

Professional Diploma Architecture

One Year/ Two Years Part Time (January start)



Introduction

Architecture is a regulated profession. The Professional Diploma (Architecture) is the final professional examination for architectural graduates, and is required for entry to the statutory Register for Architects in Ireland, and in order to use the title 'architect'.

It is also required for recognition of Irish architects' qualifications in EU member states and in the United Kingdom. The UCD Diploma is part-time, taken over one or

two years (up to four trimesters) during, or after, the time when an architectural graduate completes a minimum 24 months of professional practical experience under supervision.

The programme provides a context and support to architectural graduates as they develop through professional training, and progress into leadership roles. Graduates arrange their own practice placements, in Ireland or abroad.

Course Highlight

UCD Architecture has a long track record in professional education and training. The Diploma programme is designed to be current, relevant, and useful for an architectural graduate developing a professional career in the construction sector, by enabling them to become fully conversant in industry-specific culture, practices, procedures, and statutory requirements.

Course Content and Structure

• **30 credit** postgraduate diploma (part-time), with five modules.

- In the Spring trimester, the foundation modules of Architectural Practice, Construction Legislation, and Procurement & Contracts take place over 12 full days of the academic teaching term. The lecture course is delivered in-person on the UCD campus. Lecture recordings, learning material and readings will also be available to students. Teaching is by UCD academic staff, practicing architects and other professionals with expertise in critical subject areas.
- The Architectural Practice module is an introduction to practice, the profession, ethics, client relationships, design team leadership, resource and finance management, professional risk and liability, communications, record-keeping, sustainability, and sectoral change. The Construction Legislation and Procurement & Contracts modules include the full 'body of knowledge' necessary for practice

and project delivery, from inception to completion including current policy and standards, markets and economic conditions, law, regulatory requirements and procedures (Planning, Building Control, Health & Safety), Construction Procurement, Project Management, Contracts and Contract Administration, etc.

- After taking the lecture modules in Spring, graduates take the Case Study and Practical Experience modules together in one of the following three trimesters. The Case Study module is a dissertation with analysis of a completed construction project, in which the graduate has been closely involved. Graduates are also required to provide evidence and personal reflection and assessment of a min 24 months professional experience in architectural practice.

Why study at UCD?



Tradition

Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence



Global community

Over 11,000 international students from more than 152 countries



Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



Global careers

Degree with high employability and dedicated careers support



**Applications for this programme will open again in the spring of 2025.*



Career Opportunities

The Professional Diploma (Architecture) is the third and final stage in the training of an architect, leading to entry to the Register for Architects, the legal use of the title 'architect', and mutual recognition of professional qualifications in EU member states (for EU citizens). On completion of the Diploma, graduates progress to an independent professional role.

Facilities & Resources

- The School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy includes The Richview Library, which is the largest architecture library in Ireland.
- Learning Material is available to students through Brightspace, UCD's virtual learning platform.

Programme Outcomes:

- Appreciate and understand the historical, social, environmental, legislative and economic context in which the built environment is procured, and show critical awareness of current problems/ new insights.
- Research a broad range of professional, legal, regulatory and contractual topics using a range of research skills and have an ability to acquire and apply the relevant 'body of knowledge' in the profession of architecture.
- Communicate with clients, professionals, industry and community stakeholders, organise projects and lead teams, including an ability to provide disinterested advice and to produce professional reports and surveys.
- Self-evaluate, to identify personal and professional limitations and to take responsibility for continuing academic/ professional development.
- Demonstrate adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings.
- Synthesise information, to formulate professional advice, and to apply knowledge to specific problems often in unpredictable and ill-defined contexts.
- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, competence and professionalism required for independent practice as an architect in Ireland.

Entry Requirements

- This course is only available to graduates of B.Arch/ M.Arch or equivalent approved 5-year qualification in architecture.
- Graduates will be required to have a minimum of 24 months professional experience in architectural practice at the time that they complete the Practical Experience module.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

Programme Director



Orla Hegarty
School of Architecture,
Planning & Environmental Policy
UCD Richview

Practising as a professional architect requires a broad range of knowledge and skill, in addition to development of personal attributes and competence in problem-solving, management, communication and leadership. Architectural graduates in the final stages of their training, learn to synthesise their design skills, ethical values and prior education into the practical matters of leading clients and teams through the entire design and construction process from inception to completion.

CONTACT US

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