
nus architecture
BA (ARCHITECTURE)
COURSE INFORMATION
FOR 2020/21 COHORT

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

The B.A.(Arch) is a four-year honours degree programme that comprises a general programme and two other design-focused tracks -1) Design, 2) Urban Planning (UP). The curriculum content for the first three years is common to the general as well as the design-focused tracks.

The general programme terminates at the BA (Arch) degree whereas the design focused tracks are concurrent with the Master of Architecture (M (Arch)) or Master of Urban Planning (MUP) degree programme. Only students who have achieved creditable grades in design, i.e. at least a B in design at the third year (depending on the track of study) will be permitted to opt for a design focused tracks.

Students who are not eligible for the design focused tracks will continue in the general programme in their fourth year of study, leading to BA (Arch). Under this programme, students will no longer be required to take the design courses at fourth year. In its place, students will take elective courses with options to focus on Design Computing, Architectural & Urban Heritage or Urban Studies. Students who graduate with a high GPA 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 courses related to 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, industrialised building systems, graphic design, commercial art and architectural journalism. Graduates who complete the Urban Planning (UP) track may also work in fields related to their studies.

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.

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

No.	Courses	UNITs
1	UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS	
a	General Education Courses (GEM) ¹ Students will be required to read one (GEM) from each of the five pillars	20
i	Human Cultures	4
ii	Asking Questions (Year 1 Semester 2)	4
lii	Quantitative Reasoning (Year 1 Semester 1)	4
iv	Singapore Studies	4
v	Thinking and Expression	4
2	PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS	
a	Essential courses taken within the Department	108
3	UNRESTRICTED ELECTIVES (UE) ²	32
	GRAND TOTAL	160 UNITs

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

² Requisite courses taken to be considered for admission to the Masters programmes can be used to fulfil the UE requirements

Design Focused Tracks

Students who have achieved creditable grades (minimum B) in design at the third year will be permitted to opt for the design-focused tracks.

The Design track will lead to the M.Arch degree programme. The Design track offers students the opportunity to focus on design ideas, innovation and conceptualisation from a theoretical framework.

The Urban Planning track 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 design-focused tracks in the B.A (Arch) programme.

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

Students are required to take all essential courses offered in the semester to which they have progressed, provided they have passed the relevant prerequisites. In addition, they may take courses to satisfy University and other requirements.

Minimum Graduating criteria for

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

Students who exit the concurrent degree programme at B.A. (Arch) Level 4 and consequently seek

admission to M.Arch/ MUP would be required to fulfil a minimum GPA 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 and MUP programmes are summarized in Table 1.

Students will receive both B.A. (Arch) Hons./B.A. (Arch) (depending on his/her GPA) and M.Arch./ MUP degrees concurrently upon completing the Masters programme.

Table 1: A summary of the Architecture Concurrent Degree Programme

Level 5 (Masters)	Master of Architecture		Master of Urban Planning	Master of Arts (Architecture) or Other NUS Graduate Courses
		with specialisation in Urban Design		
Admission Criteria to Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min C for AR5801 & AR5802 • Min 2.5 GPA • Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B+ average for AR5801 and AR5802 • Min GPA of 2.5 • Portfolio Review and Interview for all students who wish to read UD specialisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min GPA of 3.0 for MUP courses 	Subjected to admission criteria of M.A. (Architecture) or other NUS Graduate programmes
Level 4 B.A (Arch)/ B.A (Arch) Hons	Design Track		Urban Planning Track	General Programme
Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B average for AR3101 & AR3102 • Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B average for AR3101 and AR3102 • Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min C grade for AR3101 & AR3102
Level 1-3	Common Programme			

Listing of Courses

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 UNIT)	AR1102 Design 2 (8 UNIT)	AR2101 Design 3 (8 UNIT)	AR2102 Design 4 (8 UNIT)	AR3101 Design 5 (8 UNIT)	AR3102 Design 6 (8 UNIT)	Level 4000 & Above Arch Related Elective <i>(in lieu of Design)</i> (8 UNIT)	Level 4000 & Above Arch Related Elective <i>(in lieu of Design)</i> (8 UNIT)
History Theory	AR2224 Ideas and Approaches in Design (4 UNIT)	AR2222 History and Theory of Western Arch (4 UNIT)	AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Arch (4 UNIT)					
Urban					AR3223 Introduction to Urbanism (4 UNIT)			AR5601 Urban Design Theory and Praxis (4 UNIT)
Tech Environment	AR1327 Struct Principles (4 UNIT)	AR1328 The Tropical Envelope (4 UNIT)	AR2327 Arch Tectonics (4 UNIT)	AR2524 Spatial Computational Thinking (4 UNIT)		AR3721 Environmental System Modelling (4 UNIT)		
				AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 UNIT)				
	General Education Courses (GEM) – 20 UNITS Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 32 UNITS							

