
nus architecture
BA (ARCHITECTURE)
COURSE INFORMATION
FOR 2015/16 COHORT

4-Year B.A. (Arch.) (Hons.) Programme

The B.A.(Arch) is a four-year honours degree programme that comprises a general programme accompanied by four tracks for specialisation. The specialisation tracks are in Design, Design Technology & Sustainability (DTS), Landscape Architecture (LA) and Urban Planning (UP). The curriculum content for the first three years is common to the general as well as the specialisation tracks. The B.A.(Arch) programme is accredited by the Royal Institute of Architects (RIBA) to Part One standard.

The general programme terminates at the B.A.(Arch) degree whereas the specialisation courses are concurrent with the Master of Architecture (M.Arch), Master of Landscape Architecture (M.LA) or Master of Urban Planning (M.UP) degree programme. Only students who have achieved creditable grades in design, i.e. at least a B- in design at the third year will be permitted to opt for a specialisation.

Students who obtain C grade in design at third year will continue in a general degree programme leading to B.A.(Arch). Under this programme, students will no longer be required to take the design modules at fourth year. In its place, students will take modules on Advanced Architectural Studies with options to focus on Design Computing, Architectural & Urban Heritage or Urban Studies. Students who graduate with a high CAP in the general programme would continue to have the opportunity to pursue other graduate programmes.

Career Opportunities and Professional Registration

Graduates with an B.A.(Arch) degree who have completed Advanced Architectural Studies on Design Computing, Architectural & Urban Heritage or Urban Studies could work within these areas in architectural practices, government agencies or in research.

Graduates would also have opportunities to work in related fields including and not limited to interior design, industrial design, industrialised building systems, graphic design, commercial art and architectural journalism. Graduates who complete the Landscape Architecture (LA) or Urban Planning (UP) specialisation may also work in fields related to their specialisation.

The B.A.(Arch) degree does not in itself qualify graduates for registration with the Board of Architects. In order to eventually register as an architect with the Board of Architects, Singapore. B.A.(Arch) graduates must complete the M.Arch degree and serve a minimum of two years of practical experience in an architectural practice to be eligible to sit for the Professional Practice Examination conducted by the Board of Architects, Singapore. Those who pass the examination are then eligible to apply for registration as architects. The M.Arch. degree is accredited by RIBA to Part Two standard

Chart 1: Curriculum Structure of the 4-year B.A. (Arch.) (Hons.) Programme

No.	Modules	MCs
1	UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS	
a	General Education Modules (GEM) ¹ Students will be required to read one (GEM) from each of the five pillars	20
i	Human Cultures	4
ii	Asking Questions	4
lii	Quantitative Reasoning	4
iv	Singapore Studies	4
v	Thinking and Expression	4
2	PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS	
a	Essential modules taken within the Department	120
3	UNRESTRICTED ELECTIVES (UE) ²	20
	GRAND TOTAL	160 MCs

¹ Please refer to GEM website (<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/gem/important-information-students>) for more details on the GEM requirements.

² The elective modules for the various specializations can be used to fulfil the UE requirements

Specialisations

Students who have achieved creditable grades in design, i.e. at least a B- in design at the third year will be permitted to opt for specialisation. The two specialisation tracks in Design and Design Technology & Sustainability (DTS) will lead to the M.Arch degree programme.

The Design specialisation track offers students the opportunity to focus on design ideas, innovation and conceptualisation from a theoretical framework. The DTS specialisation track is driven by the need to adopt evidence based research and simulative design processes in pursuing sustainability in architecture. Specialisation modules will be offered at the fourth year.

The LA specialisation track enables students to migrate to the Masters in Landscape Architecture (M.LA) programme. Specialisation modules will be offered at the third and fourth year. Students who have opted for the LA specialisation track after completion of second year but fail to achieve creditable design grades at third year will pursue the general degree programme.

Students who obtained at least B average in design at third year level are eligible to be considered for Urban Planning specialisation. The UP specialisation allows students to proceed to the Master of Urban Planning programme subjected to fulfillment of the admission requirement.

Please refer to Table 1 for admission criteria to the general programme and specialisation tracks in the B.A (Arch) programme.

Graduation Requirements for four-year B.A. (Arch.) Programme

Students are required to take all essential modules offered in the semester to which they have progressed, provided they have passed the relevant prerequisites. In addition, they may take modules

to satisfy University and other requirements.

