This translation is a service offer and not legally binding! For questions concerning jurisdictional liability, please consider the official German curriculum.

Bachelor programme curriculum

Architecture

at the University of Art and Design Linz (Kunstuniversität Linz)

decision of the Curricula Committee of 5 March 2008 – decision of the senate of 16 April 2008
amended by decision of the Curricula Committee of 28 January 2009
amended by decision of the Curricula Committee of 2 June 2010
amended by decision of the Curricula Committee of 7 November 2012
amended by decision of the Curricula Committee of 6 March 2013
amended by decision of the Curricula Committee of 12 June 2013
amended by decision of the Curricula Committee of 6 May 2015
amended by decision of the Curricula Committee of 6 June 2016

1 Qualification profile

Graduates of the bachelor programme ‘Architecture’ are qualified designers. The programme draws its methods, functions and objectives from the disciplines of spatial and architectural design, but its fundamental and universal nature reaches beyond these aspects.

Apart from an architecture-specific qualification regarding function, space and body, construction, atmosphere, material, colour and shape, the programme addresses the knowledge of work requirements and working conditions (which is knowledge necessary in all fields of work).

Analysis of problems, definition of goals and the design of work processes are given consideration during the course of the programme. Special emphasis is placed on the reaction to context (social, spatial and economical conditions) and on the intervention concerning a specific subject or place. On a smaller scale, the goal is to upgrade and improve spaces, structures and forms in all their manifestations. In this sense, the programme facilitates awareness of the effects and expressions of design. It imparts the fundamentals of technical know-how and communicates the basics of realisation processes and methods.

The programme teaches the necessary basic knowledge required for work as an architect (in the classic sense). Furthermore, it offers elements needed to meet the requirements of a vastly expanding professional profile. Students gain important additional qualifications which allow them to work for building authorities and the construction industry as well as in property development, architectural management and journalism and other related professions.

2 Educational profile

2.1 Educational objectives

On the one hand, the programme imparts artistic-creative and technical knowledge and makes this knowledge comprehensible with all its interdependencies and contexts of origin. On the other hand, students gain skills allowing them to approach complex lines of thinking and work methods.

Communication and specification of work objectives and methods as well as the introduction to concepts and work results are given special attention. In response to increasingly complex social processes, the programme focuses on developing students' 'social skills'.

An essential learning objective is the fostering of joined-up thinking, the combination of artistic-intuitive and academic approaches and, consequently, the assessment of the full effects of students' own actions and creations. The programme promotes integrated responsibility for cultural, artistic, social and societal objectives, especially in regard to controversial topics (globalisation, ecology, digital technology, consumerism, new media).

Students discover their own concrete capacity for cultural intervention instead of learning externally imposed principles. They can follow a concept of architecture which "designs life" instead of disappearing into niches of temporary events.

The aim is to pay attention to development processes as well as their results and all the individuals involved. For the sake of comprehensive cultural demands, the designer's and the client's personalities, the assignment, the place and the time of action are taken into equal consideration.

2.1 Educational methods

During the bachelor programme 'Architecture', the learning process is shaped by interaction between the communication of theoretic fundamentals (lectures) and active research, experience, and observation and practice (project work, workshops, seminars, excursions).

Especially project work, seminars and workshops promote students' individual talents and specialisation. Project studies, which are the central form of teaching, foster the interconnection between different fields, interdisciplinary collaboration and the inclusion of specific subjects. If thematically and didactically appropriate, individual lecturers are encouraged to collaborate and connect teaching contents and class periods.

3 Programme structure and contents

3.1 Basic concept

The bachelor programme 'Architecture' at the University of Art and Design Linz consists of 6 semesters of 30 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points each, resulting in a total of 180 ECTS, whereof 18 ECTS (10%) must be gained in the form of Free Electives at a recognised domestic or foreign university.

The basic idea of the programme is a continuous interlacing of artistic, technical and theoretical fields of knowledge and concrete design projects. The Project Modules "Design and Deepen" are embedded in a continuous parallel structure at the core of the programme (18 ECTS per semester).

