



Architecture and
Landscape Architecture
Open Day

17th January 2026
Register at
www.myUCD.ie



UCD
ARCHITECTURE
& LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

UNDERGRADUATE
COURSE ENTRY 2026





UCD ARCHITECTURE (DN100)

BSc (Architectural Science) (Hons) (NFQ Level 8) and MArch (NFQ Level 9) or BArchSc (Hons) (NFQ Level 8)

INTRODUCTION

UCD Architecture is Ireland's longest established and most prestigious architecture course. Over the past century, UCD Architecture has been of central importance to all aspects of Ireland's architectural culture. From O'Donnell + Tuomey to Grafton Architects, many of our graduates have achieved worldwide renown, while our research and graduate courses have contributed at an international level.



Minimum CAO Points Requirement

2025: 556 (Round 1)

2024: 553 (Round 1)

Length of Course

3 Years BSc Architectural Science (Hons) + 2 Years MArch (Hons) or 4 Years BArchSc (Hons)

CAO Places Available

57

Entry Requirements

- O6/H7 in English, Irish, Mathematics, and two other recognised subjects (no portfolio)

HEAR/DARE Entry Routes

Yes, see www.myucd.ie/dare or www.myucd.ie/hear

Other School Leaving Examinations

Yes, see www.ucd.ie/admissions

Level 5/6 QQI-FET Entry Route

None

Level 6/7 Progression Entry Route

Yes, see www.ucd.ie/transfer

Mature Entry Route

Yes, see www.ucd.ie/maturestudents

Open Learning Entry Route

None

KEY FEATURES



The Architecture degree is accredited by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI), the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and which also has International Certification status with the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) in the USA



Unique facilities in the Richview / Newstead Buildings at Belfield



Home to Ireland's best Architecture Library



The RIBA Gold Medal, the world's most prestigious architecture award, has been won by 2 UCD Architecture adjunct professors (2015) and 2 UCD Architecture alumni (2020)



Dedicated design studios, workshop, building laboratory, computer labs and exhibition space



Exposed to instruction from world-renowned practitioners



International study opportunities (including Europe, Asia, America and Australia)



UCD ARCHITECTURE (DN100) BSc (Architectural Science) (Hons) (NFQ Level 8) and MArch (NFQ Level 9) or BArchSc (Hons) (NFQ Level 8)

STUDYING UCD ARCHITECTURE

The main pathway to becoming a professional architect includes three steps: a) Completion of the Bachelor's in Architecture, b) Completion of the Master's in Architecture (MArch) and c) Completion of the Professional Diploma after a minimum of two years in practice.



Year 1
Engage with
the principles



Architectural Design (Studio-based learning), History & Theory of the Designed Environment, Drawing and Making, Architectural Technologies, The Engineering and Architecture of Structures, Regenerative Practice.



Years 2 & 3
Refine your
knowledge



Architectural Design (Studio-based learning), History & Theory of the Designed Environment, Architecture & Environment, Architectural Technologies, Theory & Design of Structures, Imagining Architecture, Framework for Practice
Optional Year Out - Experience the world of work*

Exit
with BSc
Architectural
Science
(Hons)



Year 4
Expand your
Horizons



Design Technologies, Research & Innovation in the Designed Environment, Architectural Design (Studio-based learning), Comprehensive Design Project, Specialised option modules, International study abroad options
Optional Year Out - Experience the world of work*

Exit
with
BArchSc
(Hons)



Year 5
Achieve mastery
of your practice



Major Research Essay, Reflective Portfolio, Design Thesis, Architectural Design (Studio-based learning), Professional Studies

Exit
with
MArch
(Hons)

WHAT MAKES A GOOD ARCHITECT?

Our Architecture course attracts a diverse cross-section of talents and approaches from the technically minded to the artistically gifted; from the socially conscious to the natural communicators and leaders. All have the capacity to become successful and productive graduates in Architecture.

* Students are given the choice to take an optional year out after 3rd or 4th Year.

** BSc Graduates require a minimum Degree Award GPA of 2.8 to gain automatic entry to the UCD Master of Architecture Degree.

WHAT'S ON OFFER THROUGH ARCHITECTURE IN UCD?

