Architecture

About this area of study

The Bachelor of Design (Architecture) course explores architectural ideas, history, philosophy, design, sustainability and communication together with building science and technology. The course is designed to meet the needs of students who ultimately intend to complete the Master of Architecture which is required to obtain professional accreditation and registration as an architect. Alternative units may be chosen for those students who wish to pursue other career opportunities aligned with design which arises in: manufacturing, architectural practices, government organisations or property development companies.

Architects are professionally trained designers who work on small buildings, groups of buildings and large or complex buildings, as well as the space in and around them.
An architectural degree will offer students the opportunity to develop skills such as designing, creating, analysing, managing and communicating effectively. Building design today involves a team of people with a range of experiences. The architect designs the building fabric and coordinates the input of the specialist consultants in the team. Architects need the ability to manage projects within budgetary guidelines, manage a team of people working on a project, and act as a mediator to coordinate, negotiate and resolve issues.

Most architects work in architectural firms or for businesses that have large construction programs. Many start their own practice after a few years of experience. Architects increasingly are finding employment in a wide variety of occupations ranging from urban planning, property development, teaching, interior design and even disaster relief. Sustainability and "green" jobs are also a growth area for architecture graduates.

Key skills that Design graduates demonstrate include

- Use software applications for computer-aided drawings
- Creative flair and lateral thinking skills
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Ability to analyse and critically assess problems
- Ability to see the big picture and attention to the detail
- Negotiation and mediation skills to resolve complex building issues

Training and registration

Generally, the following steps outline the requirements for registration as an architect:

- An accredited academic qualification in architecture* or a pass in the National Program of Assessment (NPrA), see www.aaca.org.au for details of NprA.
- Minimum of 2 years recent practical experience
- Successfully complete the AACA Architectural Practice Examination (APE)

- Professional recognition by the Architects Registration Board

* At Deakin University students need to complete the Bachelor of Design (Architecture) and the Master of Architecture, S700 in order to meet the academic qualification requirement for accreditation

Courses offered by Deakin University include

- Bachelor of Design (Architecture)/Bachelor of Construction Management
- Master of Architecture, S700 (following the Bachelor of Design (Architecture)

Labour market information

Grads online has information regarding graduate salaries and where graduates go after completing their course www.gradsonline.com.au

Job Outlook has information about the labour market outlook http://joboutlook.gov.au

Related occupations

- Architect
- Architectural Drafter
- Building Contractor
- Interior Designer

An industry career profile, salary and other employment information can be obtained from the My Future website www.myfuture.edu.au

Descriptions of occupations can be found at The Job Guide www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au

Employers

Archicentre www.archicentre.com.au

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) www.fahcsia.gov.au

Sinclair Knight Merz www.skmconsulting.com

ISIS www.isis.com.au

BMD www.bmd.com.au

Baulderstone www.baulderstone.com.au

Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd www.leighton.com.au

Brookfield Multiplex www.brookfieldmultiplex.com

Leighton Holdings www.leighton.com.au

Lend Lease Corporation www.lendlease.com.au

For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites

Deakin University Jobshop www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop

Graduate Opportunities www.graduateopportunities.com

Uni Grad www.unigrad.com.au

Seek www.seek.com.au

My Career www.mycareer.com.au

Career One www.careerone.com.au

Professional associations

The Architects Registration Board of Victoria (ARBV) www.arbv.vic.gov.au

Architects Registration Council of Australia www.aaca.org.au

The Australian Institute of Architects www.architecture.com.au

Australian Council of Building and Design Professions Ltd www.bdp.asn.au

Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia - Architects Branch www.apesma.asn.au

Design Institute of Australia www.dia.org.au

Building Designers Association of Victoria www.bdav.org.au