The Competence Modules, imparting contents from the fields of art, technology and theory, form a subject-specific basis. Excursions give the programme practical orientation. The Free Electives allow for individual specialisation.

The first and second semester (60 ECTS) form the introductory phase. (Project Modules: 18 ECTS per semester; Competence Modules: 12 ECTS per semester.)

3.2 Module types

The bachelor programme "Architecture" comprehends two different module types: Project Modules and Competence Modules.

Project modules

Designing .....12 ECTS imparts the design and presentation of drafts
Specialisation..... 6 ECTS imparts specialised knowledge and application knowledge

Competence modules

Construction .....6 ECTS imparts technical-scientific knowledge
Theory ..... 6 ECTS imparts theoretical, liberal arts-oriented knowledge
Analysis ..... 6 ECTS imparts practical descriptive knowledge

3.3 Options

The bachelor programme “Architecture” offers six different options concerning the covered contents and students’ individual orientation.

Each semester, the project module ‘Design’ offers at least two thematic options from different architectural disciplines. The only exception is the introductory phase.

Each semester, the project module ‘Specialisation’ offers options relating to planning and technical knowledge. The only exception is the introductory phase (see point 3.5).

Furthermore, students can choose between various courses within the modules, especially the project modules Specialisation of the first semester and the competence module ‘Cultural Theory’.

‘Design’ (3rd, 4th and 5th semester) can be replaced by Construction Practice (depending on courses offered). Construction Practice can be completed outside the regular programme schedule, e.g. during summer break (see point 3.5). Students must apply with work they have already designed. If accepted, Construction Practice (8-12 ECTS) can be completed instead of one ‘Design’ module (12 ECTS). Simultaneous completion of corresponding technical courses (maximum 4 ECTS) is required.

During the course of the bachelor programme, one ‘Design’ module can be completed in the form of three interval designs. Interval designs are designing exercises relating to different subjects of architecture (maximum 4 ECTS each).

Free Electives (18 ECTS total) must be chosen from the courses offered by recognised domestic and foreign universities.

3.4 Schedule and overview

The following table visualises the complete curriculum. Course or module contents may build on previous courses, which is taken into account in the suggested schedule. Students are encouraged to choose Construction Practice in the fourth semester (unless it can be completed in non-lecture periods).

Generally, the suggested allocation of courses is not binding. In the suggested schedule, the Analysis and Theory modules are not assigned to specific semesters. The same applies, to a limited extent, to Urban Development and Architectural Theory.

	SEM.	PROJECT MODULES		COMPETENCE MODULES	FREE			ECTS
Introductory Phase	1.	Design 12 ECTS	Specialisation 6 ECTS	Construction 6 ECTS	6 ECTS Analysis	6 ECTS Analysis	6 ECTS Theory	30
	2.	Design 12 ECTS	Specialisation 6 ECTS	Construction 6 ECTS				30
1 opt. Construction Practice, 3rd-5th semester	3.	Design 12 ECTS	Specialisation 6 ECTS	Construction 6 ECTS				30
	4.	Design 12 ECTS	Specialisation 6 ECTS	Construction 6 ECTS				30
	5.	Design 12 ECTS	Specialisation 6 ECTS	Architectural Theory 6 ECTS				30
	6.	Design 12 ECTS	Specialisation 6 ECTS	Urban Development				30

6 Project Modules Design (1 opt. Construction Practice).....	6 x 12 =	72 ECTS	40,0%
6 Project Modules Specialisation.....	6 x 6 =	36 ECTS	20,0%
4 Competence Modules Construction.....	4 x 6 =	24 ECTS	13,3%
2 Competence Modules Analysis.....	2 x 6 =	12 ECTS	6,6%
1 Competence Module Architectural Theory.....	1 x 6 =	6 ECTS	3,3%
1 Competence Module Theory.....	1 x 6 =	6 ECTS	3,3%
1 Competence Module Urban Development.....	1 x 6 =	6 ECTS	3,3%
total modules.....		**162 ECTS**	**90,0%**
Free Electives.....		18 ECTS	10,0%
Total.....		**180 ECTS**	**100,0%**

3.5 Module descriptions

The two ‘Design’ modules of the introductory phase (12 ECTS each) impart basic knowledge on the complexity of architectural designing. They address problems concerning the (re)presentation of architecture. Project contents focus on the understanding of central architectural themes (structure, form and material). Another goal is to communicate the concrete dimensionality of a building on-site (scale and context).

