senior Lecturers states that they must have either an MA or equivalent professional practice in a relevant discipline or field. All lecturing staff are encouraged to work towards a teaching qualification or professional Recognition by the Higher Education Academy and this is a requirement for Senior Lecturers. Senior Lecturers are required to be professionally active or engaged in research in their discipline. All Lecturers and Senior Lecturers undertake scholarship in their disciplines. There are also Sessional Staff to link courses with professional practice and Technicians to provide technical support.		
Language of Study	English		
Subject/Qualification Benchmark Statement: QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Architecture 2010 Prescription of Qualifications: ARB Professional Criteria at Part 3			
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)			

The course structure				
The structure of all of the University's awards complies with the University's <a href="#">Common Credit Framework</a> . The Common Credit Framework includes information about the:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rules for progression between the stages of a course;</li> <li>▪ Consequences of failure for reassessment, compensation and exit awards;</li> <li>▪ Calculation and classification of awards;</li> </ul>				
Unit codes and titles	Level	Credit value	Elective/ Core	Most popular student choice of optional elective units or elective options in core units?
<b>Postgraduate Certificate</b>				

<sup>3</sup> As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data.

<sup>4</sup> As generated by the most popular unit descriptors and calculated for the overall course stage data.

<sup>5</sup> Include general information about the experience or status of the staff involved in delivering the course, for example Professor, Course Leader, Senior Lecturer

CARC7201 Practice and Entrepreneurship	7	30	C	
CARC7202 Professional Development and Reflection	7	30	C	

## Section B - Course Overview

The Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice in Architecture - Part 3, is a course requiring prescription from the Architects Registration Board (ARB) and Validation from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Both the ARB and RIBA have produced a series of Professional Competencies that successful students must evidence in order to pass the Certificate.

The course aims to promote inclusivity and flexibility through the online nature of its delivery. This teaching methodology creates a flexible learning environment, highly suited to the Professional Studies student. It is a lecture-based course, delivered through the combination of an online lecture series and supporting webinars that enable students to manage their study around diverse work/life commitments. A 'Launch Day' will be held at the beginning of the academic year to introduce students to the online learning community, and to encourage the creation of 'study groups' which can exist physically and online; for peer support and review throughout the course.

Additionally, on-site intensive workshops are offered for three days per semester, accommodating seminar and tutorial debate and guidance. Workshops are dedicated to each area of the curriculum as well as providing valuable support for Professional Studies in Practice and practical preparation advice for Final Interviews.

The subject content for this course aligns with the ARB/RIBA Professional Competencies;

- PC1 Professionalism
- PC2 Clients, users and delivery of services
- PC3 Legal framework and processes
- PC4 Practice and Management
- PC5 Building procurement

## Section C - Course Aims

**A1** To enable candidates to present themselves to the examiners through the various required submissions for endorsement of competency to practice as an Architect.

**A2** To equip candidates with the skills necessary to undertake effective communication and presentation, organisation, self-management, reflection and autonomous working.

**A3** To equip candidates with the necessary skills to demonstrate professionalism and overall competence. Behaving with integrity, in the ethical and professional manner appropriate to the role of architect.

**A4** To equip candidates with necessary skills to provide a competent service, both singly and as part of a team.

**A5** To provide candidates with a knowledge of Practice management and entrepreneurship for a career in Architecture.

**A6** To provide candidates with an understanding of the legal context within which an architect must operate, and the processes undertaken to ensure compliance with legal requirements or standards.

## Section D - Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course students are able to:

### Knowledge

**LO1** Define current contracts, appointments and construction law. **(PC3, PC5)**

**LO2** Identify best practice procedures for architectural practice management. **(PC2, PC4)**

### Understanding

**LO3** Translate construction contracts and demonstrate their use. **(PC1, PC3, PC5)**

**LO4** Discuss the management of architectural projects. **(PC2, PC3, PC5)**

### Application

**LO5** Demonstrate compliance with legal requirements or standards. **(PC3)**

**LO6** Analyse personal behaviours and actions to promote integrity, satisfying the ethical and professional expectation of the Architect title. **(PC1)**

## Section E - Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### Learning and Teaching Strategy

As the Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice in Architecture - Part 3 aligns with the ARB/RIBA Professional Competencies and subsequent assessment requirements, it is the Learning and Teaching strategy that becomes its most distinctive feature. This is outlined in section B – Course Overview. Alongside the benefits described, it also extends UCA's Part 3 community to students nationally and internationally.

