

**MACKINTOSH SCHOOL
OF ARCHITECTURE**
**THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART**



Guidance for Applicants to Architecture

Diploma in Architecture

DipArch

Exemption from Part 2 of RIBA/ARB Examination in Architecture.

Guidance for Applicants to Architecture Diploma in Architecture

An application to the Mackintosh School of Architecture consists of an online application and a portfolio of supporting visual material.

Applications for the Diploma in Architecture are made directly to the school via the Registry Department at Glasgow School of Art using the online application forms available on the website.

DipArch is also available in part-time mode. For more information on the part time option please email architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk

The application form will ask for the following information:

- Personal Details
- Academic Qualifications
- Language Qualifications (as appropriate)
- References
- Personal Statement

On receipt of your completed application, registry will invite you to upload your Supporting Visual Materials via the Portfolio Upload site. Information about how to access the portfolio site and set your password will be sent by email. You should receive this around 4 working days after submitting your application. If you do not receive this, please contact registry: registry@gsa.ac.uk



Once your portfolio has been uploaded, the Mackintosh School of Architecture will be issued with your completed application and will assess the following:

Personal Statement

Your personal statement (500 to 700 words approx) should give details of your experience to date, what your specific interests within the field of architecture are and how your studies and work in practice to date have influenced this. You may also want to talk about any extracurricular activities that are relevant.

References

All applicants are asked to provide **2** references on headed paper:

- An academic reference
- A reference from practice. (If this is not relevant, a second academic reference should be provided)

Supporting Visual Material

Work included in your portfolio should aim to achieve a balance that accurately describes your existing skills and interests. We would recommend that you include at least one completed project as part of your portfolio.



*Image: Tutorials in progress.
Grace and Clarke Fyfe Gallery, Bourdon Building*

Assessment Criteria

The Mackintosh School of Architecture will assess your full application against the following:

- **Evidence of a personal interest in the subject of architecture**
- **Evidence of learning undertaken to date in the wider context of the profession**
- **Design work at an appropriate level of complexity and resolution**
- **Integration of structure, materials and environmental conditions.**
- **Skills Range- 3D modelling, observational skills, portfolio format etc**

Each criteria is assessed on a 7 point graded scale as follows:

1. Unsatisfactory evidence of required ability
2. Very limited evidence of required ability
3. Limited evidence of required ability
4. Satisfactory evidence of required ability
5. Good evidence of required ability
6. Very good evidence of required ability
7. Excellent evidence of required ability



*Image: Degree Show Exhibition, 2023.
Stage 4*

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Further guidance of how to demonstrate the criteria is given below:

Evidence of a personal interest in the subject of architecture:

We would like you to expand on your reasons for studying architecture and demonstrate how you have tested or explored these interests through your previous studies.

Evidence of learning undertaken to date in the wider context of the profession

This should be conveyed through the content of the portfolio with work included from both your studies and any experience in practice.

Design work at an appropriate level of complexity and resolution

We are looking for demonstration of the breadth of your knowledge and the ideas behind your work.

Integration of structure, materials and environmental conditions

You should demonstrate your understanding of scale drawings and include technical information for appropriate projects.

Skills Range- 3D modelling, observational skills, portfolio format etc

Work submitted should be varied and personal, and represent your ability as well as clearly communicating your ideas.



*Image: Group Tutorials
Crit Space, Bourdon Building*

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What happens next?

The Mackintosh School of Architecture will evaluate all the applications, process these and return them to our Registry Department who liaise directly with you.

You will receive a formal offer (conditional or unconditional) or rejection from registry and you should receive this within the advertised timeframe (gate) associated with your application date.

If you have any queries at all, the architecture admissions team will be happy to help you. We can be contacted through our designated applicant email: architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk

If you experience any issues uploading material, please contact registry on registry@gsa.ac.uk as soon as possible.



*Image: Stage 5 research model, 2023.
Courtesy of John Pottage*

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to have a Bachelor of Architecture degree to apply to the DipArch?

Applicants must have obtained a recognised degree in architecture or obtained exemption from Part 1 of the RIBA Examination in Architecture. In exceptional circumstances, other qualifications may be approved by the school following the submission of a portfolio of architectural design project work.

Am I able to study the DipArch part-time?

MSA offer a three year part-time mode of study for the Diploma in Architecture, which gives exemption from Part 2 of the RIBA Examination in Architecture. Part-time students must be employed at an approved professional office.

How do I apply for the part-time course?

Applications for the part-time course are made directly to the school and should include a personal statement, two references and supporting visual material as per a full-time application.

Any additional questions about the course or portfolio content should be addressed to the architecture department: architectureadmissions@gsa.ac.uk

Thank you for your interest in our programme and we look forward to receiving your application.

Hazel Wallace - Admissions Co-ordinator
Mackintosh School of Architecture 2023

