

Master of Architecture

Program Structure

Program Code	Total Subject	Intakes	Duration
SD-93017, v2	12, 160cp	Jan, May, Sept	1 year, 4 months

Foundation Subjects				
ARCH72-401	Architecture Design Studio 7 (20cp)	Jan, May, Sept		
ARCH72-402	Architecture Design Studio 8 (20cp)	Jan, May, Sept		
ARCH72-501	Architecture Design Studio 9 (20cp)	Jan, May, Sept		
ARCH72-502	Architecture Masters Thesis Studio 8 (20cp)	Jan, May, Sept		
ARCH71-109	Supervised Independent Study	January		
ARCH71-110	Special Topics in Design Communication	January		
ARCH71-111	Special Topics in Design Technology	May		
ARCH71-112	Contemporary Architectural Theory	May		
ARCH71-113	Professional Practice 1	Sept		
ARCH71-114	Professional Practice 2	Jan, May, Sept		
ARCH71-115	Research Analysis & Representation	Sept		
PLUS	Faculty elective from the list of FSD postgraduate subjects. SDUP71-200 GIS in Natural & Built Environments is not compulsory but is recommended.			

Subject Synopsis

ARCH72-401 Architecture Design Studio 7 (20cp)

Architecture Design Studio 7 is the first studio in the Masters sequence. This studio-based subject shall focus upon the development of a single project over the duration of the semester which explores subjects related to the Australian cultural, environmental, technical or political context. Projects will be developed to a high degree of resolution in terms of spatial quality, technical proficiency, and conceptual rigour. The studio shall be underpinned by theoretical readings and/or precedent studies, with these themes being read comparatively against international perspectives and projects. Projects in the studio will vary in scale, site, typology, theme, user-group, and complexity. Students will be expected to engage the studio with a high degree of individual motivation, resourcefulness, and inquisitiveness as would be expected of professional level studies. Students should begin to establish an architectural position or attitude through the work of the studio that may help to underpin future independent research.

ARCH71-109 Supervised Independent Study

Students are to select an individual research topic that will be developed to a point that demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the chosen topic and its design/architectural implications. The research, overseen by a nominated staff member, develops a strong base for future studios. The outcome of the research may take a written or practical format. The challenge of this study is to focus and dissect a field of study that will act as a base to later work. Research methodologies and rigour are important alongside presentation/representational skills to communicate the findings. It is expected the student will develop research skills alongside representational techniques that may be both innovative and informative to a wider group of people than their initial research group. The student will gain a body of information that will serve as a springboard into later studio research. Assessment may be individualised dependent on the nature of research and presentation, some may choose a written thesis, others a more practical presentation or project. Students must have contact with their supervisor either individually or as a group on a weekly basis across the 12 week semester.

ARCH71-110 Special Topics in Design Communication

This component will provide an understanding of a more unique/intense area of architectural studies that will both contribute to and support professional outcomes of the Master of Architecture program The focus is on a refined topic, perhaps experimentation in architecture, historical study, representation, technology, or dissemination. The topic offered will vary depending on staffing/research specialities. The concentrated approach develops research skills and focus in a particular field of study. A comprehensive understanding of the possibilities in and around the assigned topic is essential. Students will display problem-solving skills that challenge day-to-day concepts and encourage lateral thinking and shall be assessed through project-based tasks that involve graphic/written communication, design application/synthesis, and demonstration of critical reasoning.

ARCH72-402 Architecture Design Studio 8 (20cp)

Architecture Design Studio 8 is the second studio in the Masters sequence. This studio-based subject shall focus upon the development of a single project over the duration of the semester which explores subjects related to a contemporary cultural, environmental, technical or political context. Building upon skills and concepts developed in Studio 7, the second Masters studio shall look past the borders of Australia to the global condition of the ever-evolving city in the 21st century and beyond. Students shall be asked to address complex problems of urban evolution that relate to typological and/or morphological manifestations in urban contexts, such as those defined by population growth, demographic evolution, climate imbalance, or other circumstances effecting urban development. Projects will be developed to a high degree of resolution in terms of spatial quality, technical proficiency, and conceptual rigour. The studio shall be underpinned by theoretical readings and/or precedent studies, with these themes being read comparatively against international perspectives and projects. Projects in the studio will vary in scale, site, typology, theme, user-group, and complexity. Students will be expected to engage the studio with a high degree of individual motivation, resourcefulness, and inquisitiveness as would be expected of professional level studies. Students should continue to establish an architectural position or attitude through the work of the studio that may help to underpin future independent research, specially aimed at the eventual masters thesis.

ARCH71-111 Special Topics in Design Technology

This component will provide an understanding of a more unique/intense area of architectural studies that will both contribute to and support professional outcomes of the Master of Architecture course. The focus is on a refined topic, perhaps experimentation in architecture, field study, fabrication, conservation, or technology. The topic offered will vary depending on staffing/research specialities. The concentrated approach develops research skills and focus in a particular field of study. A comprehensive understanding of the possibilities in and around the assigned topic is essential. Students will display problem-solving skills that challenge day-to-day concepts and encourage lateral thinking and shall be assessed through project-based tasks that involve graphic/written communication, design application/synthesis, and demonstration of critical reasoning.

ARCH71-112 Contemporary Architectural Theory

This subject shall expose students to the currency of architectural theory in contemporary practice and academic discourse, which builds upon historical and 20th century knowledge that students shall have acquired during undergraduate studies. Developing familiarity with topics of present theoretical debate and/or conceptual frameworks are invaluable in helping students to contextualise their future proposal in the master of architecture thesis. Students will develop an analytical framework to subject themes through readings, precedent/case study investigations, independent research, speculation, reflection and rigorous analysis of contemporary concepts, compositions, and emerging topics. The specific subject framework for investigation of contemporary theoretical issues will vary depending on staffing/research specialities.

