Academy of Fine Arts Vienna - Institute for Art and Architecture
Curriculum Commission for Architecture

CURRICULUM OF THE BACHELOR′S PROGRAM IN ARCHITECTURE AT THE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS VIENNA
(BArch)

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§1 Legal foundation and scope of application

The curriculum is based on the University Act 2002, Federal Law Gazette 1 no. 120/2002 (Universitätsgesetz, UG 2002). This document defines the structure and contents of the Bachelor's Program in Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. The objectives of this engineering-focused Program of Architecture are based on the qualifications outlined in Art. 2.

§2 Qualifications

Architecture
Architectural education at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna has always focused on teaching reflective, intellectual, creative and experimental positions. The program is designed for students with excellent capabilities which have been proven in entry exams.

Architecture is defined as a combination of reflection and production. Both are equivalent tools, materials and topics of architecture.

Architecture is considered as a multifaceted profession which may manifest itself in a variety of ways and at various scales. It is a cultural, social and political profession capable of co-determining and changing society.

Program
The program teaches an experimental, critical and creative approach to construction and technical knowledge, the ecological and sustainable use of ideas and materials, digital and analogue forms of production, an understanding of buildings, landscapes and cities, and their discussion on the basis of history, theories and criticism. In addition, students of architecture are encouraged to benefit from the multi-disciplinary environment (the fine arts, cultural studies etc.) at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

The program applies the principle of research-guided teaching and thus contributes to current research questions. These are defined and developed within five platforms, which also represent the essential notion of architecture as is taught at the Academy. Accordingly, students acquire skills via five specialized platforms which build up on one another.

Platforms
- ANALOGUE PRODUCTION, DIGITAL PRODUCTION
- CONSTRUCTION, MATERIAL, TECHNOLOGY
- ECOLOGIES, SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE
- HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM
- GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES

Teaching
The platforms provide a structure for the contents of the curriculum as well as for the faculty of the institute. They are forums for the development and transfer of knowledge; they create links between scientific and artistic investigations. Platforms function separately and independently of one another; they also overlap and comment on one another.
The core of architectural studies is the work on design projects. Design work requires and promotes reflection as well as the superposition and synthesis of the fields of knowledge brought together from the individual platforms.

The platforms initially provide students with fundamental skills, know-how and ideas. Later on, they encourage and also require students to articulate and apply these ideas, as well as develop alternative ones. Ultimately, projects and design work are the means through which individual positions on architecture are developed. At the core of the program stands the exchange with other disciplines on issues from related fields. Such exchange takes place on two levels:

a) Within institute-wide events and formats, such as workshops, lecture series, publications and excursions, students from different years meet and discuss ideas and works across platforms.
b) Within the Academy of Fine Arts, a unique environment for interdisciplinary practice is offered. The architecture curriculum is geared to utilizing the opportunities offered through electives and project collaborations with other programs at the Academy. The curriculum for the Bachelor's Program requires students to enroll in at least one elective course outside the Institute of Architecture.
c) A Fine Arts studio project may also be accepted for free elective credits for Bachelor and Master. (total BArch 9 ECTS, total MArch 12 ECTS)

The Bachelor's Program in Architecture reflects an engagement with the social, economic, political, cultural, artistic and technological forces which shape our society today. In keeping with the general commitment of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna to promoting gender mainstreaming, this program also explicitly addresses to students interested in developing and dealing with gender-relevant topics. Conditions of study are in based on non-discrimination policy of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, ensuring that there are no disadvantages for students due to their special needs or on account of their age, gender, state of health or religion.

Job prospects
The program provides an extensive and straightforward grounding into the roles, practices and responsibilities of architects. The Bachelor's Program in Architecture explains the field of architecture in such a way that it can serve as the basis for further studies and professional training. On the basis of this program, graduates will have a range of skills and knowledge enabling them to make informed decisions about their professional goals. Completion of the Bachelor's Program in Architecture entitles students to apply for admission to the Master's Program in Architecture or a Master's program in related fields.

§3 Academic degree

The academic degree conferred upon graduation is a Bachelor of Architecture (BArch).

