

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  
**INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE**  
POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN ARCHITECTURE  
ARB/RIBA PART 3

**Frequently Asked Questions for Potential Applicants**

**1) What is a confirmed equivalence from the ARB?**

If you hold qualifications from institutions, which have not been prescribed by the ARB, you will need to contact the ARB and request a letter confirming that your qualification(s) satisfy Part 1 and/or Part 2 requirements. Sometime the ARB has equivalency agreements in place so that this is reasonable straightforward. In other cases, candidates may be required to take part in the prescribed examination process in order to demonstrate equivalence, this is considerably more complicated and uncertain. In any event, applicants for Part 3 at University of Cambridge need to apply WITH their equivalence documents.

**2) Can I apply if I have completed Part 1 but not Part 2?**

No. To be eligible for the Part 3 examinations at the University of Cambridge candidates must have RIBA/ARB Parts 1 and 2 (or confirmed equivalence from the ARB).

**3) Can I apply if I haven't completed my PEDR?**

Candidates are not required to submit their PEDR at application. They are asked to indicate on the application form the status of their record, applicants who are well progressed will be at an advantage. Applicants are **STONGLY ADVISED TO** get their professional experience and development record up to date **BEFORE** the course starts. This is the best preparation for any Part 3 course.

As indicated on the Department of Architecture Part 3 webpages, applicants are advised to consult the following links for further information on practical training requirements and PEDR before applying:

[ARB: Practical training requirements](#)

[RIBA: Professional Experience and Development Record.](#)

**4) What are the language requirements?**

For applicants for whom English is not their first language, the University require evidence of candidates having met the required level. On the University of Cambridge Part 3 webpages there is a link to take you to the appropriate pages detailing the current University requirements (How to Apply Section), [click here](#).

**5) Is there any advice available for international students?**

The Institute of Continuing Education, who assist with the administration of this course, provides general information for international students at <https://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/info-for-applicants/topic/international-students>

**6) What are the course dates and fees?**

This information can be found on the Department of Architecture, Part 3 webpages (How to apply Section) [website](#).

**7) Is there an Open Day?**

No, we don't hold Open Days for the Part 3 course.

**8) Is it possible to have a college affiliation whilst enrolled on Part 3?**

No, Part 3 students are non-matriculated students, not affiliated to a college.

**9) Can this course be taken as an audit or lecture only course?**

This is possible, though it would be an informal arrangement with the Department of Architecture and would depend upon capacity within the cohort. Students attending in this way would not sit the assessments and not receive a Postgraduate Certificate (Part 3) as a result.

**10) Where are the lectures held?**

All the teaching takes place in the [Department of Architecture](#), which is easily accessible by foot from the train station. The Department of Architecture is located at 1-5 Scroope Terrace, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1PX.

**11) Would I have to source accommodation on my own?**

There is no obligation to stay in Cambridge but many of the students do, as it makes for a nice experience. The cost of this is covered by the individual student. As the course takes place out of term time it is usually possible to get College rooms quite cost effectively, [click here](#).

**12) What is the pass rate of the course from previous years?**

The pass rate is generally very good. Generally, about 85% (between 82-95%) of students that present in any given year will pass.

Those who are not successful in the first time are able to re-sit assessments in the following year, for which the success rate is also very high (100% in 2020).

**13) What is the course intake and rejection figures like from the previous?**

These figures vary from year to year. The highest number of applications we have recently had meant that we could only accept 50%. More typically we might have 25-28 places to offer and get around 40 applications. As the places are allocated on a rolling admissions basis applicants applying EARLY are at an advantage.

**14) Is there a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants?**

We do make a reserve list, once all the available places have been allocated. Occasionally a student drops out and then we are able to offer those on the reserve list an opportunity to join the cohort. We often encourage unsuccessful applicants to consider re-applying the following year.

**15) Do I need to include a personal statement in my application?**

There is no need for you to include a personal statement as a supporting document in your application, the online application form itself has a section for a personal statement.

**16) Paying the course fee: Can it be paid in instalments?**

No, fees need to be paid in full by the published deadline.

In EXTREME circumstances candidates can communicate difficulties to the Course Director for consideration.

**17) Are there any sources of funding for the Part 3 course?**

There are no bursaries for the Part 3 course. Increasingly, we find that employers are willing to assist or support candidates through the Part 3 and we try to work closely with them.

**18) In the 'course specific questions' section, under the subheading "Architecture - Other Qualifications" on the application form. It asks for evidence of ARB equivalence. Do I need to fill this section in if I have already uploaded transcripts from UK based Part 1 and Part 2 university courses?**

No, it is asking for "evidence of ARB equivalence" IF RELEVANT.

If you have an ARB prescribed Part 1 and Part 2 you don't need to type anything in that section.

**19) How do I apply?**

For information regarding entry requirements and how to apply, please visit the following websites:

[Department of Architecture](#) and follow the link in the [HOW TO APPLY](#) section. Please note that only fully completed applications will be considered. Admissions are managed by the Institute of Continuing Education (ICE), so if you have any questions about an on-going application please contact them directly on [pgadmissions@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pgadmissions@ice.cam.ac.uk).