When students enter Richview, the home of UCD Architecture, they enter a world of creativity, innovation and diversity. Creativity lies at the core of the course. From the outset, the emphasis is on students proposing creative solutions to set problems and situations. Through learning by doing, students propose, test and develop ideas. There is a strong emphasis on group work and collaboration, mainly through design tasks and problem solving. At UCD our aim is to continuously deepen understanding, extend capacities and broaden horizons in relation to architecture. As your skills in architectural drawing, model making, surveying, scale and measurement develop, design projects of increasing complexity are introduced in which these skills can be applied.

UCD produces architects capable of addressing global and societal issues. The architecture design studios are hubs of creativity, capable not only of producing award-winning designs but also of responding to some of today's greatest issues and challenges. UCD Architecture prepares students to be ethical, skilled and thoughtful future practitioners, able to adapt to the changing architecture profession and construction ecosystem as it embraces climate resilience. We

imagine and design together for a post-carbon future. The culture of the school, the oldest one in Ireland, is grounded in the design of places for people, informed by history and context, supported by data and evolving best practice. As a result, the course is constantly evolving, seeking to extend architecture's role and potential in a complex world.

During your time at UCD your lecturers will include many architects who are at the forefront of their profession and have won national and international acclaim for their buildings. The reality of cutting-edge practice feeds directly into the lecture theatre and design studio, encouraging and motivating the student to come up with realistic yet creative answers to real-life problems. At the same time, our academic staff are leading research in areas such as: sustainable development; environmental modelling; technological innovation; and, the history and theory of architecture, cities and landscapes.

If you have a capacity and passion for creativity, for making things through technological invention or artistic experimentation, and you're excited by the idea of designing buildings, urban environments and landscapes, then this course is for you.

EDUCATIONAL MODEL

Entrants into UCD Architecture are awarded a Master's degree (MArch) upon completion of the full five-year programme of study which comprises the three-year BSc (Architectural Science) degree followed by the two-year Master's programme (MArch). Students can also exit after four years with the BArchSc degree.

Having satisfactorily completed the first three years of the architectural course, students will be eligible for the BSc (Architectural Science) degree or may complete an additional year for the Bachelor of Architectural Science degree. For follow-on entry into the MArch, students must satisfy the progression requirement.

Progression requirement from BSc (Architectural Science) to MArch: minimum 3rd Year/degree award GPA of 2.8 (mid 2H2) for automatic progression. Students who do not achieve a GPA of 2.8 will be offered an interview to assess their suitability to progress.

For those who do not continue with the MArch course, the bachelor's qualification provides an opportunity to pursue associated professions such as landscape architecture, planning or research, and also an option to

transfer into other areas of study.

Throughout this degree, two main elements are taught each year: the design project and the lecture programme. The design project is based in our design studios and taught through a combination of lectures, individual tuition, field trips, group tutorials, large reviews and exhibitions (architectural design, drawing and model making). The lecture programme can be grouped under three broad headings:

Technical: Architectural Technologies, Structures, Environmental Science

Cultural: Architectural History & Theory, Ecology, Conservation, Perspectives on Architecture

Practice: Professional studies, Modes and Methodologies of Practice

A combination of continuous assessment and end-of-trimester written examinations is used. In your final year, you will submit a reflective portfolio, a long essay that explores some aspect of the designed environment, and your design research thesis work.

Career opportunities

Most architectural graduates go into architectural practice or on to further academic study in architecture or related subjects. Your skills are transferable, which enables you to work anywhere in the world. Some architects also work in other areas such as:

- Planning
- Cultural and artistic practice
- Heritage site management
- Curatorial work
- Landscape

UCD Architecture offers a wide range of taught Master's, research Master's and doctorate programmes.





UCD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (DN120)

BSc (Hons) (NFQ Level 8)

INTRODUCTION

Landscape architecture is undoubtedly one of the most relevant design disciplines today. Global climate change is altering everything—everywhere in the world. We are faced with necessary tasks relating to the design and build of our surrounding environments and ecologies. The landscape and its functions, its ecosystem services and its appearance, will inevitably change, not slowly but rapidly. Landscape architects must contribute to the design of this future landscape—urban, semi-urban, and rural. As the necessary energy transition accelerates, the landscape is developing into a global powerhouse. Simultaneously, the landscape, with its plants, soils, peatlands, wetlands, and oceans, must be assisted in its capacity as a major global carbon sink. Rising sea levels pose enormous challenges for entire cities and coastal regions. Increasingly dense settlement structures require intelligent open space solutions and efficient public transport systems. All of this must be carefully thought out and designed. This is the only way to ensure sustainable future development that enables functioning ecosystems and affluent societies to coexist.

