

Additional 'core' costs for students studying the Architecture Tripos

The Department acknowledges that the study of architecture incurs additional costs for students, related primarily to printing, materials and travel. We make an effort to limit such costs where appropriate and possible and we will be making substantial changes in the next few years to try to reduce or eliminate these costs. We have identified the following additional required costs for students reading for the Architecture Tripos related to studio work for all three years.

Printing:

The cost of printing computer generated drawings in the department is 'at -cost' and thus well below commercial rates and cheaper than printing at neighbouring departments. Printed drawings are the basic means by which students display their ideas for studio teaching, studio reviews and for examination. Students are encouraged to only print out final work on full size plotters, but interim prints can be collated from smaller sheets on cheaper paper. We are looking at ways that printing can be covered within studio budgets and we will be moving to digital portfolios so it is anticipated that printing costs deferred to students will be considerably reduced over the coming years.

Materials:

Studio work requires students to produce, in addition to prints of computer-generated images, a range of architectural models and constructions, both for studio supervisions and for the portfolio for the end of year exams. Student expenditure on studio materials can vary widely (though lavish expenditure is not correlated with Tripos success). Students are expected to recycle existing materials and to source materials from waste or off-cuts wherever possible. We will be exploring how studios can help supply materials and materials can be more actively recycled with a view to reducing these costs considerably over the coming years

Travel:

The cost of studio travel includes visits to sites outside Cambridge (essential because Cambridge provides too limited a range of sites to accommodate the range of projects necessary for the training of an architect) and occasionally abroad (these are limited and/or cost-neutral whenever possible). The Department provides support only for essential site visits. Coaches are used, whenever convenient, for travel to visit the case study buildings (in 3rd year) that are a central component of the technical teaching, and visits in connection with other lecture courses are covered by the Department. The Department also covers the costs of the mandatory Study Trip in 1st year. Students are expected to cover their own subsistence costs (that is the costs of meals- these are essentially costs you would have to cover whether on the trip or not but obviously you do not have the option of cooking at home- how much you spend depends on what you choose to eat and where you are, but they are generally not high).

Additional costs for studio-work for all three years

Historically the above additional and necessary 'core' costs have amounted to £500 per annum per student. However, this will vary according to each student's needs and management of his/her use of materials. Although we will working to bring these costs down to zero eventually, such a change will take a number of years. We are uncertain how long it will take to achieve. It will depend very much on changing working methods and cooperation of all involved.

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