

1. Cambridge University

A) Do you cost your degrees? Are modules designed to keep student contributions to a necessary minimum? What is the average cost that you expect a student to spend in their BA and MArch degrees on top of their fees? Is this cost feasible?

We do provide an information sheet on our website 'Additional costs for architecture students' where we estimate that the above additional and necessary 'core' costs currently total £500 per annum per student – but we are aware that it would vary according to each student's needs and management of resources. We are conscious that this is a tall order for many students and are currently in discussion with the University and the Colleges to bring the cost down.

B) Do you have compulsory modules requiring field trips? Do you cap, subsidise or provide alternatives to field trips?

We have only one mandatory trip in Year 1 – currently a one-week trip to Naples - but the travel expenses and accommodation are fully funded by the University. The Department also provides support for essential site visits. In Year 2 and Year 3 there are optional studio trips, usually over a long week-end to a European city. The majority of students attend such trips. They aren't capped but we endeavour to keep the cost to a minimum. Some colleges may offer a subsidy but it is uneven; we do not provide alternatives to field trips as those are out of term. At part II level, there are no planned studio trips partly because every student has their own brief and will go away at the end of Year 1 to a different location to carry on their design research – for which they can apply for a substantial field grant allocated by the University for graduate students.

C) Do you have compulsory modules requiring the production of large scale models or full scale building elements? Do you cap, subsidise or provide support / alternatives with material purchasing?

The only compulsory module requiring the production of large scale models is in the first term of Year 1 – the students work in small teams but in this case the cost of material is provided by the departmental budget. Colleges do allocate students with a material budget but it varies from colleges to colleges – on average around £250 to £300 per year – for undergraduates. One way around material cost is to recycle large scale modelling – as in Year 1 – and the material used to construct the annual exhibition. The issue here is space and storage but we are gradually moving towards a much more sustainable material policy.

D) Do you provide, cap or subsidise printing within your university? Do you provide alternatives to print examination such as digital portfolios, media screens etc?

We partly subsidise the printing but do not cap the amount that students can spend. The issue of printed portfolio can be partly alleviated by going digital – RIBA permitting! – but in our case it will require a substantial investment by the University. To this effect we are currently undergoing a major IT review of our facilities to consider the use of large screens for crits and examinations, investment in desktops and software licences. Again space is proving an issue.

*Prof. François Penz
Head of the Department of Architecture
University of Cambridge*

2. Cardiff University

A) Yes, we cover the cost of all essential needs for studying on the course. When studying at Cardiff University, students are not required to spend anything in addition to the £9k to pass the course.

On average we spend approx. £1,300 on each FTE student studying here on the BSc/MArch. We do not require any additional spend, but students can spend if they wish to enhance a model, additional site visit etc.

B) Yes. We have a compulsory study trip to a European city that we cover the cost of - approx. £250 per student. We also cover the cost of staff attendance. If a student cannot attend, alternatives in the UK would be found and funded.

- C) Yes, we cover the costs of all essential models required to pass the degree. Should a student wish to wish to use a more expensive material or to add to the presentation, he/she can do so but this would not be required for assessment purposes.
- D) We provide a printing allocation to students to cover the cost of essential print needs – crits, final reviews etc. We also use digital portfolios in some areas.

If you need any more information, please get in touch. Good luck with your survey. This is a very valuable exercise.

*Prof Chris Tweed
Head of School
Welsh School of Architecture
Cardiff University*

3. Coventry University

BSc(Hons) Architecture, School of Art & Design

- A) Coventry University supports student study of Architecture through provision of materials, course text books and printing. We do not specifically cost the degree, however, modules are designed to minimise students' financial contributions.

Year 1 students are allocated a starter pack of drawing equipment in induction week, which, together with books as part of the University's 'Flying Start' initiative. Site boots and PPE equipment for site visits are also provided.

Year 2 and Year 3 students are provided with the core course text or book voucher, a voucher for the Art Shop and option for an Adobe software suite licence

Average cost varies per student according to individual preference. We support any initiative by the RIBA to carry out research in this area and gauge levels of student spend.