UCD is at the forefront of Landscape Architecture education in Ireland. UCD is currently the only university in Ireland to offer an undergraduate degree in Landscape Architecture. This course is accredited by the Irish Landscape Institute (ILI) and recognised by the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA – Europe). UCD Landscape Architecture is taught in unique facilities in the School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy in the Richview/ Newstead buildings on the Belfield campus. These facilities include bright and airy studios, computer labs, a well-equipped workshop, exhibition spaces and the best architectural library in the country.

KEY FEATURES



Accredited by the Irish Landscape Institute [ILI] and recognised by the International Federation of Landscape Architecture [IFLAEurope]



Unique facilities in the Richview/ Newstead Buildings at Belfield



Dedicated design studios, workshop, building laboratory, computer labs and exhibition space



6-8 month Professional Work Experience Internship opportunity



Access to UCD Horizons Elective Modules



International study opportunities (including Europe, Asia, America and Australia)



Home to Ireland's best Architecture Library

Minimum CAO Points Requirement

2025: 485 (Round 1)
2024: 474 (Round 1)

Length of Course

4 Years (BSc) (Hons)

CAO Places Available

28

Entry Requirements

- O6/H7 in English, Irish, Mathematics, and two other recognised subjects (no portfolio)

HEAR/DARE Entry Routes

Yes, see www.myucd.ie/dare or www.myucd.ie/hear

Other School Leaving Examinations

Yes, see www.ucd.ie/admissions

Level 5/6 QQI-FET Entry Route

Yes, see www.ucd.ie/FET

Level 6/7 Progression Entry Route

None

Mature Entry Route

Yes, see www.ucd.ie/maturestudents

Open Learning Entry Route

None



UCD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (DN120) BSc (Hons) (NFQ Level 8)



Year 1
Engage with the
principles



Landscape Architecture Design Research Studio, Digital Design, Land Use & Sustainability, Understanding Landscape.

Options: Intro to Archaeology of Ireland, Environmental Change & Policy, Plants and People.



Year 2
Refine your
knowledge



Landscape Architecture Design Research Studio, Landscape History & Theory, Socio-environmental Studies & Interventions, Soil Resources.

Options: Intro to City Planning, Landscape Plants, Landscape Ecology.



Year 3
Expand your
Horizons



Landscape Architecture Design Research Studio, Socio-environmental Studies & Interventions.

Options: GIS for Environmental Assessment, Architecture, Urban & Landscape, Diversity in the Rural Landscape.

Internship and Study Abroad/Exchange opportunities



Year 4
Achieve mastery
of your practice



Landscape Architecture Design Research Studio, Climate Policy and Politics, Environmental Assessment, Landscape Research, Rural & Landscape Planning.

Options: Trees & Woodlands in Ireland, Building Biodiversity.

Exit
with
BSc
(Hons)

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT?

Our Landscape Architecture programme attracts a diverse cross-section of talents and approaches from the ecologically minded to the artistically gifted; from the socially conscious to the natural communicators and leaders. Landscapes — the natural environment as well as the urbanised landscape are big. The challenges, construction projects and infrastructures of the future are big. A good landscape architect thinks big.

WHAT'S ON OFFER THROUGH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN UCD?

The current convergence of crises highlights, more than ever, the imperative for landscape designers to address and tackle the challenges at hand. Ed Hawkins' 'Show-Your-Stripes' project (see above) vividly depicts the profound scientific evidence and challenges of our time: the changing climate and its grave consequences, the forthcoming migration challenges, the decline of biodiversity, and the indispensable role of renewable energy in ensuring lasting prosperity. All of this cogent information is encapsulated in this chromatic graphic, encompassing the essential tasks of future Landscape Architecture. In response, we have established the UCD Progressive Landscape Laboratory within the premises of the UCD Landscape Architecture Section. Collaborating with students, colleagues, and guests, we will undertake research and design work pertaining to the significant environmental challenges of our time. These challenges, termed 'wicked problems' in both science and design, will be addressed through our UCD Design Research Studios, which form an integral part of the Progressive Landscape Laboratory. Each Design Research Studio can be viewed as an ongoing experiment, with an outcome that is not predefined or predetermined. Our collective approach involves a process encompassing fieldworking, reading, searching, mapping, analysing, testing, reflecting, proposing, and

presenting. Through audacious experimentation, trial and error, and other methods, we, together as students, staff, and guests, will develop specific suitable methods and techniques for our studio projects. While we may not always provide a definitive "solution" in the end, we guarantee serious and demanding work. The objective of each Design Research Studio is to formulate and present a vibrant and compelling research-by-design outcome that acknowledges and addresses the identified problems within specific project sites or geographies.

