

A group of students in dark clothing are jumping and playing on a large, complex wooden structure that resembles a giant's hand or a series of interconnected beams. The background shows a green landscape with trees under a cloudy sky.

School of Architecture

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 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 substantially lower than at comparable universities in the United States. Dalhousie's Master of Architecture degree is fully accredited by the Canadian Architectural Certification Board and recognized in the United States. A U.S. 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. Each incoming class includes students with diverse academic backgrounds from across Canada and abroad. 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.

Why come to Halifax?

The School of Architecture occupies a prime location in the centre of Halifax, in a comfortable old building with new facilities. 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 420,000, with the same level of amenities as larger cities but a lower cost of living.



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

dal.ca/architecture

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.

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 building is devoted to studios that are open to architecture students at all times. Each student is provided with an individual studio space.

The Faculty's facilities include computer labs, wood shop, photo studio, digital lab, and a large exhibition hall. The university's architecture library is located nearby. The Faculty of Architecture and Planning also includes the School of Planning, which is located elsewhere on the Sexton Campus.

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 university'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. In Canada, the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB) is the sole agency authorized by the Canadian Architectural Licensing Authorities (CALA) to accredit Canadian professional degree programs in architecture for the purposes of architectural licensure.



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 (twenty 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 courses, at 1000-level or higher, in a mathematics or science subject: biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, geology, mathematics, physics, or statistics (but not economics, environment, geography, astronomy, management, planning, or psychology). To confirm that a course is acceptable, you may send its calendar description to the Architecture office.
- a course that emphasizes 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 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.

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.

Submitting an application

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

1) Admissions, Registrar's Office, Dalhousie University

- Undergraduate application tinyurl.com/dalapplication
- 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.

2) Admissions, School of Architecture

Except as noted, please prepare all items digitally and send them to arch.office@dal.ca. For each item, indicate your surname at the start of the file name (e.g., trudeau-portfolio.pdf).

- 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 in two formats: a PDF to arch.office@dal.ca; and two printed copies by mail to School of Architecture, Dalhousie University, P.O. Box 15000, Halifax, NS B3H 4R2. 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 in a single multi-page PDF, max. 20 MB. If any items were done by a group and/or in an academic course, please indicate this in labels or a list.
- Letter of intent. This letter (PDF, 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.
- Your résumé (PDF, 1–2 pages).
- Two letters of recommendation. At least one letter should be from an academic instructor, preferably at university level. A referee may submit a PDF form (tinyurl.com/dal-arch-reference) or a letter. It may be submitted by mail to the School of Architecture at the address above, by fax to 902-423-6672, or as an e-mail attachment to arch.office@dal.ca. To be valid, it must be signed by the referee.
- (Proof of English language competency, if required.) If your first language is not English, an official test result must be submitted. The requirement is IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 92 iBT. If you have completed a degree at an English-language university, this requirement may be waived. You must meet the language requirement before submitting your BEDS application.

For additional application details, please go to:

tinyurl.com/undergrad-application

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 or phone 902 494 3971. Please do not refer to the Registrar's online record of items received.



Admission result

Applicants will be notified of their admission result as soon as it is available: typically, in early 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 academic 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, 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. For each architectural design project in your portfolio, please indicate the year, the course title, the project title, the instructor, and (for group work) the names of the other group members. For any professional work, indicate the year, the company name, the project name, and your contribution to the project.

Tuition fees

These 2022–23 tuition fees are in Canadian dollars.

	CANADIAN	INTERNATIONAL
Typical term	\$ 4,838	\$ 13,268
Four-year program	\$ 40,475	\$ 88,553

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 or go to 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.

Building tour

If you would like a tour of the Architecture building or to meet with an admissions advisor, please go to tinyurl.com/dal-arch-advising.

Questions?

Contact the Architecture office:

- ✉ arch.office@dal.ca
- ☎ 902.494.3971 (undergraduate and transfer admissions)
- ☎ 902.494.3973 (graduate admissions)
- 📞 902.423.6672

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