

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE**

**Major and Minor in Architectural Studies**

Credit Unit Statement

The Major and Minor in Architectural Studies programmes consist of five types of courses taught in distinct learning modes. These include: Design Studios, Architectural History and Theory, Technology, Visual Communications and Disciplinary Electives. In addition, the Faculty Interdisciplinary Courses (FICs) are also available for students. Each course is 6 credits, except ARCH2079 Design 3 and ARCH2080 Design 4, which are 12 credits. All courses mentioned above are assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment. Total student learning hours for a Major are 1,560 – 2,160 hours and for a Minor are 780 – 1,080 hours. The BA(ArchStud) is an impermissible combination with the Major and Minor in Architectural Studies.

The six types of courses to be offered are summarized as follows:

**Faculty Interdisciplinary Courses (FICs)**

(6 credits requiring approximately 120-180 hours of student learning activities per course)

The Faculty Interdisciplinary Courses (FICs) are a pair of mandatory 6-credit courses for students pursuing the Major or Minor in Architectural Studies. The first in the fall semester is intended to introduce all incoming students within the Faculty to the built environment disciplines, their roles, methods, and canonical texts. The second in the spring semester is aimed at nurturing a multi-disciplinary perspective of the built environment.

Teaching is conducted in lectures / tutorials (24-36 contact hours per course), and the course work includes reading of critical texts, preparation of assignments, presentations and essays. The courses are assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment, which including writing components (up to 2,000-5,000 words), pre-class submissions, site projects etc. The total output for a FIC course consists of up to 5,000 words from the components listed above.

**Architectural Design Studio courses**

(6 credits requiring approximately 180 hours of student learning activity per course, otherwise 12 credits requiring approximately 360 hours of student learning activities per course).

Each of the studio courses is a semester course. These courses engage students, under staff guidance and supervision, through a range of problem-based design exercises addressing core and related issues essential to the training of an architect. The studio projects provide opportunities to apply key architecture theories and concepts learned in concurrent courses.

Teaching is conducted in lectures / workshops / review sessions (24-36 contact hours for 6-credit course and 96 contact hours for 12-credit course), and involves working on projects in both group and individual formats. Work is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions. Site visits, data research and practical workshops are required. The courses are assessed on the portfolio of project work produced, as well as contributions to discussions and activities in the studio sessions. Assessment is 100% continuous coursework assessment of drawings, diagrams, photos, renderings, animations, physical models, prototypes and project presentation.

### **Architectural History and Theory courses**

(6 credits requiring approximately 120-180 hours of student learning activities per course)

Collectively these courses examine the theories and practice of architecture through a comparative study of the history of architectural design and urbanism, in various geographic and cultural contexts. Teaching is conducted in lectures / workshop / review sessions (24-36 contact hours per course), and the course work includes reading of critical texts, site visits, research, case studies and the preparation of assignments, essays and reports. Work is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions. The courses are assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment. Continuous assessment is usually by various methods including PowerPoint Presentation, reports (up to 10,000 words), short essays (1,500 – 2,000 words), quizzes, projects and/or sketch books, etc. The total output for an Architectural History and Theory course consists of up to 12,000 words from the components listed above.

### **Technology courses**

(6 credits requiring approximately 120-180 hours of student learning activities per course)

These courses explore issues of materials, construction, structures and environment as they relate to the built environment. Particular emphasis is placed upon overarching concepts of environmental sustainability and ecological design in all courses. The curriculum examines state-of-the-art “high” technology in combination with comparative studies of vernacular “low” technological practices of construction. Students are equipped with a global understanding of divergent technological practices found in numerous regionally specific conditions. The courses establish key technical concepts and knowledge that underpin students’ architectural design work. Much of the course relates to projects undertaken in the design studios. Teaching is conducted in lectures / workshops / review sessions (24-36 contact hours per course), and activities include site visits, case studies, practical demonstrations, detailed design exercises and the preparation of assignments and reports. The courses are assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment. Continuous assessment is usually by various methods including homework, group work, quizzes, group projects, assignments, integrated coursework, presentation, and individual study. The usual output mainly comprises annotated diagrams and short written descriptions (up to a total of 5,000 words for the whole course).

### **Visual Communications courses**

(6 credits requiring approximately 120-180 hours of student learning activities per course)

These courses introduce students to the essential tools of design communication, and teach the fundamentals of graphic design as a means to describe space visually. Students learn freehand drawing, computer aided drafting, physical model building and 3D computer modeling. They investigate approaches and techniques to manage, manipulate, and envision information, using various computer software to link photography, drawing, and other media.

Teaching is conducted in lectures / workshops / review sessions (24-36 contact hours per course), and activities include case studies, practical exercises, demonstrations, and the preparation of assignments and reports. The courses are assessed through submitted course work. Assessment is 100% continuous coursework assessment of drawings, diagrams, photos, renderings, animations, physical models, prototypes and project presentation (up to 5,000 words for the whole course).

### **Disciplinary Electives**

(6 credits requiring approximately 120-180 hours of student learning activities per course)

Elective courses are assessed through a variety of modes including class presentations, case studies, reading analysis, written assignments, research papers, visual projects, and integrated coursework. Approximately 36 contact hours of instruction are required in order to achieve stated learning outcomes within the curriculum. Students shall be guided in selecting these courses. The courses are assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment. The total written output varies among different courses (up to 5,000 words). There are five categories of elective courses available for selection by candidates:

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|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Category I:   | History and Theory            |
| Category II:  | Urbanisation and Habitation   |
| Category III: | Technology and Sustainability |
| Category IV:  | Digital Media and Fabrication |
| Category V:   | Practice and Management       |