

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Taught Postgraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	Postgraduate Diploma in Architectural Practice and Management
4	Programme Title	Architectural Practice and Management
5	Programme Code	3360P
6	Programme Accreditation	Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and Architects Registration Board (ARB), Part 3
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Architecture
8	FHEQ Level	7
9	Last updated	May 2025

10 Programme Aims

- 1 To prepare students for employment as architects, able to take full responsibility as practising professionals and to understand their obligations to the wider world, society, to clients and users, and to the profession of which they will be a member
- 2 To enable students to attain the professional standards required to register with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) as defined by the ARB Part 3 Criteria, ARB Guidance on Environmental Sustainability, and Fire and Life Safety Design, and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Themes and Values at Part 3.
- 3 To develop the knowledge, skills and competencies required for the practice of architecture with respect to the delivery of services to clients and other stakeholders, the management of an architectural practice and the procurement of buildings within the legal framework, and processes that underpin such activities.
- 4 To develop students ability to demonstrate authorship, knowledge, effective communication skills, and reasoning and understanding in relation to the professional practice criteria to qualify as architects in the UK
- 5 To enhance a wide range of transferable skills with an emphasis on practice pertinent skills - team working, report writing and inter-personal skills
- 6 To provide a qualification which fully meets the learning outcomes at Level 7 in the FHEQ, and comply with prevailing University policies and QAA codes of practice.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Architectural Practice and Management.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

- A1 An understanding of the role of architects and their obligation (ethical and otherwise) to the wider world (especially in relation to environmental sustainability and climate change), to society, to clients and users (e.g., in relation to fire and life safety design), and to the profession of architecture.
- A2 Awareness of the limits of their competence and professional experience to ensure that they are unlikely to bring the profession into disrepute

A3	Understanding of the range of services offered by architects and delivering those services in a manner prioritising the interests of the client and other stakeholders
A4	Understanding of client needs, the briefing process, forms and terms of appointment, the means of professional remuneration, and the execution of appropriate programmed and coordinated project tasks
A5	Understanding of the legal context within which an architect must operate, and the processes undertaken to ensure compliance with legal requirements or standards
A6	Knowledge of relevant law, legislation, guidance and controls relevant to architectural design and construction
A7	Understanding of the business priorities, required management processes and risks of running an architectural practice, and the relationship between the practice of architecture and the UK construction industry
A8	Knowledge of legal business entities, office systems, administration procedures and the relevant legislation
A9	Understanding of UK construction and contract law, construction procurement processes and the role of built environment professionals
A10	Understanding of contractual relationships, the obligations upon an architect acting as contract administrator, job-related administrative systems, and the management of projects in the context of the candidate's professional experience
Teaching and Learning Methods	
Teaching involves a mixture of lectures, seminars, videos, workshops, case studies and project applications. Students augment the formal teaching sessions with practice experience, independent research, observation, analysis and reading.	
Assessment Strategy	
Assessed through case-study, presentations, essays, reports, Practical Training Record, self-assessment, coursework, and oral examination.	
Intellectual Skills	
On completing the programme students should be able to:	
B1	Demonstrate professional judgement in applying theoretical knowledge to practical problems
B2	Critically reflect on their professional experience in relation to theoretical knowledge, best practice guidance and the wider professional competencies underpinning the profession of architecture
B3	Engage effectively in the processes involved in brief development, design and construction of a building
B4	Analyse the appropriate use of building contracts in relation to time, cost and quality criteria
B5	Develop and articulate a reasoned argument to support a particular position or proposal in relation to an aspect of practice management
Teaching and Learning Methods	
Teaching involves a mixture of lectures, seminars, videos, workshops, case studies and project applications. Students augment the formal teaching sessions with practice experience, independent research, observation, analysis and reading.	
Assessment Strategy	
Assessed through case-study, presentations, essays, reports, Practical Training Record, self-assessment, coursework, and oral examination.	
Practical Skills	
On completing the programme students should be able to:	
C1	Demonstrate overall competence and the ability to behave with integrity, in the ethical and professional manner appropriate to the role of architect

C2	Work effectively in the social economic and commercial context of architectural practice
C3	Work within the duties and obligation of professional codes
C4	Undertake effective communication and presentation, organisation, self-management and autonomous working
C5	Communicate effectively and collaborate with others involved in the procurement and design of buildings
C6	Communicate effectively and collaborate with others involved both internally and externally in the management of an architectural business unit
C7	Manage the programme and information flow for a building project in a formal quality management context
C8	Administer building contracts using standard forms and procedures

Teaching and Learning Methods

Teaching involves a mixture of lectures, seminars, videos, workshops, case studies and project applications. Students augment the formal teaching sessions with practice experience, independent research, observation, analysis and reading.

Assessment Strategy

Assessed through case-study, presentations, essays, reports, Practical Training Record, self-assessment, coursework, and oral examination.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- D1 Select and use the appropriate media to evaluate data and to develop and communicate information, ideas, problems and solution to both specialist and non-specialist audiences including:
 - a. Clear, logically structured reports, essays and extended pieces of written work
 - b. Clear and coherent oral presentation, response to questioning and in debate
 - c. Clear, coherent and appropriate graphic presentation
- D2 Work independently, in a self-directed manner, reflecting critically on their own work and on the work of others and seeking and making effective use of feedback
- D3 Structure a coherent argument, based on personal research, in oral and written format
- D4 Interact effectively and in a professional manner within a project team
- D5 Manage their own time and work to deadline
- D6 Critically reflect on their own performance and write a self-assessment document
- D7 Identify the factors that create value and cost in design and construction

Teaching and Learning Methods

Teaching involves a mixture of lectures, seminars, videos, workshops, case studies and project applications. Students augment the formal teaching sessions with practice experience, independent research, observation, analysis and reading.

Assessment Strategy

Not independently assessed.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

The programme extends over a minimum of 12 months part-time and is structured on a modular basis. During this time students are required to attend the University on dates determined by the Degree Programme Director and published in advance at the beginning of the academic year. The assessment consists of 3 modules, collectively worth a total of 120 credits – where each 10 credits involve 100 hours of student time.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

The content of the programme is closely related to the ARB's syllabus and covers the five areas of the Criteria for Part 3:

- PC1 Professionalism
- PC2 Clients, users and delivery of services
- PC3 Legal framework and processes
- PC4 Practice and management
- PC5 Building procurement

It also addresses the ARB Guidance on Environmental Sustainability and Fire and Life Safety Design, and the RIBA Themes and Values at Part 3.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[Programme Regulations 25-26](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

Role of the Professional Examiners

To comply with requirements of the RIBA, professional examiners, who are experienced Architects in the UK, are appointed by the Degree Programme Director to assess the final oral examination and other aspects of the course (as appropriate).

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.