



## PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM (B.E.D.S. / M.ARCH.)

### Why study architecture?

Architecture is the creative study of buildings and cities. It is a challenging, well-rounded discipline with alliances to the fine arts, humanities, and technologies. By studying architecture, students develop their artistic skill, knowledge of history and technology, social and cultural awareness, and critical imagination. Many different undergraduate fields provide an effective foundation for architectural studies.

Architecture is both an ancient discipline and an innovative activity. It draws one's attention to how humans have been dwelling in the world for thousands of years, as demonstrated in their buildings and cities. At the same time, it also participates at the forefronts of contemporary life, alongside current developments in culture, technology, and the environment.

Designing is a major part of architecture that combines academic study and creative imagination. Architectural design typically involves drawing and model-making, by hand or with a computer. At times it may involve on-site construction with full-scale materials.

A professional architect may participate in a wide range of design activities, depending on his/her areas of interest and expertise: from furnishings and house designs to public buildings and communities; from technical details and material innovation to spatial organization and urban design; and from historic restoration and adaptation to new buildings and speculative projects.

### Why study architecture at Dalhousie?

Dalhousie's professional architecture program is a compact program (three years, eight months) that recognizes a student's previous undergraduate studies and leads to a master's degree. Its integration of academic and professional experience is highly valued in the architectural field. Co-op work terms provide students with income and opportunities to live and work in Canada and abroad. The tuition fees are competitive in Canada, and American students may find them substantially lower than at comparable universities in the United States. American students can study architecture at Dalhousie and receive a Master of Architecture degree that is fully accredited by the Canadian Architectural Certification Board and recognized in the United

States. An American citizen who graduates from Dalhousie's MArch program can become a graduate intern in the United States and complete the professional registration examinations there. Students from other countries should contact their national architectural organization for professional requirements.

The school's primary aim is to educate students who plan to become professional architects. The school emphasizes design as a means of studying and practising architecture. Studios focus on principles that give order to built form through design exercises, representation exercises, and historical studies. Technology and humanities courses provide an understanding of material means and cultural intentions in architecture. Practical experience introduces students to responsible and competent application of knowledge in professional practice. Students interact with professional architects from Canada and abroad throughout the architecture program: in studio work, lectures, and design reviews, as well as in the co-op work terms.

The School of Architecture enjoys an international reputation, with graduates working in many cities and countries around the world. The student body is diverse and mature, and students participate in all aspects of school life. The School of Architecture occupies a prime location in the centre of Halifax, in a comfortable old building with new facilities.

### Why come to Halifax?

As a historic port city on the Atlantic Ocean, Halifax has diversity and character. It's a vibrant city with a relaxed pace. Distances are walkable, and walking is enjoyable. Outside the city, the coastal towns and landscapes of Nova Scotia are famous as tourist destinations, with many recreation options available.

Halifax has six universities, and graduate architecture students may take elective courses at any of them. Dalhousie University is the largest university in Atlantic Canada, with a comprehensive range of disciplines. As the academic, political, and economic heart of the region, Halifax has a population of 400,000, with the same level of amenities as larger cities but a lower cost of living. Direct flights are available to many cities in North America and Europe.



## ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

### Prospective Students

If you have completed at least two years of university in subjects other than architecture, you may apply for admission to the architecture program. Sixty-five students are admitted each September. Priority is given to applicants with a good academic record and creative design ability. Each incoming class includes students with diverse academic backgrounds from across Canada and abroad.

### Degrees and Courses

The architecture program includes two degrees:

- Years 1–2: general studies at any university
- Years 3–4: Bachelor of Environmental Design Studies (BEDS)
- Years 5–6: Master of Architecture (MArch)

Students acquire a basic knowledge of architecture in Years 3 and 4, then work toward a graduate design thesis in Year 6. Each year of the program includes courses in five architectural subject areas:

- Design: building design, urban design
- Representation: drawing, modeling, computer applications
- Humanities: history, theory, research, criticism
- Technology: construction, structure, environmental systems
- Professional practice: professional responsibility, office management, co-op work terms

### Facilities

The central activity of the program is architectural design, in which students work individually and collaboratively on design projects in the studio. A third of the Architecture and Planning building is devoted to studios that are open to architecture students at all times. Each student is provided with an individual studio space. The building also has computer labs, wireless ethernet, a woodworking shop, a digital modeling lab, a photographic studio, and a large exhibition space. The Faculty's Resource Centre houses reference materials and an image collection, and is managed by a full-time research librarian. Dalhousie's School of Planning is located in the same building as the School of Architecture. The university's architecture library is located nearby.

