
nus architecture
BA (ARCHITECTURE)
COURSE INFORMATION
FOR 2021/22 COHORT ONWARDS

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

The Bachelor of Arts in Architecture is a four-year programme comprising three years of design studio and other essential modules, with a fourth year of architectural theory and electives. The final year can be concurrently registered with the first year of the two-year Master of Architecture programme for those who opt to continue—and who are accepted—into the masters programme.

The introduction of a new undergraduate curriculum in the School of Design and Engineering (SDE) and Faculty of Engineering (FOE) opens up many more pathways that accommodate a wide range of second majors, minors and specialisation. During the first three years, students progress through six design courses where they are introduced to 18 foundational themes in architecture. This largest component of the curriculum takes place in design studios, where students tackle different design challenges hands-on, and are responsible to find their own critical and creative approach to solving given design problems. At the same time, students take additional modules for their Major Requirements within the Department of Architecture, modules within the Common Curriculum offered by both the SDE and FOE, General Education modules and modules in Unrestricted Electives anywhere in the University. The Major and Common modules are calibrated to the studio level they are at. These complement the learning objectives and outcomes of the design studio sequence.

This foundation programme is set within a broad-based interdisciplinary education model. It provides a strong disciplinary foundation and at the same time encourages students to expand their horizons and worldviews beyond the confines of the discipline. Ultimately, students are encouraged to draw on expertise and knowledge both within the department and across the University. This allows students to align their design education with their own areas of specific interest. A wide range of opportunities, combined with the depth and breadth of both discipline-specific and general education training, prepares students for a complex and multivariate future—as influential citizens and thought leaders within the field of architecture and beyond.

Career Opportunities and Professional Registration

Graduates with an B.A.(Arch) degree who have completed modules 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.

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.	Modules	MCs
1	UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS	
a	General Education Modules (GEM) ¹ Students will be required to read one (GEM) from each of the six pillars	24
i	Cultures and Connections	4
ii	Critique and Expression	4
lii	Data Literacy (read in Year 1 Semester 1)	4
iv	Digital Literacy (fulfilled by AR2524 Spatial Computational Thinking)	4
v	Singapore Studies	4
vi	Communities and Engagement	4
2	COMMON CURRICULUM	36
3	MAJOR REQUIREMENTS	60
a	Essential modules taken within the Department	
3	UNRESTRICTED ELECTIVES (UE) ²	40
	GRAND TOTAL	160 MCs

¹Please refer to GEM website (<https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrars/academic-information-policies/undergraduate-students/general-education>) for more details on the GEM requirements.

² Unrestricted Electives may be read in fulfilment of Minors, Second Majors and Specialisations. For information on Minor / Second major: <https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrars/academic-information-policies/undergraduate-students/special-programmes>

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

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 CAP) 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 CAP • Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B+ average for AR5801 and AR5802 • 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 CAP of 3.0 for MUP modules 	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			

