Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	BA (Hons) Architecture with a Foundation Year
2	**Course Code**	US0944F
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	The course fully meets and exceeds the joint criteria set out by the Architects Registration Board (ARB) and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

6	**Course Description**
	Validated by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and prescribed by Architects Registration Board (ARB) to give full exemption from the ARB / RIBA Part 1 examination, you will be based at our innovative Birmingham School of Architecture and Design, where you start your journey towards becoming a registered architect. The Birmingham School of Architecture and Design offers fully accredited courses at RIBA Parts 1, 2 and 3, enabling you to fully qualify as a registered architect within one school. With the diverse architecture of Birmingham as your initial inspiration, you'll focus on urban environment and study neighbourhoods, cities, and regional and global networks. Industry connections in your second and third years help you foster direct links and contacts within practice, helping you to find work experience. We also work closely with RIBA West Midlands, the Midlands Architecture Centre (MADE), and Birmingham City Council. From the first year onwards, you will begin to construct your own online webpage of work and projects, which can then be transformed into an online portfolio and/or CV. The recent RIBA Validation Board visit commended our links with professional practice and the supportive learning community we offer. We were also commended for our flexible approach to learning, with strong support for part-time students. As a relatively small school compared to our competitors, accepting around 65 students each year, we are able to create an intimate learning environment, which means you'll get strong individual support. You'll have the chance to be part of Co.LAB, a collaborative architecture and design initiative within the School working on live projects with other disciplines and with industry and community partners. This engagement with one-to-one scale interventions and real-world practice helps you in your learning journey to become a more rounded and responsive designer. The course offers you great opportunities. Students from all years are offered places to attend events such as national building information modelling (BIM) events, which provide a forum for you to engage directly with practitioners and industry specialists, as well as informing you of changes in current practice. You'll also benefit from the insight of guest speakers such as Professor CJ Lim and renowned American landscape architect Martha Schwartz, together with other practising architects from

	firms such as Foster and Partners, Make, Associated Architects, Invisible Studio, Mole Architects, Ash Sakula and various others. Film work also plays an important part in the perception of the city, and you're encouraged to use this medium along with a wide variety of other creative outputs drawing upon our extensive workshop facilities. In your final year, you'll showcase your work at the Graduate Show, an event attended by practitioners where previous students have been recruited by leading practices including Grimshaws, Hopkins Architects, Hawkins Brown and Glenn Howells Architects. You will study in our state-of-the-art Parkside Building, which has been praised for its investment and facilities by RIBA. While based in Parkside, you will sharpen your CAD and digital visual communication skills, prototyping and digital production, while also having access to a range of specialist software. Due to a higher entry tariff for BA (Hons) Architecture you'll need to receive 60% or more in your level 3 final project to progress.

7	**Course Awards**		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Architecture	6	480
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Foundation Certificate Architecture	3	120
	Certificate Higher Education Architecture	4	240
	Diploma Higher Education Architecture	5	360
	Bachelor of Arts Architecture	6	420

8	**Derogation from the University Regulations**
	1. Compensation of marginally failed modules is not permitted 2. Condonement of failed modules is not permitted

9	**Delivery Patterns**			
Mode(s) of Study		**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full-time		City Centre	4 Years	US0944F

10	**Entry Requirements**
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/, or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.

11. Course Learning Outcomes
1. Knowledge and Understanding
1.1 Review precedent, architectural and design practice, texts, resources and concepts appropriate to architecture.
1.2 Define architectural contexts, including social, cultural and historical practices.
1.3 Explain the relationship between architectural theory and practice in a range of architectural contexts.
1.4 Demonstrate an understanding of how the focus of study fits within both the wider context of the architectural profession and interdisciplinary practice (s)
2. Cognitive & Intellectual Skills
2.1 Apply and integrate contextual knowledge and methodologies into architectural practice
2.2 Transfer insights between different bodies of knowledge to reach independent conclusions in your own research and practice
2.3 Employ skills and techniques to recognise and use a wide variety of components of architectural language and structure in both 2D and 3D graphic and media, together with written contexts
2.4 Demonstrate intellectual and creative curiosity in the development of a professional career pathway
3 Practical & Professional Skills
3.1 Demonstrate the technical and creative skills required by the architect to convey personal expression, exploration and imagination in their professional practice.
3.2 Employ skills of reflection and self-reflection to adapt and respond creatively to professional development opportunities and challenges.
3.3 Describe different professional and cultural contexts within the architectural profession and their conventions and expectations.
3.4 Synthesise the statutory, legislative, regulatory and ethical frameworks applicable to the contemporary architectural profession
4 Key Transferable Skills
4.1 work with autonomy and self-motivation
4.2 work collaboratively and cooperatively in a variety of contexts
4.3 plan and manage time and workloads effectively
4.4 Communicate and present the outcomes of work in a variety of digital and non-digital formats.

5 Course Aims (ARB)
5.1 Supported by its design, structure and implementation, the degree course enables students to achieve Undergraduate Honours degree level education and competence in architecture, meeting ARB/RIBA Part 1 exemption through engaging with differing structured course modules that expose and develop themes, ideologies and skills in a focused and iterative pattern.
5.2 Students gain a systematic understanding in the discipline area, its associated skills, techniques and knowledge by engaging in a range of study modes and output types responsive to the course requirements and the professional, technical and cultural context of architecture.
5.3 Students develop and construct a comprehensive academic and design portfolio of their coursework that demonstrates creative and critical accomplishment in exploratory and integrated design practice and academic study.
5.4 Students prepare for appropriate employment and further learning through engagement with international, national and regional best practice and interdisciplinary working. This includes engagement with professional bodies, professional practice and aligned cognate disciplines.