§4 Duration and course of studies

Completion of the six-semester Bachelor's Program in Architecture requires 180 ECTS credits. ECTS credits are evenly spread across the five platforms, attributing equal value to each platform.

From the first semester onwards, the Bachelor's Program in Architecture is characterized by a project-based structure.

The first semester is an introductory phase familiarizing students with all five platforms. The successful completion of the five projects that form the first semester (introduction) is a prerequisite for students

to register for any design studio beyond the second semester. In the following five semesters, the fields of knowledge and potentials pertaining to the five platforms are developed and discussed in detail. Each of the five platforms is emphasized for one semester, thus defining the subject matter of that semester's explorations. The sequence of foci and platforms is one of increasing project complexity and skills.

§5 Types of courses

Students must register for all courses they attend and want to complete via the Campus Online System. The deadlines for registration are determined prior to the beginning of the semester.

(1) Project (P)
The design project is at the core of the curriculum. In the course of a project, students learn to combine, review and assess acquired knowledge and developed ideas. The design project is taught in small groups of approximately 12 students each. Intensive one-on-one tutoring allows for responding to students' individual capacities and ideas. Team teaching is encouraged, as it confronts students and teachers with different views, incites them to think about variations and alternatives, and encourages them to take a position. In-progress projects are continuously reviewed and assessed in dialogue with the teachers and external guest critics. Together with the corresponding project lecture courses, the design projects constitute modules that can only be completed as a whole. Usually, the expected work load is equivalent to nine ECTS credits.

(2) Project lectures (PL)
Project lectures are thematically related with design projects and deepen knowledge concerning the issues and skills relevant to the specific project. Together with the projects, these courses constitute a module and a pass-grade that can only be obtained for the whole module. Depending on the project context, the expected work load for students is equivalent to two or three ECTS credits.

(3) Lecture courses (L)
Lecture courses familiarize students with the theoretical foundation and methods of architecture. Supporting teaching materials are made available by the lecturers. Students are graded on the basis of written and/or oral examinations on the subject matter. The expected work load is equivalent to three ECTS credits.

(4) Seminars (S)
Seminars aim at deepening students' understanding of the subject via presentations. Students actively participate in the course through discussions, as well as written assignments and visual and oral presentations. Seminars also introduce students to research methodologies. The expected work load for students is equivalent to three ECTS credits.

(5) Excursions (EX)
Field trips are class excursions taking place outside school. They aim at illustrating the contents of courses in real-life contexts. The expected work load for students is equivalent to three ECTS credits.

Non-degree students and students who have not passed the entrance examination (concurrent enrollment) are only admitted to classes of type (L) and (S).

§6 Language of instruction

Instruction may be in German or in English. Along with the legally required German proficiency,

English at the B2 Level is also expected.

§7 Curriculum diagram

Curriculum diagram 1 shows the structure of the curriculum within the five platforms, whereas curriculum diagram 2 specifies the courses according to each semester and the corresponding ECTS credits.

§8 Examination rules

(1) Entrance examination for the Bachelor's Program:
The entrance examination for the Bachelor's Program in Architecture serves to asses if the prospective student is suited for the program. The entrance examination is held once a year prior to the academic year and seeks to assess the applicant's creative and intellectual capacity for the architecture program. It is held by a board of examiners and consists of three parts:
- The submission of a portfolio and a letter of motivation,
- Completion of assignments within a defined period,
- Personal interview with the board of examiners. To qualify for the personal interview, candidates must have past the first two parts of the exam.

(2) Courses:
The examinations for lecture courses (L) and project lectures (PL), seminars (S) and excursions (EX) may cover the entire contents of the courses and may be in written and/or oral form. Classes are subject to continuous review and assessment of progress by teachers. The examination mode and the conditions are determined by teachers at the beginning of the semester. Students have to register for exams via the Campus Online System and will be assessed and graded once a deadline for possible de-registration has expired.

(4) Modules:
Each module consists of a Project (P) and several project lectures (PL). The Bachelor's Program is comprised of five modules for the first semester, and another five modules from the second to sixth semester. For successful completion of an entire module, pass grades for all individual parts are required within one semester.

