
nus architecture
BA (ARCHITECTURE)
COURSE INFORMATION
FOR 2017/18 COHORT ONWARDS

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

The B.A.(Arch) is a four-year honours degree programme that comprises a general programme and three other design-focused tracks -1) Design, 2) Landscape Architecture (LA) and 3) 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 B.A.(Arch) degree whereas the design-focused tracks 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 the design-focused tracks

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 electives 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 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, 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.

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 (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 modules taken within the Department	108
3	UNRESTRICTED ELECTIVES (UE) ²	32
	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 Requisite modules 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 in design, i.e. at least a 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 track offers students the opportunity to focus on design ideas, innovation and conceptualisation from a theoretical framework.

The Landscape Architecture track enables students to migrate to the Masters in Landscape Architecture (M.LA) programme. The LA modules will be offered at the third and fourth year. Students who have opted for the LA 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 track. The UP 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 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			
Admission Criteria to Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B- average 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min B- average for LA4701 & LA4702 • Min 2.5 CAP • Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission 	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	Landscape Architecture Track	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 • (Portfolio Review and Interview for Discretionary Admission) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min C grade for AR3101/AR3101a & AR3102/AR3102a
Level 3					
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	AR2224 Ideas and Approaches in Design (4 MC)	AR2222 History and Theory of Western Arch (4 MC)	AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Arch (4 MC)					
Urban & Landscape					AR3223 Introduction to Urbanism (4 MC)		AR5601 Urban Design Theory and Praxis (4 MC)	
Tech Environment	AR1327 Struct Principles (4 MC)	AR1328 The Tropical Envelope (4 MC)	AR2327 Arch Tectonics (4 MC)	AR2524 Spatial Computational Thinking (4 MC)	AR3721 Env't System Modelling (4 MC)			
				AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 MC)				
	General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 32 MCs							

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 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)	AR5801 Options Design Research Studio 1^ (8 MC)	AR5802 Options Design Research Studio 2^ (8 MC)
History Theory	AR2224 Ideas and Approach es in Design (4 MC)	AR2222 History and Theory of Western Arch (4 MC)	AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Arch (4 MC)				Arch Elective # (Sem 1 or 2) (4 MC)	
Urban & Landscape					AR3223 Introduction to Urbanism (4 MC)		AR5601 Urban Design Theory and Praxis (4 MC)	
Arch Practice								AR5423 Architectural Practice # (4 MC)
Tech/ Environment	AR1327 Struct Principles (4 MC)	AR1328 The Tropical Envelope (4 MC)	AR2327 Arch Tectonics (4 MC)	AR2524 Spatial Computatio nal Thinking (4 MC)	AR3721 Envnt System Modelling (4 MC)		AR5321 Advanced Architectural Integration # (4 MC)	
				AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 MC)				
	General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 20 MCs*							

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

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

Chart C: B.A. (Arch) Curriculum –Landscape Architecture 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 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	AR2224 Ideas and Approaches in Design (4 MC)	AR2222 History and Theory of Western Arch (4 MC)	AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Arch (4 MC)					
Urban & Landscape					LA4203 History and Theory of Landscape Arch (4 MC)	LA4212 Tropical Plant Identification # (4 MC)	Landscape Architecture related elective # (4 MC)	LA4202 Planting Design# (4 MC)
					AR3223 Introduction to Urbanism (4 MC)		LA5301 Geo Design# (4 MC)	LA5302 Detail Design# (4 MC)
Tech Environment	AR1327 Struct Principles (4 MC)	AR1328 The Tropical Envelope (4 MC)	AR2327 Arch Tectonics (4 MC)	AR2524 Spatial Computatio nal Thinking (4 MC)	AR3721 Envnt System Modelling (4 MC)			
				AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 MC)				
	General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 12 MCs*							

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

[#]Requisite modules to be considered for admission to the M.LA programme. These modules can count towards UE requirements

^{*}Additional UEs students have to complete on their own if they are taking the requisite modules listed under [#] otherwise full 32 MCs of UEs will apply.

Chart E: 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 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	AR2224 Ideas and Approaches in Design (4 MC)	AR2222 History and Theory of Western Arch (4 MC)	AR2221 History and Theory of SEA Arch (4 MC)					
Urban Design/ Landscape/ Urban Planning					AR3223 Introduction to Urbanism (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)	AR1328 The Tropical Envelope (4 MC)	AR2327 Arch Tectonics (4 MC)	AR2524 Spatial Computational Thinking (4 MC)	AR3721 Env't System Modelling (4 MC)			
				AR2723 Strategies for Sustainable Arch (4 MC)				
	General Education Modules (GEM) – 20 MCs Unrestricted Electives (within/outside SDE) (UE) – 12 MCs							

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

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

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/nusbuletin/search-modules/>