Software costs are kept to a minimum through access to the digital portal supplied through the university, Lynda.com

The Final Year Degree Show is sponsored by industry and RIBA West Midlands. Our sponsors this year included Make, Aedas, IDP, Birmingham Association of Architects, Corstorphine and Wright and Sjolander da Cruz. Sponsorship is led by students, with support of the Teaching Team

- B) We run a field trips in each year of study. Locations include Valencia, Berlin, Rotterdam, Paris and Prague. Costs have been subsidised by the School, with a maximum contribution by students of £100 for Year 1 and Year 2. Recent trip contributions by students are as low as £20 for a 5 day study visit. We are optimistic that this subsidy will continue. Students who are unable to pay can opt out, and we provide alternative UK day itineraries
- C) Our modules are designed to include large scale model making and students are encouraged to explore modelmaking of any kind. We aim to use offcuts from the School of Art & Design workshops. Examples of this recycling include foam from Automotive, timber and MDF.
- D) Students are allocated 2500 printer credits each year as part of their fee, equating to £25 per year. We have an in-studio large format plotter for A1/A0 printing, with no cost charge to students. Year 1 and Year 2 modules final submissions are digital, and we issue guidelines for interim reviews which encourage students in efficient and effective presentation methods including A3/A4 format

Information current at July 2018. Costs are reviewed annually

Katherine McNeil RIBA Course Director

4. Plymouth University

Noted below are a set of measures that we implement at Plymouth University that have been implemented (many going back 10 years) to help address the challenges of student funding:

BA Architecture

- Non-compulsory overseas trip for each of three years of BA aligned with some aspect of curriculum, with alternative local site identified.
- Overseas trip is paid for up to approximately £250 (my colleague Andy Humphreys, Head of Architecture, can confirm this exact cost).
- Historically field trips in BA Arch Year 1 to local project sites have been paid for (e.g., a coach provided to transport students).
- Strong recommendation to students to not print large size prints; students generally working / printing at A4 / A3 size.
- Emphasis in BA Arch Year 1 on hand-drawings, which has a carry-on effect into following years.
- Reduction in no. of copies of essay work (generally one copy) with digital copy as official submission.
- Live project built work in technology and BA Arch Year 1 have materials covered by School / external funding.
- Encouragement of study models as a way of working, and de-emphasis on polished/finished models.

Master of Architecture

- Non-compulsory overseas trip in Year 2 aligned with some aspect of curriculum, with alternative local site identified (though not really emphasised as an option). There is no trip in M Arch Year 1.
- Overseas flight paid for up to £450.
- Requirement of work to be produced in initial studies as digital submission (e.g., a film).
- Interim reviews presented digitally, with one black + white A4 copy (used for exhibition to other students).
- Autumn Semester final presentation limited to maximum A0 size field of work, with students free to populate with number / size of drawings as relevant to their own work.
- Admittedly students are given substantial amount of space for final review at end of academic year which does lead to student expense; we are currently looking at this.
- Encouragement of study models as a way of working, and de-emphasis on polished/finished models. I would note however students are increasingly using rapid prototyping etc, which is adding to their cost.

*Bob Brown
Professor of Architecture
School of Art, Design and Architecture
University of Plymouth*

5. Queen's University Belfast

- Firstly, all our applicants are made aware of the costs *before* they apply – details of additional costs involved in the architecture programme are clearly stated on the application page <https://www.qub.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/architecture-bsc-k100/#fees> We monitor and seek feed-back on the accuracy of these costs on an annual basis.
- Regarding trips, there is a yearly trip to a city outside Belfast. While the trip is considered an extremely important part of the studio programme, one which both staff and students – registered through formal and informal feedback – feel is hugely beneficial to a student's architectural education, there is flexibility on attendance. In previous years students, who for various, genuine reasons including financial, could not afford the trip have been offered alternative trips or, if part of the trip's agenda, an alternative commensurate project based in the locality of Northern Ireland. We

will continue to offer these options into the future. There are also university-wide hardship funds to which our students are eligible to apply.