### Academic Terms and Work Terms

Following the two prerequisite years of university, the architecture program follows a trimester sequence (fall, winter, summer) with a compact series of eight academic terms and three terms of work experience:

	fall	winter	summer
Year 3 - BEDS	B1	B2	B3
Year 4 - BEDS	B4 (work)	B5	
			M1
Year 5 - MArch	M2	M3 (work)	M4 (work)
Year 6 - MArch	M5	M6	

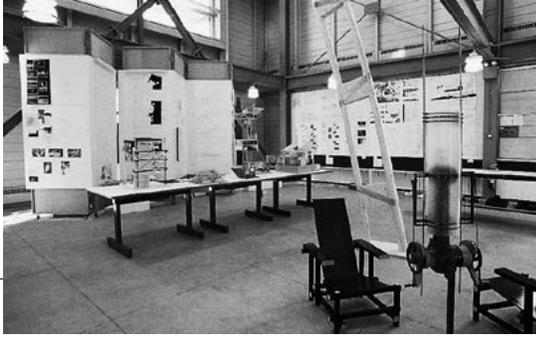
After completing the BEDS program at the end of the B5 term in Year 4, students may apply for admission to the MArch program.

### Co-op Work Terms

The work terms provide students with practical experience in building design and responsible professional practice. Work terms also provide opportunities for travel, and salaries help pay for one's academic studies. The School's co-op program has been operating since 1970. The Faculty's Co-op Office helps students find suitable employment. In recent years, Dalhousie architecture students have been employed in every province and territory in Canada, and in more than thirty countries around the world. Typically, a work term involves working in an architectural office and assisting with various aspects of building design: design drawing, model-making, computer drafting, construction supervision, etc.

### Professional Qualifications

Dalhousie's Master of Architecture program has full six-year accreditation from the Canadian Architectural Certification Board. The following is a statement from the CACB: "In Canada, all provincial/territorial associations/institutes/orders recommend a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit Canadian professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes two types of accredited degrees: the Master of Architecture (MArch) and the Bachelor of Architecture (BArch). A program may be granted a six-year, three-year, or two-year term of accreditation, depending on its degree of conformance with established educational standards. Master's degree programs may consist of a pre-professional undergraduate degree and a professional graduate degree, which, when earned sequentially, comprise an accredited professional education. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree."



## ADMISSION TO THE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

### Academic Requirements

To be considered for BEDS admission, you must have completed:

- two years of university in subjects other than architecture (ten full-year courses or twenty half-year courses), with at least a B– average (2.5 GPA). Two years at a college or institute plus one year of university is also acceptable.

The two years of university must include:

- two half-year courses, at 1000-level or higher, in a math or science subject: biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, geology, mathematics, physics, or statistics (but not economics, environment, geography, management, planning, or psychology). To confirm that a course is acceptable, you may send its calendar description to the Architecture office.
- a half-year course that emphasizes English writing skills. Courses at some universities are designated as “writing requirement” or “writing intensive.” A course that includes formal essay writing is also acceptable.
- two half-year courses in a humanities or social science subject: anthropology, art history, classics, literature (but not language instruction), history, music history (but not music instruction), philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology, etc.

If you are 25 years or older and do not meet all of these academic requirements, you may apply as a mature student, based on other qualifications; however, all applicants must have completed at least one full year of university. To prepare for studio work, applicants are advised to take a course in freehand drawing and/or a material-based subject (e.g., wood, metal, or ceramics). Admission to the BEDS program is competitive, so completing these academic prerequisites does not guarantee admission.

### Submitting an Application

All items must be received at the following locations by March 1:

#### 1) Admissions, Registrar's Office, Dalhousie University, P.O. Box 15000, Halifax, NS, Canada B3H 4R2

- Undergraduate application (online or printed form) available from: [tinyurl.com/cmmnabd](http://tinyurl.com/cmmnabd)
- Undergraduate application fee

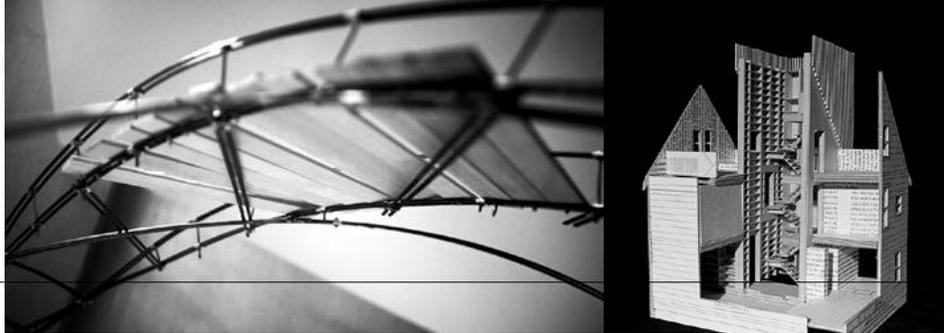
Applicants are responsible for providing an up-to-date address to the Registrar's Office and checking that the two items above have been received. Phone 902 494 2450 or e-mail [admissions@dal.ca](mailto:admissions@dal.ca).