The course uses a blended learning model for teaching and learning. It has a strong online presence with lectures and webinars delivered regularly throughout the course. These

remain available throughout the year so students can manage their own learning, around professional and life commitments.

Lectures will be uploaded to myUCA where they are given clear titles and subdivided into chapters, arranged around the Professional Criteria. This formatting facilitates ready navigation, so topics can be easily extracted from larger areas of curriculum.

A 'Launch Day' will be held at the beginning of the academic year to introduce students to the online learning community, and to encourage the creation of 'study groups' which can exist physically and online; for peer support and review throughout the course.

The Unit 'Practice and Entrepreneurship'; is taught in the first semester.

The first 5 weeks have a Practice Management focus, where lectures are delivered once a week, this part of the curriculum culminates with a mid-term on-site workshop day. The second half of the term has a Legal Framework and Processes focus, this is delivered through 5 weeks' worth of lectures. In January there is an on-site 2 day workshop which covers the unit's topics and prepares students for the examinations.

The on-site intensive workshop days offered are for debate, seminars and tutorials. This allows students the space to test their knowledge and understanding of the unit topics. Lecturers will be invited to attend these sessions, to allow active debate and discussion around topic areas to allow students to explore their own Professional judgement.

The Unit 'Professional Development and Reflection'; is taught in the second semester.

The first 5 weeks have a Clients, users, and delivery of services focus, where lectures are delivered once a week. The second half of the term has a Professionalism focus, this is delivered through 5 weeks' worth of lectures. The lecture series ends with a 2 day on-site workshop to focus on both topics.

Finally, to support in the development of the Case Study; group and individual tutorials are offered during the second term. This is offered in an online platform to allow for flexibility. There are further face to face tutorials upon appointment during the spring workshop days.

Prior to the Final Oral assessment, the course teaching ends with a 1 day on-site workshop day to prepare students for the Interview. This is the final opportunity for students to discuss their individual projects and experience with staff prior to their Oral Examination with the External Examiners.

### Assessment Strategy

The assessment is partly pre-determined by the requirements of the ARB/RIBA. The majority of assessment is through coursework enabling students to manage their time and interrogate ideas thoroughly. The online Law exam provides an optimal means to assess a larger body of information, in a series of shorter questions.

The assessments are summarised below:

- Legal Frameworks Online exam
- Architectural Practice Management Report
- Professional Case Study
- Professional Interview

- Record of Professional Experience; evidence of 24 months professional experience, usually recorded in the form of a Professional Experience Development Record (PEDR).
- Career Appraisal / CV

All assessments are on an individual basis, however group learning and peer review will be encouraged throughout the course.

### **Section G - Employability**

The Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice in Architecture - Part 3, is a Part time Professional course. It is therefore typical for students to be in full time employment throughout the course.

As part of the ARB/RIBA submission requirement, students must submit evidence of a minimum of 24 months Professional Experience along with Professional Reflection. The course curriculum supports these requirements.

Each student will have an 'employment mentor' in their work placement; a RIBA stipulation, the professional studies advisor (PSA) at UCA works with an 'employment mentor' to support the student's in-office learning.

The course curriculum will be taught by a series of visiting lecturers, many of which will be industry professionals, this will give students a varied and high calibre professional exposure.

### **Section F - Enhancing the Quality of Learning and Teaching**

The course is subject to the University's rigorous quality assurance procedures which involve subject specialist and internal peer review of the course at periodic intervals, normally of 5 years. This process ensures that the course engages with the applicable national Subject Benchmarks and references the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

All courses are monitored on an annual basis where consideration is given to:

- External Examiner's Reports
- Key statistics including data on retention and achievement
- Results of the Student Satisfaction Surveys
- Feedback from Student Course Representatives