(5) Completion of a Bachelor's degree:
The Bachelor's Program in Architecture results from completing all compulsory courses and obtaining the related ECTS credits. The project of the sixth semester is the Bachelor's thesis. The final certificate includes the grades of each of the five platforms, based on the sum total of all courses, and weighted according to their ETCS credits.

§9 Transfer provisions

(1) Students enrolled in the diploma program under the University Studies Act (UniStG) may transfer to the Bachelor's Program by simple declaration of intent. It is no longer possible to enroll in the diploma program. The program is being phased out and may only be completed until the summer semester 2013. Diploma program students who have not completed their studies by then will automatically be subject to the curriculum of the Bachelor's Program from then on.

(2) If students transfer to the Bachelor's Program voluntarily, courses completed under the diploma program will be credited if they conform to those of the Bachelor's Program courses in content and scope. These provisions and any earlier transfer provisions issued by the committee for Academic Programs for older curricula shall apply mutatis mutandis to transfers from earlier diploma curricula to the Bachelor's Program.

(3) The equivalence of courses is determined by the person/body in charge of legal issues concerning studies.

§10 Implementation

The curriculum for the Bachelor's Program in Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna is effective as per 1st of October 2018.

Curriculum Diagram 1 - Bachelor in Architecture **(BArch)**
at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

01.10.2018	SUBJECT	TYPE	ECTS	ECTS SUM
1. Semester	ANALOGUE, DIGITAL PRODUCTION	P/ PL	6	MODULE
	CONSTRUCTION, MATERIAL, TECHNOLOGY	P/ PL	6	MODULE
	ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE	P/ PL	6	MODULE
	HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM	P/ PL	6	MODULE
	GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES	P/ PL	6	MODULE
		TOTAL		30
2. Semester	ANALOGUE, DIGITAL PRODUCTION	P/ PL	15	MODULE
	GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES	S	3	
	CONSTRUCTION, MATERIAL, TECHNOLOGY	S	6	
	HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM	L	3	
	FREE ELECTIVE		3	
		TOTAL		30
3. Semester	CONSTRUCTION, MATERIAL, TECHNOLOGY	P/ PL	15	MODULE
	ANALOGUE, DIGITAL PRODUCTION	S	6	
	HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM	L	3	
	ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE	L	3	
	WORKSHOP	S	3	
		TOTAL		30
4. Semester	ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE	P/ PL	15	MODULE
	HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM	S	3	
	GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES	S	6	
	CONSTRUCTION, MATERIAL, TECHNOLOGY	S	3	
	EXCURSION	EX	3	
		TOTAL		30
5. Semester	HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM	P/ PL	15	MODULE
	ANALOGUE, DIGITAL PRODUCTION	S	3	
	CONSTRUCTION, MATERIAL, TECHNOLOGY	S	3	
	GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES	L	3	
	ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE	S	3	
	FREE ELECTIVE*		3	
		TOTAL		30
6. Semester	GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES	P/ PL	15	MODULE
	ANALOGUE, DIGITAL PRODUCTION	S	3	
	ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE	S	6	
	HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM	S	3	
	FREE ELECTIVE*		3	
		TOTAL		30
All Semesters				
	ANALOGUE, DIGITAL PRODUCTION		33	
	CONSTRUCTION, MATERIAL, TECHNOLOGY		33	
	ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE		33	
	HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM		33	
	GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES		33	
	FREE ELECTIVES		9	
	EXCURSION		3	
	WORKSHOP		3	
		TOTAL		180

*It is recommended that at least one of the free electives is taken at another Institute than at the IKA and/or in a different study program.