#### 2) Admissions, School of Architecture, Dalhousie University, 5410 Spring Garden Road, P.O. Box 15000, Halifax, NS, Canada B3H 4R2

(Phone contact for courier deliveries: 902 494 3971)

The Architecture office will send you a confirmation e-mail only when all of the required items have been received, indicating that your application is complete. If you have not received confirmation two weeks after submitting your final item, please e-mail [arch.office@dal.ca](mailto:arch.office@dal.ca) or phone 902-494-3971. (Please disregard the Registrar's online record of items received.)

- Two copies of an official academic transcript from each post-secondary institution you have attended. Please ask the registrar at your previous institution to send the transcripts directly to the School of Architecture at the address above. Transcripts from outside Canada must be provided in English by the institution. High school transcripts are not required.
- Portfolio of design work. Your design portfolio (about 10–15 items) should demonstrate creativity and/or artistic skill. It may include freehand drawings, paintings, furniture, sculpture, craft objects, creative photography, construction projects, etc. Building designs are not expected. Items should be submitted as prints and/or photographs, bound into a booklet or binder with your name on the front. It will not be returned to you, so please do not include originals.
- Letter of intent. This letter (maximum two pages) is intended to give the admissions committee some information about you as a person: your interests, activities, travels, aspirations, why you are interested in studying architecture, and why you selected Dalhousie University. A copy of your résumé also would be useful.
- Two letters of recommendation. At least one letter should be from an academic instructor, preferably at university level. A form is available at [archplan.dal.ca/reference-word](http://archplan.dal.ca/reference-word) and [archplan.dal.ca/reference-pdf](http://archplan.dal.ca/reference-pdf).
- (Proof of English language competency, if required.) If you are applying from outside Canada, your first language is not English, and you have not studied for at least one year at an English-language university in courses that required English proficiency, an official test result must be submitted. The TOEFL requirement is 580 written, 237 computer, or 92 Internet (with 4.0 in writing). IELTS 7.0 is also acceptable.



### Application Deadline

All BEDS application items must be received by March 1. Applicants will be notified of the admission result as soon as it is available: typically, in mid-May. If you have not completed all of the admission prerequisites by the March 1 deadline, you may be offered a conditional acceptance, pending completion of the remaining prerequisites before the BEDS program begins in September.

### Transfer Students

The School of Architecture welcomes applications by transfer students from other architecture schools. Admission and level of entry in the BEDS/MArch program depend on:

- total years of university, including general studies
- courses completed elsewhere that are equivalent to required architecture courses at Dalhousie
- academic record (3.0 GPA or B average is expected)
- level of achievement in your architectural design portfolio.

Most transfer students with a pre-professional architecture degree (BAS, BED, BES, BSc[Arch], BArchSci, etc.) will need to take one or more senior undergraduate courses during the winter term to be considered for MArch admission in May. There are three deadlines each year for transfer applications: February 1, June 1, and October 1. October 1 is the application deadline for admission in the winter term. To enable the Admissions Committee to consider your previous architecture courses for transfer credits, please submit course outlines or calendar descriptions.

Students who have completed a two-year architectural technology program at a college also need to complete one full year of general studies (i.e., non-architecture courses) at a university to be eligible for admission to the B1 term of the BEDS program. Transfer credits for BEDS technology courses may be awarded after admission.

### Tuition Fees

These 2015–16 tuition fees are in Canadian dollars.

	Canadian	International
Typical term	\$ 3,896	\$ 8,247
Four-year program	\$ 31,928	\$ 60,936

Incidental fees (athletics, health service, student union, bus pass, etc.) are extra. Please note that fees are subject to change. For current fees, e-mail [student.accounts@dal.ca](mailto:student.accounts@dal.ca) or go to [www.dal.ca/admissions/money\\_matters.html](http://www.dal.ca/admissions/money_matters.html).

### Research

Faculty research in the School of Architecture ranges from sustainable building practices and historical conservation to international development and the history and theory of modern architecture. Much of this research is concerned with community development, both local and international. Most courses in the graduate program are based on areas of faculty research and expertise.

### Architecture student publication

To see what students have been doing at the school, you may order a copy of *StudioEast* or *Free Lab*. Both publications present design work by Dalhousie architecture students. Phone Dalhousie Architectural Press (the Faculty's publishing office) at 902 494 3925 or check the web site at [tunspress.dal.ca](http://tunspress.dal.ca). The price is typically \$20–\$25. Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

### Building tour

If you would like to receive a tour of the Architecture and Planning building or meet with an admissions advisor, please contact the Architecture office to find out when tours and meetings are available.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact the Architecture office:

e-mail: [arch.office@dal.ca](mailto:arch.office@dal.ca)  
 voice: 902 494 3971 (undergraduate and transfer admissions)  
 902 494 3973 (graduate admissions)  
 fax: 902 423 6672  
 address: School of Architecture, Dalhousie University  
 5410 Spring Garden Road, P.O. Box 15000  
 Halifax, NS, Canada B3H 4R2  
 web: [archplan.dal.ca](http://archplan.dal.ca)