The remaining four ‘Design’ modules (12 ECTS each) impart the skills needed for architectural designing. Students approach spatial, structural, formal, textural, functional, ambient and contextual problems and issues of presentation (especially model construction). Teaching contents may include project-related contents outside the subject area – beyond specific subjects and architectural requirements.

The two ‘Specialisation’ modules of the introductory phase (6 ECTS each) impart digital presentation techniques as well as drafting and construction skills. Alternatively, students with computer-based drawing skills (verification required) gain practical artistic knowledge in other courses offered by the University of Art and Design Linz.

The other three ‘Specialisation’ modules (12 ECTS each) impart the connection of architectural intent, technical requirements and the conditions of open space. Students train the development of architecture within an interdisciplinary context. Of the following four subjects, each must be selected at least once, corresponding to a workload of at least 1 ECTS: structural engineering, support structure theory, sustainable construction and open space planning. Furthermore, students practice their verbal as well as two- and three-dimensional project presentation techniques.

‘Introduction to Academic Methods’ (2 ECTS) must be completed.

The contents of the project module ‘Specialisation (Bachelor)’ (6 ECTS) correspond to the regular project module ‘Specialisation’. ‘Introduction to Academic Research’ is omitted. Acquisition of 1 ECTS in the subject ‘Structural Engineering’ is mandatory.

In a special course, students prepare a portfolio of all their previous projects.

‘Construction Practice’ (8-12 ECTS/approx. 5-8 weeks) imparts practical skills related to architecture (construction site, workshop etc.), and teaches students about the feasibility of project designs. ‘Construction Practice’ can be completed within the frame of the bachelor programme – or outsideit if written evidence is provided (work hours, contents).

The four competence modules ‘Construction’ (6 ECTS each) impart technical architectural know-how. They promote fundamental scientific knowledge, constructive-logical thinking, interdisciplinary understanding of technical systems and the interdependencies of technology and art.

The competence module ‘Architectural Theory’ (6 ECTS) imparts basic knowledge on the historical development of architecture and its theories and typologies. Students train abstract architectural thinking and their verbal and written discursive abilities.

The competence module ‘Urban Development’ (6 ECTS) imparts basic historical, encyclopaedic and methodological knowledge on the panning of urban spaces and landscapes.

The competence module ‘Theory’ (6 ECTS) teaches knowledge on culture-, art-, media- and gender-specific theory as well as sociology and philosophy. At least one lecture and one seminar must be completed per subject in order to train the theoretical and independent acquisition of specialist knowledge and the skills of expression.

The two competence modules ‘Analysis’ (6 ECTS each) impart the skills required to analyse architectural problems and to respond with appropriate designs. Furthermore, it promotes the ability to research, analyse and reflect on architecture at a practical and a theoretical level.

3.6 Course types

Architecture is taught through the application of the following five methods, all of which (with the exception of lectures) focus on practical action.

VO = Lecture (Vorlesung)
Lectures aim at a systematic and/or specialised transfer of knowledge. They provide insight into the current state of research, the subjects and methods of each field. The active role is mainly reserved to lecturers.

PA = Project work (Projektarbeit)
The central teaching method. It links and integrates all specialised fields and applies theoretical knowledge. Furthermore, all work steps (formulation of goals, project design, project development, presentation) are trained and refined. Project work allows for individual positioning and orientation. Students receive counselling, supervision and private or group tuition as needed. Supervising staff provide guidance and feedback. Students' performance during the entire project period affects course grades. Work methods and objectives are discussed and reflected on.

WS = Workshop
Workshops are not subject to a specific teaching method. They impart their research objects using various approaches (impulse lectures, exercises, feedback sessions, small seminar papers and drafts). Intensive analysis of a specific subject within a short period allows for a personal dialogue between teachers and students.

