

Portfolio guidelines for applicants wanting to do Architecture at the University of Greenwich.

Architecture could be considered as a material practice that works in and among the world of things. To be clear, Architecture evolves in and from the maelstrom of images and ideas. The architect Michael Speaks has coined the phrase 'design intelligence' which is the thoughtful application of skills and ideas to design works. As potential architects you will need to communicate your ideas to others and this generally involves the translation of drawings into buildings or some other manifestation. Architecture is a construct that exists within many different contexts therefore an understanding of culture and its influence is important.

At the University of Greenwich a portfolio is required for all applicants invited for interview. The interview should be seen as the opportunity to add to the portfolio with a conversation. In the interview a broad range of skills, care and talent should be evident within the portfolio.

What is a portfolio?

**"What is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations?"
- Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, Ch 1**

A portfolio is a body of work that conveys your sensibilities in terms of creativity, imagination, skills, ideas and intelligence in some form of order. It could be argued that it is thought process made visible. The portfolio may be communicated through sketches, drawings, photography, animation, craft, 3D work and text. Generally a portfolio would include the evolution of a piece of work and its resolution of sorts, it may be unfinished, amongst others. There is no one kind of portfolio and it comes in no fixed size but what is most important is that it is the portal to show your energy, enthusiasm, interests and considered thoughts.

Some things you may consider including in your portfolio.

Drawings without the aid of a machine.

It is important that you show sketches and other drawings. The hand and eye are quick intelligent editing systems. David Pye has written about the value of the 'workmanship of risk' by which he means the added value and interest that a person adds interpretation to a work even if it contains error.

Do I need to know how to use CAD?

We do not expect students coming into first year to have this skill but it is useful. We are not looking for architectural drawings or that of buildings.

Photography.

The mechanical eye is an important tool in architecture. It is not merely used for recording but as a means of seeing.

Making.

Consider including 3D made things such as models, metalwork, woodwork, books/zines or even clothing.

Design Technology and/or 3D design.

It is important that your portfolio does not merely consist of this kind of work. Your aptitude for freehand and observational drawings is an important component to doing Architecture.

FAQ.

I have not done Art at school.

There are many other ways of gaining knowledge in this area through other institutions such as museums, art galleries, workshops, the Internet etc. Self motivation is essential and you will be only giving yourself a disadvantage and potentially have difficulty in producing a portfolio for interview.

Overseas applicants.

Any applicant that lives overseas and is unable to attend the interview will need a digital portfolio. This portfolio needs to be downloadable using Dropbox or WeTransfer. The work needs to be in a consecutive order in PDF format each page clearly numbered. This digital portfolio will be referred to during the Skype interview and the applicant will need to take the interviewer through the work. In a digital portfolio consider showing the overall and details as intricate work is often lost when digitised. As this is a Skype video interview please ensure that you are available and have the adequate internet bandwidth.