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Royal Institute of British Architects

Report of the RIBA Full Visiting Board to London South Bank University

Date of Visiting Board: 08-09 February 2024
Confirmed by RIBA Education Committee: 10 September 2024

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1   **Details of institution hosting courses**
    London South Bank University
    School of the Built Environment & Architecture
    Keyworth Centre
    Keyworth Street
    London SE1 6NG

2   **Courses offered for validation**
    Part 1 BA (Hons) in Architecture
    BA (Hons) Architectural Assistant Apprenticeship (Level 6)

    Part 2 MArch Architecture
    MArch Architect Apprenticeship (Level 7)

    Part 3 Examination in Professional Practice
    Part 2 and 3 Architect Apprenticeship (Level 7) MArch/Postgraduate Diploma
    in Professional Practice

3   **Head of School & Course Leads**
    Professor Igea Troiani   Head of Division of Architecture
    Carlene Prince   BA (Hons) FT/PT
    Angela Vanezi   MArch FT/PT
    Monika Jocuite   Level 6 Architectural Assistant Apprenticeship
    Kathy Gal   Level 7 MArch/PGDiploma; RIBA Professional
                               Practice Part 3

4   **Awarding body**
    London South Bank University

5   **The Visiting Board**
    Albena Atanassova   Practitioner/Chair
    Virginia Rammou   Academic/Vice Chair
    Anthony Petrilli   Practitioner
    Alice Gordon   Practitioner
    Sophie Bailey   RIBA Head of Validation

    Tracy Flanagan   RIBA Validation Manager – Observer

6   **Procedures and Themes and Values for Architectural Education**
    The Visiting Board was carried out under the RIBA Procedures for Validation
    and Themes and Values for UK and international courses in architecture
    (published September 2021, and effective from September 2022); this
    document is available at www.architecture.com.

7   **Proposals of the Visiting Board**
    On 10 September 2024, the RIBA confirmed continued validation/s of the
    following courses:

    Part 1 BA (Hons) in Architecture
    BA (Hons) Architectural Assistant Apprenticeship (Level 6)

    Part 2 MArch Architecture
    MArch Architect Apprenticeship (Level 7)

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Part 3 Examination in Professional Practice
Part 2 and 3 Architect Apprenticeship (Level 7) MArch/Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice

The next visit to the London South Bank University will take place in 2029.

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   Academic position statement (written by the School)

Architecture at London South Bank University offers students from all types of social and economic background the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills to start their own architectural practice. Our student demographic is diverse. We support students from culturally diverse backgrounds, who work and study, and/or have care responsibilities, understanding the challenges of architecture education today. We deliver high quality architecture education focused on communities, social justice, equality and environmental responsibility. We employ innovative teaching and research methods to produce graduates able to offer innovation to industry and the user public.

We offer 7 courses: 3 each in Part 1 & Part 2 (for FT, PT and Apprenticeship study) and a RIBA Professional Practice Part 3 course. While the number of UK Architecture schools offer a Part 2 Apprenticeship, we are distinct as one of two UK universities who offer a Part 1 Architectural Assistant Apprenticeship.

All our architecture courses are socially responsible, inclusive, diverse and positioned for our graduates to work long-term in the profession of architecture, understanding everyday life is the office. Our RIBA and ARB accredited courses include the required Design, Technology, Representation (Communications), History and Theory and Professional Practice modules which are delivered by a vibrant, diverse group of educators with academic and industry expertise.

Architecture at LSBU has its roots in the London Council School of Building (1904) and the Brixton School of Building (1940). We have delivered architectural education for over 100 years. The principles and purposes upon which our Architecture courses are based align with those of the university. These are to transform the lives of our students, communities, businesses, and society through applied education delivered through research and

knowledge exchange with employers. We are committed to education that enables diversity and social mobility.

We are supported within the university by an Apprenticeship team, IT, Estates, Library, Student services (Wellbeing) and Technical support teams. The architecture staff are supported to develop their individual and collective research for and with industry. We strongly support Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and offer mentorship for all staff at all stages of their career in balancing their work and home life for greater wellbeing.

Architecture students are supported in multiple ways by an empathic team including the Head of School, Course Leaders, Module Leaders and personal tutors. We have enhanced our provision of hybrid (in person and online) teaching and learning using VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) Course and module webpages. Salesforce and the My LSBU App support student learning and wellbeing.

