



## FUTURE PROSPECTS IN ARCHITECTURE

### What is architecture?

Architecture is the creative study of buildings and cities. As a subject with ancient roots, it considers how humans have been dwelling in the world for thousands of years. As a contemporary activity, it is the creative design of new buildings at the forefronts of culture, technology, and the environment.

### What does an architect do?

An architect may participate in various design activities: from houses to public buildings and urban designs. Depending on an architect's interests, he/she may focus on topics such as historical buildings, community development, or building construction. Visiting an architect's office will introduce you to some daily activities.

### Who is well suited to become an architect?

A potential architect is someone who enjoys designing and is interested in buildings and cities. Architecture combines fine arts, humanities, and technologies, so well-rounded students with creative ability and a good academic record are prime candidates. Previous building designs are not expected.

### How long does it take to become an architect?

After finishing high school, an architecture student completes six years of university. (This includes general studies in other subjects, as well as professional studies in architecture.) After receiving an architecture degree, a graduate typically works in an architectural office and may do professional examinations two years later to become a registered architect.

### Does it make sense for Americans to study in Canada?

Yes. Professional architecture degrees are recognized in both countries, so an American student who graduates from a Canadian architecture school can return to the United States to become an architect there. Students also may find that tuition fees in Canada are substantially lower than at comparable universities in the United States.

### Where are architecture schools located in Canada?

Eleven Canadian universities offer professional architecture programs: Dalhousie University, Université Laval, Université de Montréal, McGill University, Carleton University, University of Toronto, Ryerson University, University of Waterloo, University of Manitoba, University of Calgary, and University of British Columbia.

### ARCHITECTURE AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

#### How is Dalhousie's architecture program organized?

Before entering the architecture program at Dalhousie University, a student must complete at least two years of courses at any university in subjects other than architecture. This is followed by four years of architecture: two years leading to a Bachelor of Environmental Design Studies degree and two years leading to a Master of Architecture degree.

#### Which courses are included in the program?

The architecture program includes eight academic terms. The emphasis is on architectural design, with other courses in architectural history/theory, building technology, representation, and professional practice. In addition to attending lectures and participating in seminars, students work individually and collaboratively on design projects in the studio. This involves lots of drawing and model-making, by hand and on computer. Students have their own studio space and can work in the studio after hours. One-third of the building is devoted to studios. There are also computer labs, a woodworking shop, a construction lab, a digital modeling lab, photographic facilities, and a large exhibition hall. The university's architecture library is located nearby.

#### What practical experience do students receive?

Dalhousie's architecture program includes co-op work terms that provide students with twelve months of practical experience in building design and professional practice. Many students use the work terms as an opportunity to live, work, and travel in another province or country. Work term salaries also help pay for one's academic studies. Typically, a co-op work term involves working



in an architectural office and assisting with various aspects of building design: drawing, model-making, computer drafting, construction supervision, meeting with clients and consultants, etc.

### **What should I study before applying to the architecture program?**

To develop a well-rounded academic foundation, consider taking high school courses in three general areas: art/music, mathematics/science (including Grade 12 math), and history/literature. For your initial undergraduate program at university, choose a subject area in which you're liable to do well: depending on your interests and academic strengths, this may be liberal arts, science, fine arts, engineering, computer science, etc.

The only specific course requirements for admission to the architecture program are:

- two university courses in math or science for which Grade 12 math is a prerequisite
- a university course that includes an emphasis on writing skills
- two university courses in humanities or social sciences (e.g., anthropology, art history, classics, literature, history, philosophy, political science, psychology, or sociology).

To develop skills for studio work, courses in freehand drawing, material craft, and design are also useful.

### **Can I take architecture courses before applying to the architecture program?**

Yes. Several introductory architecture courses are open to all students from Dalhousie and other universities in Halifax.

### **Where do Dalhousie architecture students come from?**

Usually, about 40% are from western Canada, 30% from Atlantic Canada, 20% from Ontario and Quebec, and 10% from other countries. Although two years of university is required for admission, most incoming students already have an undergraduate degree. Each class includes diverse academic backgrounds, and the male/female ratio is usually equal.

### **What are my chances of being admitted into the architecture program?**

Each September, 60 students are admitted. With about 300 applicants, the acceptance rate is 20%. Most applicants have a B+ average in university and a good design portfolio that demonstrates creativity and artistic skill.

### **What might be included in a design portfolio?**

A design portfolio consists of prints of your design work, assembled in a booklet or binder. It may show freehand drawings, paintings, furniture, sculpture, craft objects, creative photography, construction projects, etc. Building designs are not expected. This work may have been done in academic courses or on your own.

### **Can I visit the school and see what students are doing?**

If you plan to be in the Halifax area and would like to receive a guided tour of the Architecture building, please contact the Architecture office. To obtain a copy of *StudioEast*, a book of design work by Dalhousie architecture students, phone Tuns Press (the Faculty's publishing office) at 902 494 3925, e-mail [tuns.press@dal.ca](mailto:tuns.press@dal.ca) or visit the web site at [tunspress.dal.ca](http://tunspress.dal.ca).

### **Where is the architecture school located?**

It's in downtown Halifax, at Spring Garden Road and Brunswick Street, two blocks south of the Halifax Citadel and five blocks west of the Halifax harbour. The Faculty of Architecture and Planning and the Faculty of Engineering are on Dalhousie's Sexton Campus, in the middle of Halifax's prime commercial area, with many shops, restaurants, theatres, and other facilities nearby. The main Dalhousie campus is a fifteen-minute walk away, and NSCAD University is ten minutes away.

### **How can I find out more about the program?**

Please contact the Architecture office to ask for an undergraduate admission package to be mailed to you. This material is also available on the Architecture web site.

e-mail: [arch.office@dal.ca](mailto:arch.office@dal.ca)

voice: 902-494-3971 (undergraduate admissions)

fax: 902-423-6672

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