Minimum Graduating criteria for

- B.A. (Arch) : Minimum Grade C for Design and CAP 2.0
- B.A. (Arch) Hons. : Minimum Grade C for Design and CAP 3.0

Students who exit the concurrent degree programme at B.A. (Arch) Level 4 and consequently seek admission to M.Arch./M.LA/MUP would be required to fulfil a minimum CAP of 3.5 and other criteria governing admission as determined at the point of application.

Progression for the Architecture Concurrent Degree Programme

The admission requirements for various tracks of the M.Arch, M.LA and MUP programmes are summarized in Table 1.

Students will receive both B.A. (Arch) Hons./B.A. (Arch) (depending on his/her CAP) and M.Arch./M.LA/ MUP degrees concurrently upon completing the Masters programme. The specialisation of the course of study (if any) would be reflected in the transcript.

Table 1: A summary of the Architecture Concurrent Degree Programme

Level 5 (Masters)	Master of Architecture			Master of Urban Planning	Master of Landscape Architecture	Master of Arts (Architecture) or Other NUS Graduate Courses
		with specialization in Urban Design	with specialization in Design Technology & Sustainability			
Admission Criteria to Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B- average for AR4101 & AR4102 • Min 2.5 CAP • Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B+ average for AR4101 and AR4102 • Min CAP of 2.5 • Portfolio Review and Interview for all students who wish to read UD specialisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B- average for AR4103 & AR4104 • Min 2.5 CAP • Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min CAP of 3.0 for MUP modules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B- average for LA4701 & LA4702 • Min 2.5 CAP • Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subjected to admission criteria of M.A. (Architecture) or other NUS Graduate programmes
Level 4 B.A (Arch)/ B.A (Arch) Hons	Specialization in Design		Specialization in Design Technology & Sustainability	Specialization in Urban Planning	Specialization in Landscape Architecture	General Programme
Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B- average for AR3101/AR3101a & AR3102/AR3102a • Min B- for AR3102/AR3102a • Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B average for AR3101/a and AR3102/a • Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B- for either AR3101a/AR3102a • Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min C grade for AR3101/AR3101a & AR3102/AR3102a
Level 3	Common program leading to RIBA Part 1					
Level 2						
Level 1						

Listing of Modules

The four-year B.A. (Arch) programme is structured as follows:

Chart A: B.A. (Arch) Curriculum –General Programme

	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2
Design	AR1101 Design 1 (8 MC)	AR1102 Design 2 (8 MC)	AR2101 Design 3 (8 MC)	AR2102 Design 4 (8 MC)	AR3101 Design 5 (8 MC)	AR3102 Design 6 (8 MC)	Level 4000 & Above Arch Related Elective (<i>in lieu of Design</i>) (8 MC)	Level 4000 & Above Arch Related Elective (<i>in lieu of Design</i>) (8 MC)
History Theory	Intro Art & Design*(1) (4 MC)		Hist Core 01*(2) (4 MC)		Hist Core 02*(2) (4 MC)			
Urban & Landscape		AR1724 Intro to Landscape Arch (4 MC)	AR2223 Theory of UD & Planning (4 MC)				AR4221 Urban Design Theory and Praxis (4 MC)	
Tech Environment	AR1327 Struct Principles (4 MC)	AR1721 Climate Responsive Arch (4 MC)	AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 MC)	AR2521 Digital Modelling & Simulation (4 MC)	AR3721 Env't Systems and Constr (4 MC)			
		AR1326 Arch Constr (4 MC)		AR2327 Arch, Struct and Constr (4 MC)				
Managem ent					AR3421 Intro to Arch Practice (4 MC)			
	General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 20 MCs							

*(1) – Select one module – either AR2224 Ideas and Approaches in Design or AR2225 Reading Visual Images

*(2)- Two History & Theory modules selected from a basket: AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Architecture, AR2222 History and Theory of Western Architecture and AR2226 History and Theory of Modern Architecture

Chart B: B.A. (Arch) Curriculum – Specialisation in Design

	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2
Design	AR1101 Design 1 (8 MC)	AR1102 Design 2 (8 MC)	AR2101 Design 3 (8 MC)	AR2102 Design 4 (8 MC)	AR3101 Design 5 (8 MC)	AR3102 Design 6 (8 MC)	AR4101 Design 7^ (8 MC)	AR4102 Design 8^ (8 MC)
History Theory	Intro Art & Design*(1) (4 MC)		Hist Core 01*(2) (4 MC)		Hist Core 02*(2) (4 MC)		Arch Elective ^#* (4 MC)	AR5221 Contemporary Theories^# (4 MC)
Urban & Landscape		AR1724 Intro to Landscape Arch (4 MC)	AR2223 Theory of UD & Planning (4 MC)				AR4221 Urban Design Theory and Praxis (4 MC)	
Tech Environment	AR1327 Struct Principles (4 MC)	AR1721 Climate Responsive Arch (4 MC)	AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 MC)	AR2521 Digital Modelling & Simulation (4 MC)	AR3721 Env't Systems and Constr (4 MC)		AR5321 Innovation in Architecture^# (4 MC)	
		AR1326 Arch Constr (4 MC)		AR2327 Arch, Struct and Constr (4 MC)				
Managem ent					AR3421 Intro to Arch Practice (4 MC)			
General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 8 MCs								

