

BArch Admission Process: Portfolio and Interview Guidance

All candidates for the BArch Architecture programme will have to successfully pass the three stages of the selection process to receive an offer to study in the course.

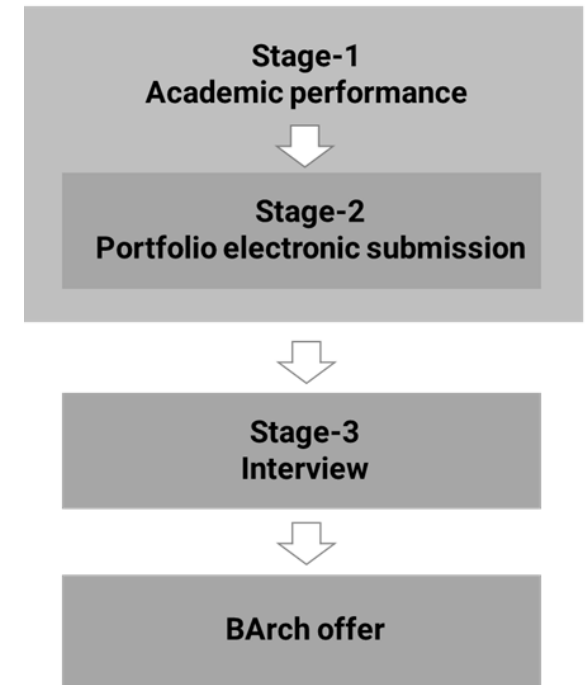
Stage-1: First you must ensure you meet the Qualifications required (e.g. A-Levels, IB). Please check the Typical Offers in our website:

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2020/a-z/architecture-barch/>

Stage-2: Following your UCAS application to our BArch Architecture programme you will be asked to submit a Portfolio. Whilst you prepare your portfolio, our team will be looking at your application in detail.

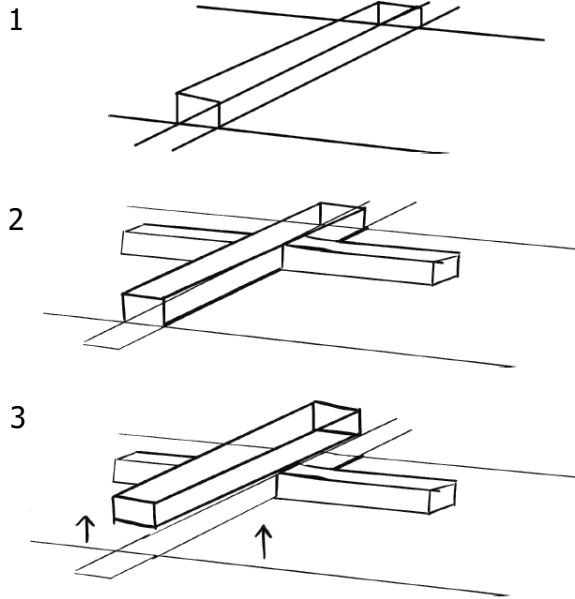
Stage-3: Subject to the quality of the work submitted in your Portfolio you will be then invited to one of our Interview days taking place between December and March. These allow us to assess academic potential beyond that provided as part of the UCAS application and assist our offer decisions. Interviews are also an opportunity for you to visit the School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering, meet staff and students, see our facilities, and get an insight into what it is like to be a student at Loughborough.

UCAS application submission



Stage-2 Portfolio

Submission Guidance



Your portfolio is a significant part of the admissions process - while your grades signify your academic achievements, your portfolio displays your creative ability.

A portfolio is not just about the work inside it, but about the way the work is presented and communicated as an overall narrative to best tell your story as a creative individual. We encourage a diverse range of work including finished and unfinished projects – **we want to understand your design process, that is the making process and your reasoning behind the decisions that you have taken to make a finished product.**

Typical type of portfolio material:

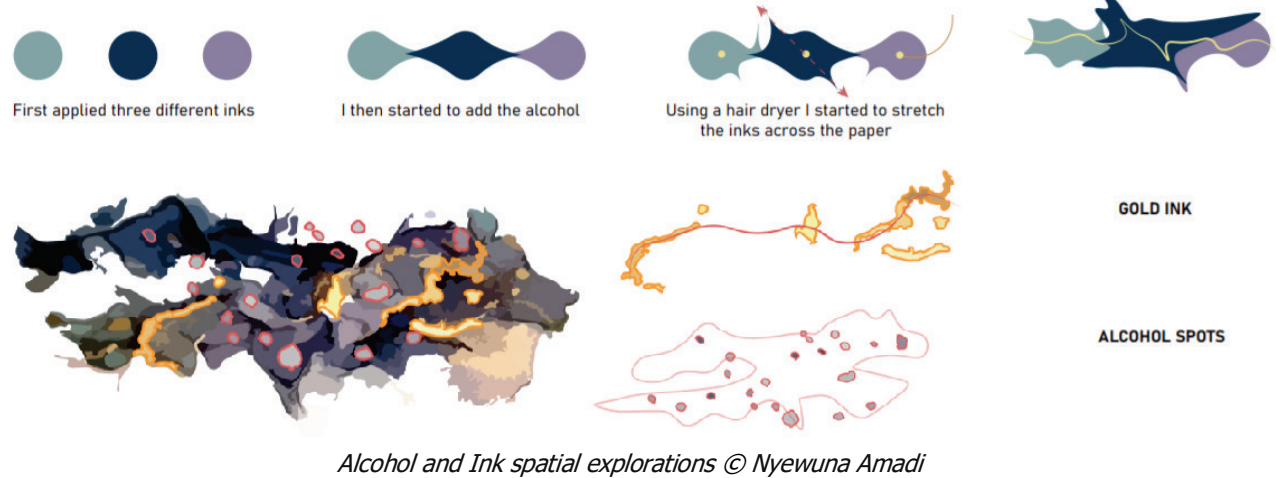
Sketches, free-hand drawings (ink, charcoal, pencil, graphite), orthographic drawings (plans, sections, elevations), life-drawings, collages, sculptures, physical models, time-based work (films, animations, music), graphic design (flyer, logo, brochure), photography, paintings, website design, metalwork, woodwork, textiles, creative writing (poetry, short story), research studies (a precedent study) and whatever you feel conveys your creativity and imagination. You may include pages that express your technical ability e.g. CAD drawings, however we prefer to see work that displays your creative ability in the visual and material arts.