12	**Course Requirements**

12a **Level 3:**

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
ARC3000	Communication Skills	20
ARC3001	Design Disciplines	20
ARC3002	Design Techniques	20
ARC3003	Place and Space and Objects	20
ARC3004	Presentation Techniques	20
ARC3005	Professional and Academic Development	20

Level 4

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

	History of Architecture and Design	20
	Structures, Environment and Technology	20
	Design Apparatus (FT mode only)	20
	Design Resolution 1	60
	Calibration (PT mode only)	20

Level 5:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	Architectural Theory and Research Methods	20
	Design Methods	20
	Praxis (FT mode only)	20
	Design Exchange (PT mode only)	20
	Co.LAB (FT mode only)	20
	Co.LAB-KE (PT mode only)	20
	Design Resolution 2	40

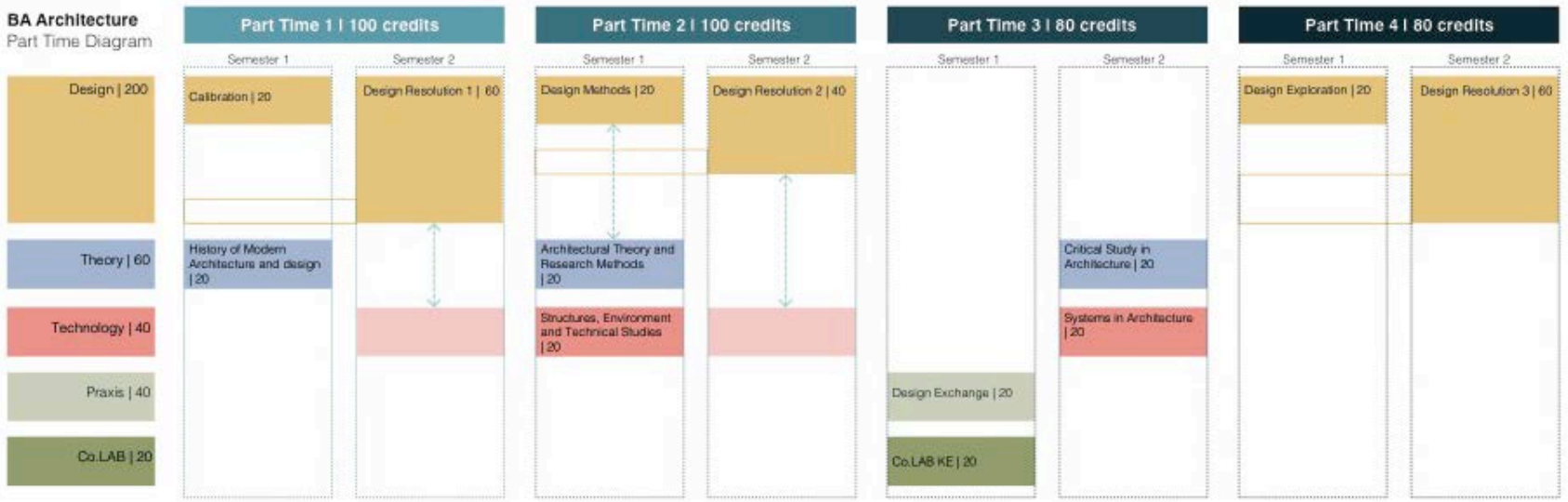
Level 6:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	Critical Study in Architecture	20
	Design Exploration	20
	Systems in Architecture	20
	Design Resolution 3	60

12b Structure diagram





Level 3

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core ARC3000:Communication Skills (20 credits) ARC3005: Professional and Academic Development (20 credits) ARC3002: Design Techniques (20 credits)	Core ARC3001: Design Disciplines (20 credits) ARC3003: Place, Space and Objects (20 credits) ARC3004: Presentation Techniques (20 credits)

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core All L4 modules are core. Semester 1 accounts for 60 credits	Core All L4 modules are core. Semester 2 accounts for 60 credits.
Optional There a no optional modules in the course	Optional There are no optional modules in the course

Level 5

Core All L5 modules are core Semester 1 accounts for 60 credits	Core All L5 modules are core Semester 2 accounts for 60 credits

Level 6

Core All L6 modules are core Semester 1 accounts for 40 credits	Core All L6 modules are core Semester 2 accounts for 80 credits

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 3

Workload

40% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	480
Directed Learning	480
Private Study	240
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	63%
Exam	0%
In-Person	37%

Level 4

Workload

30% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	410
Directed Learning	290
Private Study	500
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%

Exam	0%
In-Person	0%

Level 5

Workload

20% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	240
Directed Learning	360
Private Study	600
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	3 modules are coursework based = 60%
Exam	0%
In-Person	2 modules have an in person exam (Co.LAB and Praxis) = 40%

Level 6

Workload

25% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	300
Directed Learning	140
Private Study	760
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	All modules are coursework based = 100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%