

Report of the RIBA Revisiting Board to the Manchester School of Architecture

Postgraduate Certificate in Architecture and Contemporary Practice

Date of visiting board: 16 July 2024
Confirmed by RIBA: 26 October 2024

1 Details of institution hosting courses

Manchester School of Architecture
Manchester Technology Centre
Oxford Rd
Manchester
M1 7ED

2 Head of School

Professor Kevin Singh

3 Courses offered for candidate course status

Postgraduate Certificate in Architecture and Contemporary Practice

4 Programme Director

Rachel Newton

5 Awarding body

Manchester Metropolitan University

6 The initial visiting board

Paul King	Chair / Academic
Anthony Petrilli	Practitioner
Sophie Bailey	RIBA Head of Validation

7 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.

The timetable was adapted and agreed between RIBA and the MSA ahead of the revisit.

8 Recommendations of the visiting board

The revisiting board was invited by The Manchester School of Architecture to consider its Postgraduate Certificate in Architecture and Contemporary Practice for full validation without conditions for Part 3.

On 26 October 2024 the RIBA confirmed full validation without conditions be granted to:

Postgraduate Certificate in Architecture and Contemporary Practice (Part 3)

The next full Visiting Board will take place in 2026.

9 Standard requirements for validation

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 institution of the annual statistical return issued by the RIBA Education Department

10 Commendations

The Board made the following commendations:

- 10.1 The Board commends the school on the proactive approach to addressing the vision, future growth, and the prompt holistic review of the previous RIBA Visiting Board's comments.
- 10.2 The Board commends the school on the structure of the programme and its flexibility to accommodate any potential professional or personal change in circumstance.

11 Conditions

There are no conditions

Please see below for the revisiting Board's response to 2023's condition:

- 11.1 As per the RIBA Procedures for Validation, for new courses approaching initial validation only, or (exceptionally) where student numbers in a school are smaller than usual, the RIBA regards a portfolio sample of 10 students to be the minimum number required to make a visiting board viable and therefore to award full validation.

2024 Board commentary:

The revisiting board confirms that the minimum number of portfolios required to make a visiting board viable and therefore to award full validation, has been met and exceeded.

12 Additional comments:

Following the discussion with Examiners, the school may wish to consider extending or revising the time provided for review. It was commented that additional time would be appreciated to evaluate candidate work and documentation, especially if the programme is due to grow. An extra week or weekend would be appropriate to assist with planning and preparedness.

13 Other information

13.1 Student numbers (from the School)

43 combined 2023-24

13.2 Documentation provided

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

Notes of meetings

On request, the RIBA will issue a copy of the minutes taken from the following meetings.

Budget holder and course leaders; Candidates; External examiners