Studio culture has been nurtured since 2022 so that every design studio has their own dedicated studio space that is open weekdays until 9pm, with a desk space allocated for every FT, PT and Apprenticeship student. Each studio space has a digital monitor, portable wall panels for exhibition and display of work and workshop facilities are provided in the Keyworth Centre and the Borough Road Building. Seminars and lectures are delivered throughout the campus, including the newly refurbished LSBU HUB, where 24-hour printing is available. Students receive workshop inductions and are increasingly enhancing their model making and fabrication skills. They are able to engage in local and international field trips. Course Boards are run each semester and the Head of School and Apprenticeship Course Leaders run monthly meetings to support students with any challenges they face in their on-the-job learning. APTEM, apprenticeship-specific software is used by the university to support apprentices and 4 monthly reviews take place with our Skills Reviewers. Every student has a dedicated personal tutor to support them.

Architecture at LSBU involves working with support teams to develop our teaching and research excellence to showcase our expertise.   We will continue to organise and provide the academic, social and industry centred resources to support our students individual and collective choices around research and design for formation of their professional identity. We nurture our students for success and will continue to do so.

10   Commendations

10.1   The Board would like to commend the School on providing alternative pathways and widening access opportunities to the profession to a diverse cohort of students.

10.2   The Board would like to commend the staff on their commitment to developing the architecture provision at LSBU and ensuring a positive student experience.

11   Conditions
There are no conditions.

12   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.

12.1   The Board recognises the steps the School has taken to better embed technology within design studios at part one and part two levels, however the School should continue its efforts to better align and integrate taught modules.

12.2   The Board recognises the benefit of joint teaching for some students. Based on Level 6 Apprentice feedback, the School should consider module sequencing, timetabling, and general administration of the various pathways.

12.3   The Board would like to see more evidence of intellectual progression in the student portfolios. This includes engagement with the wider project context, tectonics, materiality and their relevance and impact on design decisions at various scales.

13   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.

13.1   As programs continue to evolve and see growth in future student numbers, the University must ensure appropriate support structures and teaching numbers are in place particularly for the Part 3 / L7 EPA.

13.2   The School should consider opportunities for interaction across the validated programs to allow for further peer to peer learning opportunities between parts one and two.

13.3   The Board encourages the school to take advantage of links to the profession and consider student exposure to a wider range of professionals within the design team.

13.4   The School should review the academic position statement to better align the School's ambition, ethos, and identity more accurately in relationship to the validated programmes.

14   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.

Graduate Attributes for Part 1
The Board confirmed that all of the Part 1 graduate attributes were met by graduates of the Part 1 BA (Hons) in Architecture and BA (Hons) Architectural Assistant Apprenticeship (Level 6).

Graduate Attributes for Part 2
The Board confirmed that all of the Part 2 graduate attributes were met by graduates of the Part 2 MArch Architecture and MArch Architect Apprenticeship (Level 7).

15   **Review of work against Themes and Values**
It should be noted that where the Visiting Board considered the Themes and Values to have been met, no commentary is offered. Where concerns were noted (or a T&V were clearly not met), commentary is supplied. Finally, where academic outcomes suggested a T&V was particularly positively demonstrated, commentary is supplied.

Themes and Values for Part 1
The Board confirmed that all of the Themes and Values were met by graduates of the Part 1 BA (Hons) in Architecture and BA (Hons) Architectural Assistant Apprenticeship (Level 6).

Themes and Values for Part 2
The Board confirmed that all of the Themes and Values were met by graduates of the Part 2 MArch Architecture and MArch Architect Apprenticeship (Level 7).

Themes and Values for Part 3
The Board confirmed that all of the Themes and Values were met by graduates of the Part 3 Examination in Professional Practice and Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice.

16   **Other information**
16.1   **Student numbers (from the School)**
22/23, BA (Hons) Architecture (FT): 268
22/23, BA (Hons) Architecture (PT): 12
22/23, BA (Hons) Architecture (Architectural Assistant Apprenticeship): 81
22/23, MArch Architecture (FT): 56
22/23, MArch Architecture (PT): 20
22/23, MArch Architecture (Architect Apprenticeship): 57
22/23 PG Dip Part 3: 9
22/23 RIBA Professional Practice Part 3: 5

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

17   **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.

- Budget holder and course leaders

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- Students
- Head of Institution
- External examiners
- Staff