SE = Seminar
Seminars connect knowledge transfer and independent knowledge acquisition. Artistic and/or scientific dialogue clarifies positions and improves the skills of expression. The active role alternates between teachers and students for the sake of interaction.

EX = Excursion
Excursions are block courses facilitating the acquisition of knowledge through practical experience and observation ('on-site learning').
Analysis of architecture on-site with the aid of previously discussed literature deepens and complements classroom knowledge.

4 Examination regulations

4.1 Admission requirements

Next to a general or special university entrance qualification (according to §64 UG 2002 or §65 UG 2002, respectively), admission to the bachelor programme 'Architecture' at the University of Art and Design Linz requires corresponding artistic aptitude. The special university entrance qualification (§65 UG 2002) can be acquired during the course of the programme but must be produced before the bachelor examination. An **admission examination** verifies artistic aptitude in front of an examination board. The examination consists of an oral and a written part.

For the first part, applicants present and discuss their artistic works in the course of an interview. The conceptual and expressive quality of the works and their presentation are assessed. After the interview, the board decides on admission to the second part of the examination.

A test forms the second part of the examination. It assesses artistic and conceptual capabilities, the understanding of architectural problems and the skills required for spatial and joined-up thinking with a specific assignment (text, drawing etc.). For this assignment, the head of the Department of Architecture chooses relevant topics.

4.2 Examination types and scope

The modules and courses are completed by corresponding performance assessment (oral or written; single or multiple assessment).

Depending on teaching and project contents, the 'written part' of an examination may include an artistic form of expression such as drawing, construction of models, photography and/or video, including verbal presentation.

Each module has a module supervisor, nominated by the rectorate at the suggestion of relevant programme administration staff. The supervisor is not required to teach any of the module's courses. One study year in advance, the module supervisor and the programme administration make a mutual decision on whether students must take individual course examinations or one module examination on the entire module's contents.

Module examination (MO): written and oral. The module exam is conducted by the module supervisor. The work results of the individual courses may constitute the written part, in which case they must be presented at the examination.

Lecture examination (VO): written or oral.

Project work examination (PA): written or oral. Continuous assessment during the entire semester.

Workshop examination (WS): written or oral. Continuous assessment during the entire semester.

Seminar examination (SE): written exam in the form of a small-scale scientific and/or artistic project including its verbal presentation. Continuous assessment during the entire semester.

Excursion examination (EX): mandatory attendance and written exam in the form of research and analysis.

4.3 Bachelor project and bachelor examination

Students develop their bachelor project in the last “Designing” course and the last “Specialisation” course of the programme’s final semester.

The bachelor examination corresponds to the total of all module examinations or individual examinations of the last “Designing” and the last “Specialisation” module. Successful completion of all other “Designing” and “Specialisation” modules as well as Construction Practice is a prerequisite for admission to the examination.

The bachelor examination grade is calculated proportionally according to the ECTS points of the final semester’s individual courses of the “Designing” and the “Specialisation” module.

Overall assessment of the final examination: In addition to courses’ individual assessments, students receive an overall grade of “passed” if every subject was completed successfully, or “failed” if this is not the case. If no subject was assessed with a grade worse than “gut” (good) and at least half of all subjects were graded “sehr gut” (very good), overall assessment is “mit Auszeichnung bestanden” (passed with distinction).

5 Academic degree

Graduates of the bachelor programme “Architecture” at the University of Art and Design Linz receive the degree “Bachelor of Architecture” (abbreviated “BArch”).

6 Transitional provisions

6.1 Terms of validity

The deadline for switching from the diploma programme ‘Architecture’ at the University of Art and Design Linz to the bachelor programme ‘Architecture’ is the end of the academic year 2013/2014.

6.2 Crediting

The bachelor programme ‘Architecture’ (as well as the master programme of the same name) originates from the diploma programme “Architecture” at the University of Art and Design Linz and supersedes it.

When switching from the old curriculum to the new one, the entire first section of the old curriculum is generally equivalent to entire bachelor programme.

If a student has completed every course of the first section of the diploma programme successfully, they are entitled to receive the academic degree of the bachelor programme. In all other cases, the credit transfer list applies.