



Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Architects

Becoming an **Architect**

Do you have an interest in building, making, art and design? Are you interested in investigating and shaping the built environment?

An education in architecture can provide you with versatile skills, and open your opportunities to many diverse career paths.

Pursuing a career in architecture in Canada is an exciting and rewarding endeavour. No matter your background, you can carve out a unique place for yourself and bring important new visions and perspective to the development of the spaces we occupy.

Architecture is the art of building sciences, running a business, communicating visually, and creating beautiful, functional, and safe spaces for all.

Resources

If you'd like further information on how to pursue a career in architecture, check out these additional sources!

Royal Architecture Institute of Canada

<https://raic.org/raic/becoming-architect>

CACB Accredited Architecture Schools in Canada

<https://cacb.ca/accredited-programs/>

Becoming Architects Canada

<https://www.bac-dac.ca/becoming-an-architect>

Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Architects

<https://newfoundlandarchitects.com>

Three Steps to a Career in Architecture: Education, Experience, and Examination

Education - Canadian architecture programs are currently offered at both the bachelor level (B.Arch.) and the master’s level (M.Arch.); however, the professional degree is granted only at the master’s level. The primary route for most Canadian architects is to have completed a degree in architecture from a university program accredited by the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB). An alternative way to become an architect is through the “apprenticeship” Syllabus Program offered by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC).

Depending on your educational background, professional degree programs in architecture may last from three to seven years and provide training which includes a versatile critical analysis and integration of knowledge.

Experience - Once you’ve completed your schooling, you will have to gain experience working in the field through the Internship in Architecture program (IAP). On average, individuals complete the program in approximately 3 years.

Examination - Passing the Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC) is one of the final steps in becoming a licensed Architect. The exams test professional and practical knowledge gained during the IAP process,

Where to Start?

A Bachelors Degree - If you already know you have an interest in architecture and design, a Bachelors of Architecture or a Bachelors of Environmental Design (or an equivalent degree) is an excellent place to start! Note that some architectural bachelors degrees require prerequisite credits in Math, Sciences, English, etc. before acceptance (the BEDS program at Dalhousie, for instance).

Even if you start your university education in another field, you can still pursue a Master of Architecture degree! While some of the accredited architecture graduate programs in Canada require students to have a background in architecture or environmental design in order to be accepted to the professional graduate program, other graduate programs accept a diverse array of background and simply require any bachelors degree and a portfolio that exemplifies your potential in the field.

What You’ll Need

Beyond meeting university requirements for admission, there are a few things you’ll need when starting your architectural education.

Portfolio - A portfolio is a collection of your work, primarily comprised of visual media such as drawings, woodworking, photographs, artwork, etc., but can also include poetry, documentation of performances - whatever you feel paints a picture of you and your creativity! It is an opportunity to show the viewer what you can do. While historically portfolios have been physical books or folders, typically most schools today require a digital PDF document for their portfolio submission. Each school will have specific guidelines for portfolio submissions, be sure to read their requirements carefully!

Each item included in the portfolio should be labeled with the title of the work, the medium of the work (ex. graphite on paper, digital photograph, etc.), the year the work was created, and a short blurb describing the work.

Your two best images should be your first and last items in the portfolio - this makes a good first impression and leaves them with your strongest foot forward!

Computing Power - All architecture programs will require you to have a powerful computer that is capable of running 3D modeling software, CAD software, as well as editing programs such as the Abobe Creative Suite. 16GB of RAM as a minimum is recommended - all schools will list their suggested requirements for computing power in your laptop.

Versatility - Architecture and environmental design are wide-reaching areas of study that will take you on an educational journey spanning architectural history, urbanism, visual communications, landscape design, building science, business relations, hand drawing, 3D modeling, craftwork, and more. Be ready to spread your wings and try a little bit of everything!

Accredited Architecture Schools in Canada	Undergrad Program	Graduate Program	
University of British Columbia School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture Vancouver, British Columbia	Bachelor of Design in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urbanism (BDes)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	
University of Calgary School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Calgary, Alberta	Minor in Architectural Studies (ARST)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	
University of Manitoba Faculty of Architecture Winnipeg, Manitoba	Bachelor of Environmental Design (BEnvD)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	
University of Waterloo School of Architecture in Cambridge Cambridge, Ontario	Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	
University of Toronto John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, & Design Toronto, Ontario	Bachelor of Arts, Architectural Studies (several specialist streams, see program for details)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	
Ryerson University Department of Architectural Science Toronto, Ontario	Bachelor of Architectural Science (BArchSc)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	
Carleton University Azrieli School of Architecture Ottawa, Ontario	Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	
Université de Montréal École d’architecture Montréal, Québec	Bachelor of Science in Architecture (B.Sc.Arch.)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	
McGill University School of Architecture Montréal, Québec	Bachelor of Science in Architecture (B.Sc.Arch.)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	
Université Laval École d’architecture, Faculte d’aménagement, architecture et arts visuels Québec, Québec	Bachelor of Science in Architecture (B.Sc.Arch.)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	
Dalhousie University Faculty of Architecture Halifax, Nova Scotia	Bachelor of Environmental Design Studies (BEDS)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	
Laurentian University McEwen School of Architecture Sudbury, Ontario	Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS)	Master of Architecture (M.Arch)	