



INSTITUTE of BERMUDA ARCHITECTS

Guidelines for Prospective Architectural Students

Bermuda has always had a need for more Bermudians in the architectural profession. If architecture is your career choice you will find that local professionals are supportive and more than willing to answer questions and provide guidance to prospective architectural students.

General Prerequisites

Architecture is a demanding career, and educational standards reflect this. As a student considering a career as an architect you should be aware of the various academic and professional requirements you will need to fulfill in order to become an architect.

Whilst there may be some exceptions, students will generally be expected to successfully complete an accredited course of study in architecture and then pass a professional registration examination in order to become a registered Architect.

Selecting a School of Architecture

Of the 1,000+ institutions of 'higher learning' in North America offering some form of architectural courses, less than 100 of these are recognized by the respective US and Canadian architectural accreditation boards.

It is imperative that students wishing to become an architect are guided to an accredited school of architecture - unless a student has completed an accredited course it is very difficult (if not impossible in some jurisdictions) to sit the architect registration examination.

For a list of accredited schools of architecture in the US please visit <http://www.naab.org/>, for Canada <http://www.cacb.ca/> and for the UK <http://www.architecture.com/>.

There is considerable competition for entry into accredited architectural programmes and as a result entry standards are high. In addition, there is now a trend away from the traditional 5 year accredited Bachelor of Architecture programme, with more and more schools of architecture offering instead an accredited Masters degree programme. In some instances entry to these programmes is limited to those students who have successfully completed a related undergraduate programme with a 3.0 or higher grade point average.

Architectural schools generally expect strengths in mathematics, geometry, physics and chemistry. A foreign language requirement may be a general admission requirement to most universities, although given the intensity of the architectural curriculum there is typically no further language requirement following admission. Architecture is all about communicating - a good basis in English is advised, and most schools will continue an English requirement following acceptance (also physics and mathematics, calculus and / or statistics). Architectural schools of course have traditionally expected a good strength in art, while today prior experience with computers would be a significant advantage.

In considering the different schools of architecture available you may benefit from talking to your school guidance counsellor, local architects and especially with recent architectural graduates - local architectural practices are usually more than willing to assist in this regard.

In addition to costs, location, scholarships and the recommendations of others, you may also wish to review the list of professors at any prospective school of architecture to ensure that the professors have attended a wide selection of different architectural schools and as such may offer a good mix of differing ideas and approaches to design. (Avoid the school - and there are some - where virtually all the professors graduated from that same programme!)

Local Scholarships

In addition to the more general scholarships available to Bermudian students you are encouraged to apply for the scholarship available specifically to local architectural students – the Institute of Bermuda Architects Scholarship is offered on an annual basis by the Institute of Bermuda Architects (currently one or more awards of up to \$8,000 per annum).

For additional information regarding this scholarship and application forms see the Institute of Bermuda Architects' website at <http://www.iba.bm/>.

Information and an application form for student membership in the Institute of Bermuda Architects is also available on this website. The IBA is very active in professional, educational, insurance and other matters relating to the architectural profession, and you are encouraged to become a student member.

Professional Exams & Registration

Following graduation from an accredited school of architecture students will normally be expected to acquire professional experience (typically working in an architect's office for 2 or more years) before taking the architectural registration examination.

Due to its limited size, Bermuda has never had its own examination, and typically students will sit the registration examination in the US, Canada or UK: the successful completion of the examination in any of these jurisdictions will enable registration in Bermuda and - depending on residency requirements – may also enable registration in the country where the exam is taken.

Education requirements, the list of accredited schools of architecture and architectural registration examination requirements are always changing and you are encouraged to talk to your guidance counsellor, local architects and of course other architectural students.