

# **Report of the RIBA revisiting board to the University of Hertfordshire**

**Date of visiting board:** 17 September 2021  
**Confirmed by RIBA Board:** 17 November 2021

**1 Details of institution hosting course**  
Architecture and Interior Architecture and Design  
School of Creative Arts  
University of Hertfordshire  
Hatfield AL10 9AB UK

**2 Programme Leader**  
Dr Luigi Pintacuda

**3 Course/s offered for Part 1 validation**  
BA (Hons) Architecture  
BA (Hons) Architecture (Sandwich)  
BA (Hons) Architecture with Year Abroad

**4 Awarding body**  
University of Hertfordshire

**5 The visiting board**  
Nick Hayhurst – Chair  
Paula Craft-Pegg

The Board members provided continuity with the 2020 visiting board.

Stephanie Beasley-Suffolk, RIBA validation manager – in attendance  
Jaysha Fernando – RIBA interim validation manager – observing

**6 Procedures and criteria for the visit**  
The visiting board was carried out under the *RIBA procedures for validation and validation criteria for UK and international courses and examinations in architecture* (published July 2011, and effective from September 2011); this document is available at [www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com).

The procedures were adapted to allow the board to function remotely to comply with government Covid regulations.

The Board was a revisit, convened to determine whether the conditions placed upon the course by the 2020 Visiting Board had been met.

**7 Proposals of the visiting board**  
The Board was satisfied that the conditions placed upon the courses by the 2020 Visiting Board had been met and could be discharged.

At its meeting on 17 November 2021 the RIBA Board confirmed unconditional continued validation of the:

BA (Hons) Architecture, Part 1  
BA (Hons) Architecture (Sandwich), Part 1  
BA (Hons) Architecture with Year Abroad, Part 1

The next full visiting board will take place in 2025.

**8 Standard requirements for continued recognition**

Continued RIBA recognition of all courses and qualifications is dependent upon:

- i external examiners being appointed for the course
- ii any significant changes to the courses and qualifications being submitted to the RIBA
- iii any change of award title, and the effective date of the change, being notified to the RIBA so that its recognition may formally be transferred to the new title
- iv submission to the RIBA of the names of students passing the courses and qualifications listed
- v In the UK, standard requirements of validation include the completion by the of the annual statistical return issued by the RIBA Education Department

**9 Conditions**

There are no conditions.

**10 Action points**

The visiting board proposes the following action points. The RIBA expects the university to report on how it will address these action points. The university is referred to the RIBA's criteria and procedures for validation for details of mid-term monitoring processes. Failure by the university to satisfactorily resolve action points may result in a course being conditioned by a future visiting board.

10.1 The board was encouraged by the level of investigation and testing of structures, materials and how this related to the expression of architectural proposals evidenced in the Level 5 portfolios. The school must ensure that students demonstrate a similar, or enhanced, level of architectural enquiry in Level 6 portfolios so as to fulfil the requirement of GC1.2 and GC8.2 (the integration of technology).

10.2 The board was encouraged to see students engaging in calculations, studies related to energy and thermal values and embracing the intent of RIBA 'Themes and Values' Criteria. The school must ensure that the principles demonstrably understood by students in the ADS module are integrated into the students' design studio projects.

10.3 The integration, exploration and student reflection on the processes and application of GC4.3, GC10.3, GC11.2 and GC11.3 (the professional practice, management, and law subject areas), should be developed further to match the complexity of the design studio projects.

**11 Advice**

The visiting board offers the following advice to the School on desirable, but not essential improvements, which, it is felt, would assist course development and raise standards.

- 11.1 The board noted that the School would benefit from further resources and higher levels of staffing so as to ensure that all students meet the criteria at the requisite level: this is particularly the case for the non-design modules. The panel was encouraged to learn that the School is in the process of appointing a further 2.6FTE of staff, however, the board advises that this is unlikely to be sufficient and would encourage the school to seek further appointments and/or visiting lecturer support.
- 11.2 The panel advises the School to expand the approach to learning and teaching in professional practice, management, and law subject areas, and continue to strengthen the integration of this subject area across other modules. In particular, the introduction of more structured seminars and/or tutorials, formative feedback and a structured approach to students' preparation for practice along with ongoing PSA mentorship throughout students' year(s) out.

**12 Delivery of graduate attributes**

It should be noted that where the visiting board considered graduate attributes to have been met, no commentary is offered. Where concerns were noted (or an attribute clearly not met), commentary is supplied. Finally, where academic outcomes suggested a graduate attribute was particularly positively demonstrated, commentary is supplied.

The Board was content that all graduate attributes were being met by graduates of the BA (Hons) Architecture, Part 1. Please see Action Point 10.2 regarding the new RIBA Themes and Values.

**13 Review of work against criteria**

It should be noted that where the visiting board considered a criterion to have been met, no commentary is offered. Where concerns were noted (or a criterion clearly not met), commentary is supplied. Finally, where academic outcomes suggested a criterion was particularly positively demonstrated, commentary is supplied.

Please see action points 10.1 and 10.3. Please see advice point 11.2.

**14 Documentation provided**

The Department provided all documentation as required by the Procedures for Validation.

**15 Notes of meetings**

On request, the RIBA will issue a copy of the minutes taken from the following meetings: **These notes will not form part of the published report but will be made available on request. The full set of notes will be issued to the mid-term panel and the next full visiting board.**

- Meeting with head of architecture and course staff
- Meeting with students
- Meeting with external examiner