C & D) Our workshop offers materials at cost price to students. Some materials, recycled from previous years etc., are offered for free. In the case of occasional projects where costs may be exceptionally high, such as the 1:1 models for this year's Public Co-Lab, sponsorship has either been sought and achieved through the effort of members of staff, or subsidies offered. Additional money is also made available for the production of the end of term exhibition. Printing is also offered in-house providing highly subsidised rates for students. Last year we invested in two additional new plotters to expand this service and have just invested in a further MFU. The idea of digital portfolios is an on-going discussion.

In all cases we rely on the usual channels of the Year Reps, our Staff-Student Consultation Committee, and our high levels of pastoral care (both local, architectural or university-wide), to provide feedback and allow us to monitor aspects of our programmes which have may financial implications for our students.

WHOLE-COSTS Regarding your present initiative, which I welcome, I do think it would be unfortunate if your cost appraisals and their potential consequences for accreditation visits and university rankings did not take into consideration whole costs analysis. I have attached information prepared by Queen's University, Belfast comparing cost of living prices across the UK. On average, living costs for a Queen's university student are £2000 less pa than than the next cheapest part of the UK. In addition, local Northern Irish students avail of reduced fees paying £4165 instead of £9250 pa.

Just to be clear, neither of these benefits are in any way taken into consideration by us in our expectations of what our students might be reasonably expected to afford regarding the costs of our programmes. As I mentioned in my last e-mail, at architecture at Queen's we have a diversity of students from a range economic backgrounds and we are very committed to maintaining access to all our programmes. I hope this is useful, but do please let me know if you require any further information.

*Professor Gary A. Boyd
Head of Architecture
School of Natural and Built Environment
Queen's University Belfast*

6. Sheffield University

For the BArch (Part I):

1. The course has undergone a major reorganisation of studio review and assessment over the last 12 months to incorporate digital technology. There is now no compulsory large format print submission requirement in Year 3 (final portfolio submission is now digital with A3 hard copy). We are exploring how to incorporate similar systems within years 1&2.
2. There are no compulsory field trips within the UG course (there are 2 UK based field trips- in years 1&3 which are included and there is no charge to students). Year 2 currently runs an optional European field trip which happens outwith term time and an alternative UK based destination is available.

For the MArch (Part II):

1. Field trips - we have field trips but these aren't compulsory. If a studio is based abroad, students are made aware before studio selection that this is the case and have many other options to choose from. Live Projects often involvement travel to locations/fieldwork. This is subsidised through the Live Project Budget.
2. In terms of our approach as a School, we are embedded in our area and region. Whilst we do have international opportunities, we also understand and are committed to working locally and collaborating with people on our doorstep.

3. Digital/hybrid reviews/examinations - This is something as a School that we are progressing with. In MArch we are running hybrid reviews and examinations. Students have the choice as to how they represent their work through a range of media.
4. Printing - We offer a print bursary in MArch to students in both Y5 and Y6. The selection for this is based on hardship. It is a small amount, but is helpful.
5. Large scale group modelling - This is something that studio groups may undertake, but is always through a collective decision and is open to discussion. There doesn't tend to be a situation where a group has to create and pay for an expensive collective model.
6. New courses such as Collaborative Practice which will soon be for 2 years are aimed to address student debt.

Fees and costs: The university has a hardship fund and there are a range of scholarships and bursaries through the School and University to support students.

Our website offers clear information about fees and costs:

1. <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/undergraduate/fees>
2. <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/architecture/march/fees>

*Professor Karim Hadjri
Head of School
Sheffield School of Architecture
University of Sheffield*

7. University of the West of England

Field trips

We support day trips, site visits and induction activities as well as one residential field trip, normally to a European destination during the student's time at UWE. We have a budget that allows us to support the students' trips, the students might need to make a small contribution to ensure they commit to attend the trip and this contribution will be paid back through entries to museums or other activities that take place during the trip.

