

BSc Architecture (RIBA and ARB Part 1)

7th overall in the 2018 Guardian League Table

8th overall in the 2019 Complete University Guide

A member of the UK Russell Group of Universities

How to prepare an art portfolio?

Advice and guidance to help applicants prepare their submission

We normally look for a basic competence in Art as represented by a B, or above, at GCSE or A-level (or equivalent). If you do not satisfy this requirement, we may ask you to submit a sample portfolio of **10-12 pieces** of your best work. We may also invite you to discuss your portfolio with us. Below are some tips to help you in that process.

We prefer work to be submitted physically in a folder not larger than A1. (Digital portfolios are welcome for international applicants.) The work should comprise selected pieces that show us your current range of artistic skills in a variety of media.

We accept and encourage work that is not necessarily all finished to a final high quality but does illustrate an interest and willingness to experiment and gain confidence.

Your best work that appears in your portfolio could be:

- Freehand pencil, charcoal or pen sketches of objects or places, drawn from direct observation, but not copied from photographs,
- Freehand colour drawings or sketches using watercolour, pastels or acrylics, drawn from direct observation or imagination, but not copied from photographs,
- Painting in various media,
- (High quality photographs of) ceramics and sculptures,
- (High quality photographs of) models, including joinery work,
- Creative photography, and
- Product design, printmaking, and textiles, including costume or fashion design.

If you are selecting from previous work or preparing new pieces, the following range of subjects are particularly useful:

- Figure or still life studies,
- Sketches of buildings and spaces in your own locality, and
- Landscape studies.

Please note that engineering or technical drawings, tracings, CAD exercises, and Design and Technology reports will not fulfil the requirements for the art portfolio.

To create a strong portfolio, we suggest:

- Do not overcomplicate your portfolio; let the work speak for itself without "decoration" through overuse of text/titles, distracting graphic design, etc.
- Your portfolio should solely contain your best work, so be careful what you choose.
- Make sure that any reproductions -photographs of models or scans of large-scale paintings, for example- are extremely good quality. You will do yourself a disservice if the quality of reproduction of good work is poor.

We are interested in your artistic process as well as final products, so when possible we suggest including related sketches and preparatory work of your pieces. However, be selective in this as we do not need to see every single aspect of the development of the pieces.

The portfolio interview will involve the applicant discussing the work submitted in the portfolio. We look forward to meeting you!

Good luck!