

The Master of Architecture

Advice on submitting portfolio

We are now using an online portfolio review process. Once UWE has received your application, we may ask you to give us access to an online portfolio. Once we have received the links (URLs) to your portfolio, the Master of Architecture team will review your application and portfolio. We will sometimes ask applicants to attend an interview (via Skype for overseas applicants) to discuss their application and portfolio in more detail.

General portfolio advice:

Your portfolio should show evidence of advanced skills and abilities in architectural design, a high level of commitment to your professional development, and your critical knowledge. Please consider that the portfolio will be viewed on screen, and design it to work in that format. Also limit the portfolio size to no more than 30 pages approximately.

Consider the following as material that could evidence your skills and abilities in architectural design.

- Presentations of projects from undergraduate studies showing for instance plans, sections, elevations, axonometries, perspectives, or creative combinations of them that illustrate the architectural design. These can be composed by several panels or integrated in a single comprehensive one.
- Images that show physical models, study models or final ones that show skills and abilities with real materials to conceptualise and assess concepts for buildings, or aspects of buildings, as well as experimental models, prototypes and speculative models.
- Examples of critical work that goes beyond the text and includes an aesthetic or curatorial approach to the work. This can be in the form of books, exhibits, objects, bespoke cases, etc.
- Examples of works of creative illustration, geometrical or spatial analysis, understanding of contexts or precedent buildings that evidence capacity to identify different categories to consider in architectural projects.
- Drawings of smaller scale design solutions for architectural spaces or objects that show your ability to move in between different scales with the same level of detail and resolution.
- Supporting material to the projects such as drawings, photos, paintings or short video clips.

Consider the following as material that could evidence high level of commitment to your professional development.

- Examples of professional projects that you have personally produced.
- Certificates of additional training courses.

Please bear in mind that you can tick several of these requirements with the same material. No need to give one piece of work for each one.

What to include in your portfolio:

Your portfolio should include both academic and professional architectural work. In addition, we ask you to include two samples of written work, such as extended essays and dissertations. These can be as independent files not in the portfolio.

You should include as broad a range of design work as possible so that you can offer evidence of:

- Architectural design projects as well as a record of their process. Include a brief introduction to the projects, drawings and models of the middle and final stages
- Conceptual understanding, consideration of precedents and design intent
- Material understanding and how it relates to the design intent
- Understanding of tectonics and how it might be used to realise a design intent (including material, structural, constructional and environmental choices)
- Theoretical underpinning behind your design intents
- How you make use of contextual studies and background research (to site, programme, historical and theoretical context)
- The development of the programme and consideration of the users of the project
- Diverse representational approaches integrated in the body of your work (hand drawing, sketching, diagramming, model-making, CAD skills, 3D renders, photography, painting, graphics etc)
- Appropriate precedents and building studies
- Work at all range of scales (from the detailed design of a handrail or small space up to the scale of urban design/master planning)
- Measured and working drawings
- Any other relevant experience such as work on site, travel, competition entries etc.

Advice on interviews

The purpose of the interview is to consider your application in the context of your future learning journey at UWE. Therefore, other than introducing yourself and offering to us a description of your previous experiences as a student and in professional practice, we would like to discuss with you your approach to architecture as a holistic discipline. The intention for us is to be sure that if accepted in the programme you are not starting the course with any disadvantage and can flourish and succeed.

This is done through a discussion with you based on the work that you included in your portfolio. We may discuss some of your methods to analyse situations or problems, generate concepts and making them evolve, relating them with contextual or theoretical issues, and taking all this towards a final refined project. We may discuss more in depth some aspects than others depending on the content and its

interest. We may also skip some of the material that is more or less self-explanatory, so, do not feel that we are not interested in all your work.

We might like to discuss also about your theoretical and humanities interests. Architecture is a discipline that is nurtured and works together with other people. So, we may invite you to discuss your theoretical or historical interests, your ideas about technology, globalisation or inclusivity in design, or your favourite artistic or cultural manifestations and how you incorporate these issues in your architectural practice.

Finally, we may invite you to let us know why you are choosing UWE and what you are contributing to the school with. Is it about your team work skills? Is it about your commitment to sustainability? Let us know why we should accept you and how you would make UWE an even better place to study architecture than it is now. We will be glad to start the conversation with you.