Chart B: B.A. (Arch) Curriculum –Design Track

	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 UNIT)	AR1102 Design 2 (8 UNIT)	AR2101 Design 3 (8 UNIT)	AR2102 Design 4 (8 UNIT)	AR3101 Design 5 (8 UNIT)	AR3102 Design 6 (8 UNIT)	AR5801 Options Design Research Studio 1^ (8 UNIT)	AR5802 Options Design Research Studio 2^ (8 UNIT)
History Theory	AR2224 Ideas and Approach es in Design (4 UNIT)	AR2222 History and Theory of Western Arch (4 UNIT)	AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Arch (4 UNIT)					AR5221 Contemporary Theories # (4 UNIT)
Urban					AR3223 Introduction to Urbanism (4 UNIT)			AR5601 Urban Design Theory and Praxis (4 UNIT)
Arch Practice							AR5423 Architectural Practice # (4 UNIT) (sem 1 or 2)	
Tech/ Environment	AR1327 Struct Principles (4 UNIT)	AR1328 The Tropical Envelope (4 UNIT)	AR2327 Arch Tectonics (4 UNIT)	AR2524 Spatial Computatio nal Thinking (4 UNIT)		AR3721 Environmen tal System Modelling (4 UNIT)	AR5321 Advanced Architectural Integration # (4 UNIT)	
				AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 UNIT)				
	General Education Courses (GEM) – 20 UNITS Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 20 UNITS*							

#Requisite courses to be considered for admission to the M.Arch programme. These courses can count towards UE requirements

*Additional UEs students have to complete on their own if they are taking the requisite courses listed under # otherwise full 32 UNITS of UEs will apply.

Chart C: B.A. (Arch) Curriculum –Urban Planning Track

	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 UNIT)	AR1102 Design 2 (8 UNIT)	AR2101 Design 3 (8 UNIT)	AR2102 Design 4 (8 UNIT)	AR3101 Design 5 (8 UNIT)	AR3102 Design 6 (8 UNIT)	DEP5101 Urban Analysis Workshop & DEP5101A Qualitative Methods for Urban Planning (8 UNITS)	DEP5110 Urban Design and Planning (8 UNITS)
History Theory	AR2224 Ideas and Approaches in Design (4 UNIT)	AR2222 History and Theory of Western Arch (4 UNIT)	AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Arch (4 UNIT)					DEP5102 Urban Planning History &Theory (4 UNITS)
Urban Design/ Urban Planning					AR3223 Introduction to Urbanism (4 UNIT)		DEP5104 Urban & Regional Economics (4 UNITS) #	DEP5103A Quantitative Methods for Urban Planning (4 UNITS) #
							DEP5112 Planning Policy and Process (4 UNITS) #	DEP5111 2 Planning Technologies (4 UNITS) #
							MUP Elective 1#	
Tech Environment	AR1327 Struct Principles (4 UNIT)	AR1328 The Tropical Envelope (4 UNIT)	AR2327 Arch Tectonics (4 UNIT)	AR2524 Spatial Computational Thinking (4 UNIT)		AR3721 Environmental System Modelling (4 UNIT)		
				AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 UNIT)				
	General Education Courses (GEM) – 20 UNITS Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 12 UNITS							

#Requisite courses to be considered for admission to the M.UP programme. These courses can count towards UE requirements

*Additional UEs students have to complete on their own if they are taking the requisite courses listed under # otherwise full 32 UNITS of UEs will apply.

Teaching Approach

Design courses are taught through design studios. Critique sessions will form part of the studio procedure in teaching. Lecture courses 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 courses offered. In the Department of Architecture, design courses are assessed by 100% “continuous assessment” (CA). The other essential courses may also be assessed by 100% CA or a combination of CA and Examination.

Students who fail an essential course will retake the course when it is next offered and must sit for the examination in that Semester. A retake course refers to a course 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 course may either replace it with a new GEM/SS/Breadth/UE course or retake the failed course the following year. There is no limit to the number of times a student may retake the same GEM/SS/Breadth/UE course.

A student who has passed the examination of a course will not be permitted to retake the same course again for the purpose of improving his/her grade. This condition does not apply to the Design courses 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 course before they can proceed to the next level of study.

Progression of Students

Min. UNITs (in general) for promotion to the next level	ARK1 -> ARK2 [≥ 40 UNIT] ARK2 -> ARK3 [≥ 80 UNIT] ARK3 -> ARK4 [≥ 120 UNIT]
Additional requirements	Must pass Design with a minimum C or “S”** grade ** Applicable to AR1101/ AR1102 if students declare S/U for the course(s) under the S/U policy (for 2016/17 cohort onwards)

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)	GPA 4.50 and above
Honours (Distinction)	GPA 4.00 – 4.49
Honours (Merit)	GPA 3.50 – 3.99
Honours	GPA 3.00 – 3.49
Pass	GPA 2.00 – 2.99

Courses Information

Please refer to <http://www.nus.edu.sg/nusbuletin/search-modules/>