FAQs on Admission (2013)

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 2012/13 
   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 following Diploma Plus Programme transcript would be 
      deemed as having met the Mathematics requirement.
      * Graduate DDP Transcript covering three Diploma Plus modules: Analytical Geometry, 
        Applied Calculus and Advanced Calculus.
   ii) Applicants who do not fulfil the minimum GCE ‘O’ Level Elementary Mathematics 
        requirement and do not have the Graduate DDP Transcript mentioned may still submit an 
        application. They will be assessed based on their polytechnic results and other results/ 
        certificates presented under the Discretionary Admissions (DA) section. The University may 
        evaluate these applicants on a case-by-case basis.

2) Who are eligible to be considered under discretionary admission?
   For discretionary admission, other factors besides grades will be taken into consideration. 
   The following are some samples of exceptional achievements that the University may take 
   into consideration:
   
   a. Medal winner at the International Olympiads (Biology, Chemistry, Informatics, 
      Mathematics and Physics)
   b. Winner in the National Science & Talent Search
   c. Represented Singapore in Arts and/or Sports
   d. Active participation in community service and volunteer programmes.
   e. Work experience relevant to the course applied for (supporting document/s is/are 
      required)
   f. Key leadership positions in community organisations, sports and athletic clubs, etc 
      (outside school)
   g. Other relevant supporting documents related to the course applying for

3) Are exemptions granted to diploma holders?
   Yes, please refer to the list of Advanced Placement Credits (APCs) granted to diploma 
   holders from local polytechnics.
   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.

4) Are there any scholarships available?
   URA/ BCA offer scholarships.
   There are also various NUS scholarships and financial aid available. Refer them to the Office 
   of Admission staffs at the booth. See http://www.nus.edu.sg/oam/financialaid/
5) Do I need to sit for the Architecture Admission Test (AAT) and Interview if I’m shortlisted for the programme?

All shortlisted candidates are required to sit for the AAT in order to be considered for admission. Applicants may be required to attend an interview as part of the selection process.

6) 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.

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

You need not submit the portfolio at the point of application. However if you are invited to attend the admission interview, you are encouraged to bring along your portfolio as evidence of your interest in design to strengthen your application.

8) 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.

9) 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.

10) 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.

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

No. NUS Master of Architecture (M.Arch) is the only professional programme in Singapore recognised by the 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.
12) 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: join architectural firms or architectural departments of a government or statutory body; opportunities in related fields include interior design, industrial design, industrialised building systems, graphic design, commercial art, architecture curator, architectural journalism and project management; or continue the study up to master level --- M.Arch, Master of Landscape Architecture, MA(Urban Design), Master (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 their own business.
Approximate starting salaries varies, depends on the companies and economic situation.

13) What are the programmes I can choose from after completing BA(Architecture)?
Students can choose from a whole range of creative paths in NUS Architecture Department. Those who have successfully completed the BA(Arch) programme may advance to Master of Arts in Urban Design | MAUD |, Master of Landscape Architecture | MLA |, Master of Science in Integrated Sustainable Design | MSc(ISD) | or Master of Urban Planning (new) | MUP |

14) I am interested in Landscape Architecture. Which undergraduate program should I enrol in?
A student who wish to obtain a Master of Landscape Architecture should enrol in the BA(Architecture) programme. From the third year of your studies you begin to specialise in landscape architecture and advance towards a Master of Landscape Architecture.