

FAQs on Admission

1) What are the subject requisites for admission to BA(Architecture) programme.

I) A levels (New Curriculum):

H1 pass in Chemistry or Mathematics or Physics; OR pass in 'O' level Additional Mathematics.
The indicative grade profile of A level applicants offered placement in Architecture in 2017/18 is
90th percentile: AAA/A and 10th percentile: ABB/B

II) A levels (Old Curriculum):

Minimum 'O' grade attained at the GCE 'A'-Level exam for the following subjects: Mathematics, Physics, Physical Science or Chemistry; OR
A pass in 'AO' Mathematics attained at the GCE 'A' Level exam; OR
A pass in Additional Maths attained at the GCE 'O' Level exam.

III) Diplomas (excluding Advanced Diplomas/ Specialist Diplomas/ Certificate Courses) from local Polytechnics:

A pass in E Maths attained at the GCE 'O' Level exam

i) Applicants who do not fulfil the minimum GCE 'O' Level Elementary Mathematics requirement but have obtained the relevant Graduate DDP Transcripts / Certificate in University Preparatory Mathematics depending on the Polytechnics would be deemed as having met the Mathematics requirement.

For detailed admission requirements, please refer to www.nus.edu.sg/oam

2) Who are eligible to be considered under discretionary admission?

For discretionary admission, other factors besides academic grades will be taken into consideration. The following are some samples of exceptional achievements that the University may take into consideration:

- Medal winner at the International Olympiads (Biology, Chemistry, Informatics, Mathematics and Physics)
- Winner in the National Science & Talent Search
- Represented Singapore in Arts and/or Sports
- Active participation in community service and volunteer programmes.
- Work experience relevant to the course applied for (supporting document/s is/are required)
- Key leadership positions in community organisations, sports and athletic clubs, etc (outside school)
- Other relevant supporting documents related to the course applying for.

3) Do I need to sit for the Architecture Admission Test (AAT) and Interview if I'm shortlisted for the programme?

Shortlisted candidates would be invited to sit for the AAT and attend an interview as part of the selection process in order to be considered for admission.

4) What is the scope and format of the Architecture Admission Test (AAT)?

The AAT mostly tests student's creativity and intuition in design. While technical knowledge in architecture is not essential, certain common understanding of the subjects is necessary.

The actual test is to complete special design work and carry out set tasks under test conditions. It could be in the forms of test questions, design illustrations, simple model making, etc.

Your experience in the aptitude test is indicative of what is expected of you in the course: the ability to think creatively, critically and also practically on your feet, and to communicate your ideas succinctly in various media.

5) Do I need to submit a portfolio together with my application?

You need not submit the portfolio at the point of application.

However you are encouraged to bring along your portfolio as evidence of your interest in design to strengthen your application should you be selected to attend the AAT and interview.

6) What do I need to include in the portfolio?

The portfolio should show candidate's creative work.

If possible, this should document an accumulation of work over several years.

The content may include (but should not be restricted to) drawings, paintings, graphic design, magazine layouts, posters, stage design, web design etc.

As far as possible, the portfolio should be neatly arranged, bound and indexed in a suitable format, determined by the applicant.

7) Is drawing a requisite skill in order to be considered for admission?

Although it is beneficial for applicants to know how to draw, it is not a prerequisite as drawing is only one of many components needed in the course. Also, it is a skill which can be picked up if you are diligent and determined.

8) How would I know if I have the aptitude for architecture?

You should show an interest in design and curiosity in how things work and have the ability to express and describe ideas.

9) How can I prepare for an education in architecture?

You should talk to people who are working as architects and senior students to understand the professional and student life. It would be helpful to acquaint yourself with basic architecture knowledge through books and internet and have an appreciation of architectural development, locally and internationally. You can also start to learn basic skills such as drawing and use of modeling software such as sketchup.

10) What are the differences between the architecture programme offered by NUS and SUTD?

NUS Architecture provides a holistic and wider professional development to the student. Students upon reaching senior years have a variety of design career paths to branch into for developing their interest, strength and potential. These provide career opportunities beyond architecture, venturing into urban design, city planning, landscape architecture, architectural technology, integrated sustainable design and architectural conservation.

In NUS, architectural education begins in the first year to provide students with a strong design foundation to better engage the diverse and challenging issues of designing the built environment. This will enable students to be better informed for considering their career choices in the architectural field.

The NUS environment, being a full-fledged university also avail students with more enrichment through a variety of cross disciplinary courses, specialized programmes, broader range of overseas student exchanges and larger campus resources.

11) Are there any scholarships available?

URA/ BCA offer scholarships.

There are also various NUS scholarships and financial aid available. Please refer to the following links for more details:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/scholarships.html>

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/financialaid.html>

12) Is the BA(Arch) programme offered on part-time basis?

No. The 4-year BA(Arch) programme is only offered on a full-time basis.

13) Is BA(Arch) programme a professional programme?

No. NUS Master of Architecture (M.Arch) is the professional programme recognised by Board of Architects Singapore.

Students who wish to eventually practise as an architect in Singapore have to read the 1-year M.Arch programme upon completion of the BA(Arch) programme in order to have the requisite degree for registration with the Board of Architects (BOA) Singapore.

In order to qualify for the professional exam conducted by BOA, M.Arch graduates need to undertake at least 2 years of practical experience after completion of the M.Arch programme.

For details on professional registration, please refer to <http://www.boa.gov.sg/>

In short, a student may attain his/her professional Architect status after 5 years of education plus 2 years of practical experience.

14) Are exemptions granted to diploma holders?

Yes, please refer to the list of Advanced Placement Credits (APCs) granted to diploma holders from local polytechnics at <http://www.arch.nus.edu.sg/programme/architecture/2014onwards.pdf>

It is possible for diploma holders who are given APC in design modules (AR1101 and AR1102) to complete the BA(Arch) course in 3 years.

15) What will I learn in the first year of the BA(Architecture) programme ?

The Year One curriculum introduces students to fundamentals of architecture and principles of design. Students are also trained in basic skillsets of visual representation and design thinking.

16) What are the exchange and overseas enrichment opportunities available for architecture students?

NUS, in its emphasis to engage the opportunities and challenges of globalization, has implemented Student Exchange Programme (SEP) to more than 150 universities. Architecture students have the opportunity to participate in student exchange programmes with more than 30 partner universities (at Departmental and University Level) in Asia, Europe and USA for one semester.

In addition to the student exchange programme, the Department creates opportunities and sponsors numerous overseas field trips, overseas enrichment programmes and design workshops conducted abroad to enhance our students' academic experience and enrich their exposure with design conditions under different social-cultural milie.

17) Are students able to take part in internship to gain practical exposure?

Majority of the students gained practical experience through attaching themselves to practices during the semester breaks and holidays and some of the students take a year off to be exposed to the real-life practical experience before proceeding to M Arch.

Scholarships are also available to senior students to gain overseas internship experience in reputable leading design firms through the support of the Milton Tan Memorial Fund

18) What are the job prospects and types of jobs for a BA(Architecture)graduate from NUS? Is it difficult to get a job? What is the approximate average starting salary expected?

NUS BA(Arch) graduates have several choices: find a job in Architectural firms or other companies (as graphic designer, writers, film maker, animator, model maker, etc.), or to continue the study up to master level (M.Arch, Master of Landscape Architecture, MA(Urban Design), Master of Urban Planning MA Arch/Research leading to PhD degree, or other masters programs like MBA, MSc in various fields). So far our graduates find no difficulties in getting job or in starting-up own business.

Approximate starting salaries varies, depends on the companies and economic situation.