The outcomes aim to demonstrate and illustrate an improved future for the chosen locations. This notion resonates with Herbert A. Simon's concept that designing means devising courses of action aimed at changing existing situations into preferred ones (Simon 1969, *The Sciences of the Artificial*). By convincingly showcasing the ability to effectuate such transformations, one embodies the essence of a designer. We encourage our students to disregard any clichés surrounding design and focus on this fundamental principle. We will continue to use our collective, thematically focused, systematic research-by-design approach to deliver interesting and complex results as a studio collective. Our principle is: No one is left behind.

EDUCATIONAL MODEL

Our Landscape Architecture Section has adopted an innovative strategy of thinking of studios as research laboratories (Design Research Studios) that span two or more semesters, rather than ending after one. This allows us and our students to simultaneously conduct academic research and be creative in design.

Our curriculum requires our graduates to complete their final thesis in the form of a final studio, not as part of a separate written paper, as is common in traditional academic subjects. To enable them to achieve deeper academic outcomes through their studio work, we use the first studio of their final year (4A) to develop with them the foundations for their second studio of the final year (4B).

The outcome of Studio 4B represents their undergraduate masterpiece, grounded and mature enough to be presented to future employers, universities, and others.

Our design tasks relate to the real world — the environment and reality that surround us. The problems we choose to address are highly topical, and we work with institutional and professional partners to enable complex and realistic design work that prepares our graduates for their professional lives and the challenges that shape our times.

The programme incorporates a 6-8 month Internship in the 3rd Year, designed to integrate students' academic and career interests with practical work experience.

Career & graduate study opportunities

Landscape Architecture graduates work around the world because of their transferable skills. They start businesses, work in private practice, for government agencies, NGOs etc. They also pursue further academic study in landscape architecture or related subjects. Many of our students become professional landscape architects. After two years of recognized professional experience, graduates sit the Irish Landscape Institute (ILI) professional examinations, which lead to full professional membership of the ILI.

With the advanced skills they acquire, our students and graduates have the opportunity to work in a wide range of industries and organisations, including:

- **Landscape Architecture/Urban Planning firms** - SWA Group, ARUP, AECOM, Hargreaves Associates
- **Environmental Consultancy firms** - MKO, ERM, Tetra Tech, Jacobs
- **Real Estate Development companies** - Remcoll, LDA, Lendlease
- **Government agencies** - European Environment Agency (EEA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- **Non-Profit Organizations** - European Landscape Convention (ELC), Irish Environmental Network, Heritage Council of Ireland



Anna Fitzpatrick
Architecture Student

The programme has presented me with all of the tools to develop my creativity, practical skills, and conceptual understanding of architectural principles. The rigorous curriculum is also balanced with an active and diverse student community, with frequent events and activities hosted throughout the year. The programme provides students with ample opportunity for recognition and achievement, awarding prizes annually for work created throughout the year. International travel is a part of the curriculum, and so far I've been fortunate enough to visit Venice, Berlin and Paris with my tutors and classmates. The range of Erasmus and international exchange options is varied and broad. 75% of students of architecture participate in a study abroad programme, one of the highest rates of any course. I'm currently looking forward to spending a semester at Virginia Tech in the United States.



Jan Loirenz Guia
Landscape Architecture Student

Studying Landscape Architecture has been a challenging and worthwhile experience. It has allowed me to further develop my design thinking, creative efficiency and presentation skills. From learning and choosing the right plant species for design projects to recognising the importance of outdoor elements and concepts in Understanding Landscape; these modules, alongside Studio work, enhanced my appreciation for landscapes and their composition. Doing this course has improved my interpersonal skills, deepened my appreciation for nature and has enabled me to pursue my passion for landscape design in an innovative way.



UCD COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE OFFICE

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