*(1) – Select one module – either AR2224 Ideas and Approaches in Design or AR2225 Reading Visual Images

*(2)- Two History & Theory modules selected from a basket: AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Architecture, AR2222 History and Theory of Western Architecture and AR2226 History and Theory of Modern Architecture

^ Five Design Specialisation modules – two studio-based and three other modules

Specialisation Elective

*One module selected from a basket of level 3000 and above architectural related electives as advised by the Department

Chart C: B.A. (Arch) Curriculum – Specialisation in Design Technology and Sustainability

	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2
Design	AR1101 Design 1 (8 MC)	AR1102 Design 2 (8 MC)	AR2101 Design 3 (8 MC)	AR2102 Design 4 (8 MC)	AR3101 Design 5 (8 MC)	AR3102 Design 6 (8 MC)	AR4103 Arch & Tech Design 1^ (8 MC)	AR4104 Arch & Tech Design 2^ (8 MC)
History Theory	Intro Art & Design*(1) (4 MC)		Hist Core 01*(2) (4 MC)		Hist Core 02*(2) (4 MC)			
Urban & Landscape		AR1724 Intro to Landscape Arch (4 MC)	AR2223 Theory of UD & Planning (4 MC)				AR4221 Urban Design Theory and Praxis (4 MC)	
Tech Environment	AR1327 Struct Principles (4 MC)	AR1721 Climate Responsive Arch (4 MC)	AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 MC)	AR2521 Digital Modelling & Simulation (4 MC)	AR3721 Env't Systems and Constr (4 MC)		AR5321 Innovation in Architecture ^# (4 MC)	
		AR1326 Arch Constr (4 MC)		AR2327 Arch, Struct and Constr (4 MC)			Tech Elective 1^## (Sem 1 or 2) (4 MC)	Tech Elective 2^## (Sem 1 or 2) (4 MC)
Managem ent					AR3421 Intro to Arch Practice (4 MC)			
General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 8 MCs								

*(1) – Select one module – either AR2224 Ideas and Approaches in Design or AR2225 Reading Visual Images

*(2)- Two History & Theory modules selected from a basket: AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Architecture, AR2222 History and Theory of Western Architecture and AR2226 History and Theory of Modern Architecture

^Five DTS specialisation modules – two studio-based and three other modules,

Specialisation Elective

*Two modules selected from a basket of Technology electives as advised by the Department

Chart D: B.A. (Arch) Curriculum – Specialisation in Landscape Architecture

	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2
Design	AR1101 Design 1 (8 MC)	AR1102 Design 2 (8 MC)	AR2101 Design 3 (8 MC)	AR2102 Design 4 (8 MC)	AR3101a Design 5 (LA Emphasis) ⁺ (8 MC)	AR3102a Design 6 (LA Emphasis) ⁺ (8 MC)	LA4701 MLA Studio: Quarter [^] (8 MC)	LA4702 MLA Studio: City [^] (8 MC)
History Theory	Intro Art & Design*(1) (4 MC)		Hist Core 01*(2) (4 MC)		Hist Core 02*(2) (4 MC)			
Urban & Landscape		AR1724 Intro to Landscape Arch (4 MC)	AR2223 Theory of UD & Planning (4 MC)		LA4203 History and Theory of Landscape Arch [^] (4 MC)	LA4212 Tropical Plant Identification [^] # (4 MC)	LA4301 Material and Design [^] # (4 MC)	LA4202 Planting Design [^] # (4 MC)
							LA5301 Geo Design [^] # (4 MC)	LA5302 Detail Design [^] # (4 MC)
Tech Environment	AR1327 Struct Principles (4 MC)	AR1721 Climate Responsive Arch (4 MC)	AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 MC)	AR2521 Digital Modelling & Simulation (4 MC)	AR3721 Env't Systems and Constr (4 MC)			
Tech Environment		AR1326 Arch Constr (4 MC)		AR2327 Arch Struct and Constr (4 MC)				
Management					AR3421 Intro to Arch Practice (4 MC)			
General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs								

*(1) – Select one module – either AR2224 Ideas and Approaches in Design or AR2225 Reading Visual Images

*(2)- Two History & Theory modules selected from a basket: AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Architecture, AR2222 History and Theory of Western Architecture and AR2226 History and Theory of Modern Architecture

[^]Eight LA specialization modules – two studio-based and six other modules

[#] Specialisation Elective

⁺ Students have to take at least one of the modules (AR3101a or AR3102a) to be considered for LA specialisation in fourth year.