Curriculum Diagram 2 - Bachelor in Architecture **(BArch)**
at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

01.10.2018

SUBJECT	TYPE	CONTACT HOURS / WEEK	ECTS	ECTS SUM
1. Semester				
INTRODUCTION TO ANALOGUE, DIGITAL PRODUCTION				6
GRAPHIC SKILLS, FREEHAND DRAWING, MODEL BUILDING	P	3	4	
DRAWING, 3D MODELING AND GEOMERTY	PL	2	2	
INTRODUCTION TO CONSTRUCTION, MATERIAL, TECHNOLOGY				6
MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES	P	3	4	
BUILDING STRUCTURES I	PL	2	2	
INTRODUCTION TO ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE				6
ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE	P	3	4	
TIME IN ARCHITECTURE	PL	2	2	
INTRODUCTION TO HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM				6
ARCHITECTURE HISTORY I - PREMODERNSIM	PL	2	2	
ARCHITECTURE ANALYSIS	P	3	4	
INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES				6
GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES	P	3	4	
URBAN FORM AND ANALYSIS	PL	2	2	
	TOTAL	25		30
2. Semester				15
PROJECT IN ANALOGUE PRODUCTION, DIGITAL PRODUCTION				
DESIGN PROJECT	P	12	9	
3D MODELING AND ANIMATION I	PL	4	4	
INTERACTIVE DESIGN, FILM EDITING, SOUND AND SCRIPTING	PL	2	2	
DOCUMENTATION AND REPRESENTATION IN GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES	S	2	3	3
BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES I	L	2	3	3
BUILDING STRUCTURES II	L	2	3	3
ARCHITECTURE HISTORY II - MODERNISM AND CONTEMPORARY TOPICS	L	2	3	3
FREE ELECTIVE		2	3	3
	TOTAL	28		30
3. Semester				15
PROJECT IN CONSTRUCTION, MATERIAL, TECHNOLOGY				
DESIGN PROJECT	P	12	9	
BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES II	PL	2	2	
BUILDING PHYSICS I	PL	2	2	
BUILDING SERVICES I	PL	2	2	
3D MODELING AND ANIMATION II	S	2	3	3
ANALYSIS SIMULATION AND SCRIPTING	S	2	3	3
HISTORY AND THEORY OF TECHNOLOGY	L	2	3	3
ECOLOGIES I	L	2	3	3
WORKSHOP	S	2	3	3
	TOTAL	28		30
4. Semester				15
PROJECT IN ECOLOGY SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE				
DESIGN PROJECT	P	12	9	
ECOLOGIES II	PL	2	3	
SUSTAINABILITY I	PL	2	3	
BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES III	S	2	3	3
WRITING ON ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPES AND CITIES	S	2	3	3
LANDSCAPES AND GARDENS	L	2	3	3
INFRASTRUCTURES AND NETWORKS	L	2	3	3
EXCURSION	EX	3	3	3
	TOTAL	27		30
5. Semester				15
PROJECT IN HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM				
DESIGN PROJECT	P	12	9	
HISTORIOGRAPHY OF ARCHITECTURE	PL	2	3	
HISTORY OF THEORY	PL	2	3	
VISUAL AND VERBAL COMMUNICATION	S	2	3	3
URBANISM I	L	2	3	3
BUILDING SERVICES II	S	2	3	3
CULTURAL HERITAGE I	L	2	3	3
FREE ELECTIVE*		2	3	3
	TOTAL	26		30
6. Semester				15
PROJECT IN GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES				
DESIGN PROJECT	P	12	9	
URBANISM II	PL	2	3	
STRATEGIES FOR CITIES	PL	2	3	
SUSTAINABILITY II	L	2	3	3
CULTURAL HERITAGE II	L	2	3	3
HISTORY ANDTHEORY OF CITIES	L	2	3	3
3D MODELING AND ANIMATION III	S	2	3	3
FREE ELECTIVE*		2	3	3
	TOTAL	26		30
All Semesters				
ANALOGUE, DIGITAL PRODUCTION				33
CONSTRUCTION, MATERIAL, TECHNOLOGY				33
ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL HERITAGE				33
HISTORY, THEORY, CRITICISM				33
GEOGRAPHY, LANDSCAPES, CITIES				33
FREE ELECTIVES				9
EXCURSION				3
WORKSHOP				3
	TOTAL	160		180
* It is recommended that at least one of the free electives is taken at another Institute than the IKA and/or in a different study program.				