Cohort AY21/22 – AY23/24 : 3 + 2 Concurrent Degree Programme

	Year 1 Sem 1	Year 1 Sem 2	Year 2 Sem 1	Year 2 Sem 2	Year 3 Sem 1	Year 3 Sem 2	Year 4 Sem 1	Year 4 Sem 2	M Arch 2 Sem 1	M Arch 2 Sem 2
Major 60 Units	AR1101 Design1 4 Units	AR1102 Design 2 8 Units	AR2101 Design 3 8 Units	AR2102 Design 4 8 Units	AR 3101 Design 5 8 Units	AR3722 Sustainable Environmental System 4 Units			AR5805 Advanced Architecture Studio 8 Units	AR5807 Architectural Design Thesis 20 Units
		AR2227 History & Theory of Architecture 1 4 Units	AR2228 History & Theory of Architecture 2 4 Units	AR1329 Climate, Ecology & Architecture 4 Units	AR3223 Introduction to Urbanism 4 Units				AR5806 Architectural Design Research 4 Units	
			AR2328 Architectural Construction & Tectonics 4 Units						Graduate Level Architectural Elective 4 Units	
Common Courses 36 Units	DTK1234A Design Thinking 4 units	CDE2000 Creating Narratives 4 Units	CDE2212 AI for Design 4 Units	IE2141 Systems Thinking and Dynamics 4 Units	CDE2501 Liveable Cities 4 Units	AR3102 Design 6 (Integrated Project) 8 Units				
	EG1311 Design and Make 4 Units					PF1101 Fundamentals of Project Management 4 Units				
General Electives 24 Units	GEA1000 Quantitative Reasoning with Data 4 Units				GE 4 Units	GE 4 Units				
	GEX: Critique And Expressions GESS: SG Studies GEN: Communities and Engagement GEA: Data and Literacy GEI: Digital Literacy GEC: Cultures and Connections	GE 4 Units	AR2524 Spatial Computational Thinking 4 Units		GE 4 Units					
Unrestricted Electives 40 units							AR5801 Options Design Research Studio 1 8 Units Or Architectural Internship 8 Units	AR5802 Options Design Research Studio 2 8 Units		
							AR5423 Architectural Practice ** 4 Units	AR5601 Urban Design Theory and Praxis ** 4 Units		
							Unrestricted Elective 4 Units	AR5221 Contemporary Theories 4 Units		
							Unrestricted Elective 4 Units	AR5321 Advanced Architectural Integration 4 Units		

** Courses offering in both semesters

Non- architecture related UE can be taken from Yr 1 to Yr 4

Cohort AY21/22 – AY23/24 : General Programme

	Year 1 Sem 1	Year 1 Sem 2	Year 2 Sem 1	Year 2 Sem 2	Year 3 Sem 1	Year 3 Sem 2	Year 4 Sem 1	Year 4 Sem 2
Major 60 Units	AR1101 Design1 4 Units	AR1102 Design 2 8 Units	AR2101 Design 3 8 Units	AR2102 Design 4 8 Units	AR 3101 Design 5 8 Units	AR3722 Sustainable Environmental System 4 Units		
		AR2227 History & Theory of Architecture 1 4 Units	AR2228 History & Theory of Architecture 2 4 Units	AR1329 Climate, Ecology & Architecture 4 Units	AR3223 Introduction to Urbanism 4 Units			
			AR2328 Architectural Construction & Tectonics 4 Units					
Common Courses 36 Units	DTK1234A Design Thinking 4 units	CDE2000 Creating Narratives 4 Units	CDE2212 AI for Design 4 Units	IE2141 Systems Thinking and Dynamics 4 Units	CDE2501 Liveable Cities 4 Units	AR3102 Design 6 (Integrated Project) 8 Units		
	EG1311 Design and Make 4 Units					PF1101 Fundamentals of Project Management 4 Units		
General Electives 24 Units GEX: Critique And Expressions GESS: SG Studies GEN: Communities and Engagement GEA: Data and Literacy GEI: Digital Literacy GEC: Cultures and Connections	GEA1000 Quantitative Reasoning with Data 4 Units				GE 4 Units	GE 4 Units		
	GE 4 Units	AR2524 Spatial Computational Thinking 4 Units		GE 4 Units				
Unrestricted Electives 40 units							AR5601 Urban Design Theory and Praxis** 4units	Unrestricted Elective 4 Units
							Unrestricted Elective 4 Units	Unrestricted Elective 4 Units
							Unrestricted Elective 4 Units	Unrestricted Elective 4 Units
							Unrestricted Elective 4 Units	Unrestricted Elective 4 Units
							Unrestricted Elective 4 Units	Unrestricted Elective 4 Units

** Courses offering in both semesters

Non- architecture related UE can be taken from Yr 1 to Yr 4

Listing of Modules

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 if students declare S/U for the module(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)	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/nusbulletin/search-modules/>