Chart E: B.A. (Arch) Curriculum – Specialisation in Urban Planning

	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 1	Sem 2
Design	AR1101 Design 1 (8 MC)	AR1102 Design 2 (8 MC)	AR2101 Design 3 (8 MC)	AR2102 Design 4 (8 MC)	AR3101 Design 5 (8 MC)	AR3102 Design 6 (8 MC)	DEP5101 Urban Analysis Workshop & DEP5101A Qualitative Methods for Urban Planning (8 MCs)^	DEP5103 Urban Planning Studio & DEP5103A Quantitative Methods for Urban Planning (8 MCs) ^
History Theory	Intro Art & Design*(1) (4 MC)		Hist Core 01*(2) (4 MC)		Hist Core 02*(2) (4 MC)			
Urban Design/ Landscape/ Urban Planning		AR1724 Intro to Landscape Arch (4 MC)	AR2223 Theory of UD & Planning (4 MC)				DEP5104 Urban & Regional Economics (4 MCs) ^#	DEP5102 Urban Planning History &Theory (4 MCs) ^
							UD5521 Planning Process (4 MCs) ^#	MUP Elective 2^#
							MUP Elective 1^#	MUP Elective 3^#
Tech Environment	AR1327 Struct Principles (4 MC)	AR1721 Climate Responsive Arch (4 MC)	AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 MC)	AR2521 Digital Modelling & Simulation (4 MC)	AR3721 Env't Systems and Constr (4 MC)			
		AR1326 Arch Constr (4 MC)		AR2327 Arch, Struct and Constr (4 MC)				
Managem ent					AR3421 Intro to Arch Practice (4 MC)			
General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs								

*(1) – Select one module – either AR2224 Ideas and Approaches in Design or AR2225 Reading Visual Images

*(2)- Two History & Theory modules selected from a basket: AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Architecture, AR2222 History and Theory of Western Architecture and AR2226 History and Theory of Modern Architecture

^Ten UP specialization modules – four studio-based and six other modules

Specialisation Elective

Teaching Approach

Design modules are taught through design studios. Critique sessions will form part of the studio procedure in teaching. Lecture modules include formal lectures, followed by seminars/tutorials. Field trips, site visits, measurement and study of buildings for research, investigation and documentation may be involved.

Assessment and Examination

Assessment criteria will vary according to the modules offered. In the Department of Architecture, design modules are assessed by 100% “continuous assessment” (CA). The other essential modules may also be assessed by 100% CA or a combination of CA and Examination.

Students who fail an essential module will retake the module when it is next offered and must sit for the examination in that Semester. A retake module refers to a module where students have to attend lectures and tutorials and complete assignments and examinations. A new CA grade has to be obtained.

Students who fail a GEM/SS/Breadth/UE module may either replace it with a new GEM/SS/Breadth/UE module or retake the failed module the following year. There is no limit to the number of times a student may retake the same GEM/SS/Breadth/UE module.

A student who has passed the examination of a module will not be permitted to retake the same module again for the purpose of improving his/her grade. This condition does not apply to the Design modules where the prerequisite for progression to the next level is a “C” or “S” grade. Students who achieve a “D” or “U” grade would be required to retake the Design module before they can proceed to the next level of study.

Progression of Students

Min. MCs (in general) for promotion to the next level	ARK1 -> ARK2 [≥ 40 MC] ARK2 -> ARK3 [≥ 80 MC] ARK3 -> ARK4 [≥ 120 MC]
Additional requirements	Must pass Design with a minimum C or “S”** grade ** Applicable to AR1101/ AR1102/AR2101 if students declare S/U for the module(s) under the S/U policy (for 2015/16 cohort)

Degree/ Honours Classification

Successful candidates of the B.A. (Arch.) course are awarded the degree based on the following classification:

Honours Degree Classification	Criteria
Honours (Highest Distinction)	CAP 4.50 and above
Honours (Distinction)	CAP 4.00 – 4.49
Honours (Merit)	CAP 3.50 – 3.99
Honours	CAP 3.00 – 3.49
Pass	CAP 2.00 – 2.99

Modules Information

Please refer to <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/nusbulletin/modulesearch.html>