We always have an alternative brief for students unable to attend the field trips, especially as we have a number of part-time students or students that need to work to support themselves.

Materials support

The student have access to a shop where they have materials at 90% off the street price. We also provide free cardboard for quick models and students can ask tutors for model making materials to be ordered free as part of their assignments.

Printing and other

We support the end of year show printing (this has included in 2017-18 printing for portfolios) and from 2018-19 the students will be able to print A4 and A3 free. We also have the majority of portfolio submissions, as requested by the students, online so the printing stress is taken away. We also support the 1st years with specific project resources. We support around £75 for final year students – this enable them to buy things appropriate to their final project.

Shows in London and other summer schools

We support two London shows, one in new designers and another one in free range. This year we have paid for accommodation and cheap travel for students, as per feedback.

We also have supported 20 students to go to Hong Kong for a week summer school – free

And we are organising another 10 students to go to Sri Lanka for an autumn school – free

We also support 4 Venice Fellowships with the British Council.

We also have an internship scheme where we work with students to get paid internships during the summer – normally between 5 and 10.

Physical facilities

Year on year we improve the physical facilities to encourage an interdisciplinary learning. We have created a new super-studio open 24hrs fitted with the latest IT. Also developed two quieter hubs for other types of working (modelling, essay writing, group work, etc) and the library has set up a quieter studio environment that the students have loved. Every year we improve our workshops. For example we have now 4 workshop spaces on top of the ones we already had, new 3D printers free of charge, CNC machines and this year we are getting two more, etc.

For us the important thing is to work with students to achieve a balance to ensure we help them with their costs while ensuring they attend field trips and don't waste materials / paper. We always try to achieve the best possible outcome to support the students within our resources. The school has been very well supported by the university and the faculty. For us the key is to continue working with the students to try to support them the best we can.

Elena Marco

Head of Department

Architecture and the Built Environment

University of the West of England

8. Westminster University

We agree these are areas of major concern, and we have discussed the issues with our student society. As a Department we are very aware of, and proud of, our polytechnic heritage.

Field-trips

We have secured sponsorship paying for 50-100% of the cost of all of our field-trips for the last 2-years, and have secured this again for 2018-19.

Nonetheless, we are aware of their cost, and it is Departmental policy to offer an alternative assignment for those who cannot go.

In the BA Architecture, there is now only a single field-trip, in Year 2, so that we can put all available resources into that, and reduce costs accordingly.

In the MArch, those Design Studios electing for inter-continental trips are obliged to declare these, and their costs, at the time students vote.

We are aware that these policies and protocols have not always been followed as the Department would wish, and some Design Studios have been opaque, and disorganised, in past years. We shall have made it clear we expect, and will ensure, compliance next year.

I also think we need to assess the environmental impact of our trips more closely, and significantly reduce the carbon footprint of them. Working with our colleagues in Tourism and Events, who we shall be joining with in the new School of Architecture + Cities, offers a good opportunity for working out a responsible approach.

Printing

Print Room – this is run at cost, however, we are steadily making greater use of digital presentations, particularly at interim reviews, to reduce costs. In part this involved challenging student perceptions, born out of the wider environment (practice, other schools), that they must print out / render even 'work in progress' – A situation we see as constricting the freedom of experimental design processes.. We are also introducing page-limits to our portfolios - while this does reduce cost, it also encourages best practice regarding editing etc.

Materials

Large models - we charge materials and use of machines at cost. No compulsory need. Again, we are challenging then need for them, and seeking much greater use of photographing models, and manipulating the results – something our new photography studio is enabling.

Fabrication Laboratory – Many of our materials are free, and others for use with digital technologies are sold at cost.

<http://fabricationlab.london>

Finally, the Department is 100% opposed to hiring assistants - and it won't happen here.

Let me know if there are any other issues you feel we should address.

*Professor Harry Charrington
Head of Department of Architecture
University of Westminster*