The antinode, home project design concept
© Jodie Pritchard

What to include in your portfolio?

Pieces can be from your GCSE, A-level or equivalent courses and most importantly we would like to see personal work that reflects your interests and self-motivation to be creative. We do not expect to see architecture you designed, but a selection of your best work that demonstrates your creative passions and ambitions. Ask yourself, whether your portfolio itself is a piece of design work you are proud of. Some examples of our student's works are available on Instagram: @lboroarchitecture



A themed portfolio piece

Within your .pdf portfolio, we suggest you to make a new piece of work that investigates and responds to any theme of your choice, such as the example below:

Example theme of '**Connections**': this could refer to physical connections (e.g. a plug and socket or train tracks), social connections (e.g. between parent and child) or any other (e.g. digital, environmental, metaphysical), and it does not have to be taken in an Architectural direction. Your work on such a theme should focus on showing us your ability to reflect on, analyse and creatively visualise your interpretation of the theme.

With **any theme of your choice** we would like to see how the exploration of the idea develops with process work and then presentation of the final piece, all clearly labelled. The exploration of ideas should be shown first using some work generated in preparation for creating the final piece, e.g. initial sketches, initial models, other experimental work carried out prior to the final piece. Then you should present your final piece, in a carefully composed and presented manner.

Note to Design & Technology students: Please do not simply translate your 'brainstorm' sheets into portfolio pages. These pages tend to be difficult to garner insight into your design thinking. You should carefully curate this work to make sure you are communicating your ideas and design process behind the development of the project/product.

Portfolio name:

You should comply to our Portfolio naming convention, which includes your UCAS number and name:

Portfolio_UCASNumber_Initial.Surname

For example:

Portfolio_123-456-789_B.Robinson

Please also **include your name and UCAS number in the 1st page of your portfolio.**

Any other files you submit e.g. mpeg videos should also comply to our naming convention, for example:

PortfolioVideo_UCASNumber_Initial.Surname

Format:

Your portfolio should have a maximum total of 15 pages including the cover page.

The layout should be landscape oriented, as we will see your portfolio in the monitor screen. Please submit only a **PDF** file format, if we are unable to open the file, this can cause delays.

Tips to consider when assembling your portfolio:

1. The organization of your portfolio – Is the transition between pages showing any continuity? this would not mean that you have to organize your projects chronologically, but each project should clearly display the process and the product.
2. The organization of the content on a page – use the layout of the page to clearly communicate your work and the ideas and process behind it.
3. Carefully consider what each piece of work may communicate about your approach to design – skills, representation (literal or abstract).
4. Does your portfolio showcase a good mixture of ideas and skills (e.g. drawing, making)?
5. Have you clearly cited any material that you did not create yourself?

File size:

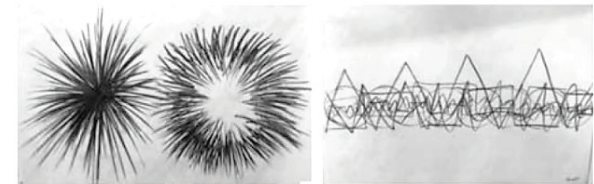
Your portfolio PDF file should be maximum 200mb. You can reduce the size of your file using Adobe software or Online.

If you cannot reduce the size, please let us know for an alternative way of submitting.



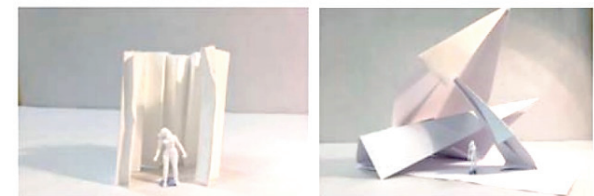
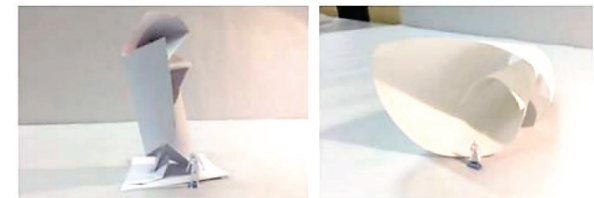
Camouflage

Elegant



Contrast

Creative/Innovative



*Spatial translation of concepts for an observatory
© Charlie Benjamin*

Stage-3 Interview

There is no guarantee what questions you will be asked, but it may be helpful to consider:

- Why do you want to study architecture?
- Why do you want to study at Loughborough?
- What are some of the concepts behind the work in your portfolio?
- What is your favourite piece of contemporary and historic architecture?
- What questions do you have for us?
- Can you reflect on the strengths and ways to improve your work?

Please bring your portfolio with you and any new material you wish to show us if the time permits.

There is no need for you to bring examples of your actual work (e.g. models, sculptures), just the portfolio and/or pictures of them.

The School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering will be hosting some in-person but also some virtual interview days, which will be followed by an opportunity to visit the campus and possibly our facilities at a later date.