Get ready for MArch Architecture

As your programme leader we would like to warmly welcome you to Bristol, the School of Architecture and Environment and in particular our Master of Architecture (ARB and RIBA Part 2) programme. We are a connected community of ethical professionals, problem solvers and changemakers. We will aim to collaborate with you around real world issues facing our cities, communities and places within our region and beyond. We want our students to be inquisitive, creative and critical thinkers who can positively influence our environment for the good of people and the planet.

The Master of Architecture Programme is at the heart of these ambitions and aims to develop your existing knowledge, understanding and skills to a masters level preparing you to critically engage with the architecture profession. The programme will develop your understanding of wider professional, cultural and social settings within which the architect operates. We also hope you will engage with, and take advantage of, the interdisciplinary resources across the college and the Architectural culture of the city.

In light of changing ARB professional requirements and to maintain the relevance of the programme we have reviewed and refreshed the programme shape this year while ensuring we continue to make use of the strengths and specialisms that the department provides.

Our Starting Block is designed for you introduce you to our staff, your fellow students, the school and college resources and the city. We will do this through a series of events, activities and introductory talks. Your first semester will then start with two short modules focussing on a broad context of Architecture, encouraging critical thinking and empowering you to start shaping an emerging specialism. This will lead to and inform a Pathway Studio for the second part of the first semester where you can choose to focus on Computational/Digital Design, Socially Engaged Practice or Retrofit / Re-use. Semester two will present the opportunity of an Exploratory Design Studio supported by, and linked to, a module allowing you to investigate Zero Carbon design and Innovation.

We have some exciting briefs lined up. We hope you are looking forward to starting the year and will find the programme a transformational journey.

Dr Karl Hutchison and Louise Ciotti

Programme Leaders

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 15 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block webpage for more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' webpage to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Registration

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Registration website.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Engage with your programme

Read around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Please engage with texts and podcasts as relevant and explore the Library webpages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

We hope you are already keeping in touch with developments in the Architecture profession by reading journals and magazines such as the Architect Journal and Architectural Review.

Here are some of recommended titles a couple of which you may want to read, to be inspired by and to start to understand the scope of your degree programme:

Spiro Kostof - The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History
Paul Chatterton – Unlocking Sustainable Cities: a manifesto for real change
Jonathan Hill – Actions of Architecture
Sarah Ichioka and Michael Pawlyn – Flourish: Design Paradigms for our Planet Emergency
Julia Watson – LoTEK. Design by Radical Indigenism
Mario Carpo – Beyond Digital: Design and Automation at the end of modernity
Testify - the consequences of architecture

Happy reading!

Be prepared

Access support
Check the information on our [Disability web pages](#) so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped
The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use in your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

There are appropriately specified desktop computers in and near studios set up to run the different programme design and graphics packages you may need. Many students however find it useful to have their own laptops to give them flexibility to work in and around the studio spaces. Please check the specification carefully should you be looking to purchase a laptop particularly in terms of CAD and rendering you may want to use. If you are in doubt please wait until you arrive when you can make a more informed decision on an appropriate laptop.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course.

If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the [Student Money Service](#) for advice and guidance.

International students

[The Global Student Support Team](#) offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol, and they organise social events to help you adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact me: **Karl Hutchison** via email at karl.hutchison@uwe.ac.uk and **Louise Ciotti** via email at louise.ciotti@uwe.ac.uk You can also contact us through the programme email which is MArch.programme@uwe.ac.uk

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Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2025   Last updated: Spring 2025