ARCH72-501 Architecture Design Studio 9 (20cp)

Advanced Architecture Studio 9 is the third studio in the Masters sequence. This studio-based subject shall focus upon the development of a single project over the duration of the semester which explores subjects related to a contemporary cultural, environmental, technical or political context. Building upon skills and concepts developed in Advanced Studios 1 and 2, the third Masters studio shall focus upon topics of complex societal systems relating to cities, infrastructure, environmental or capital systems, or specialized industry concerns. Projects will be developed to a high degree of resolution in terms of spatial quality, technical proficiency, and conceptual rigour. The studio shall be underpinned by theoretical readings and/or precedent studies, with these themes being read comparatively against international perspectives and projects. Projects in the studio will vary in scale, site, project brief, and complexity. Students will be expected to engage the studio with a high degree of individual motivation, resourcefulness, and inquisitiveness as would be expected of professional level studies. Additionally, students will build upon previous exercises from Studio 7 and 8, to develop a clearly articulated area of interest for the design thesis to be investigated in the final studio. Tuition in architectural research methods shall support this endeavour and shall be undertaken weekly in a structured format.

ARCH72-502 Masters Thesis Studio (20cp)

The Architecture Masters Thesis Studio is the terminal studio in the Masters sequence. This studio-based subject shall focus upon the development of a single project over the duration of the semester which explores subjects related to a contemporary cultural, environmental, technical or political context. Building upon skills and concepts developed in Studios 7, 8, and 9 and other complementary subjects in the Masters program, the final Masters studio shall focus upon topics defined by the student and approved by a nominated academic staff member serving as the student's Thesis Advisor. Projects will be developed to a high degree of resolution in terms of spatial quality, technical proficiency, and conceptual rigour to demonstrate the potential significance of the thesis proposition. The Thesis shall be underpinned by theoretical readings and/or precedent studies as carried out at the student's discretion and as per the imperatives established by the thesis topic, with these themes being read comparatively against international perspectives and projects. Projects may vary in scale, site, project brief, and complexity per topic. Students will be expected to engage the work of the thesis at the highest level of individual motivation, resourcefulness, and inquisitiveness as would be expected of professional level studies. Additionally, students develop and submit a written summary of the thesis investigation which critically situates the work into a broader context to demonstrate, reflect, or question the validity of the thesis proposition and its impact upon the field and/or society at large.

ARCH71-113 Professional Practice 1

A seminar wherein students shall be exposed to fundamental skills, strategies, and relevant information to conduct professional architectural practice. Professional Practice 1 will emphasize project management skills and procedures, including attention to contracts, legislation, codes, standards, and other frameworks for the procurement and delivery of projects. An understanding of how to organize project documentation - drawings and specifications - as well as contractual agreements, shall be developed.

ARCH71-114 Professional Practice 2

A seminar wherein students shall be exposed to fundamental skills, strategies, and relevant information to conduct professional architectural practice. Professional Practice 2 will emphasize practice management skills and procedures, including attention to staff management, office procedure, codes of conduct, and business structures. An understanding of how architects have a specific community expectation, including roles of the architect as civic leader, public advocate, professional with integration and negotiation skill shall be developed and students will be expected to form their own sense of ethical and professional value systems. The subject will rely upon lectures and readings, with various assessment tasks.

ARCH71-115 Research Analysis & Representation

In this seminar, students will develop skills in critical analysis, research methods, and written and graphic communication. The subject shall focus is on a refined topic such as historical precedents, cities and urban morphology, the work of significant architects and/or practices, design technologies, and systems. The topic offered will vary depending on staffing/research specialities. The concentrated approach develops research skills in a particular field of study. A comprehensive understanding of the possibilities in and around the assigned topic is essential. Students shall be assessed through investigatory tasks that involve graphic/written communication and demonstration of critical reasoning.



Master of Architecture

Program Sequencing

Commencing January		Commencing May		Commencing September	
Semester 1 (Jan)		Semester 1 (May)		Semester 1 (Sept)	
ARCH72-401	Architecture Design Studio 7 (20cp)	ARCH72-401	Architecture Design Studio 7 (20cp)	ARCH72-401	Architecture Design Studio 7 (20cp)
ARCH71-109	Supervised Independent Study	ARCH71-111	Special Topics in Design Technology	ARCH71-113	Professional Practice 1
ARCH71-110	Special Topics in Design Communication	ARCH71-112	Contemporary Architectural Theory	ARCH71-115	Research Analysis & Representation
	Semester 2 (May) Semester 2 (Sept)		Semester 2 (Jan)		
ARCH72-402	Architecture Design Studio 8 (20cp)	ARCH72-402	Architecture Design Studio 8 (20cp)	ARCH72-402	Architecture Design Studio 8 (20cp)
ARCH71-111	Special Topics in Design Technology	ARCH71-113	Professional Practice 1	ARCH71-109	Supervised Independent Study
ARCH71-112	Contemporary Architectural Theory	ARCH71-115	Research Analysis & Representation	ARCH71-110	Special Topics in Design Communication
Semester 3 (Sept)		Semester 3 (Jan)		Semester 3 (May)	
ARCH72-501	Architecture Design Studio 9 (20cp)	ARCH72-501	Architecture Design Studio 9 (20cp)	ARCH72-501	Architecture Design Studio 9 (20cp)
ARCH71-113	Professional Practice 1	ARCH71-109	Supervised Independent Study	ARCH71-111	Special Topics in Design Technology
ARCH71-115	Research Analysis & Representation	ARCH71-110	Special Topics in Design Communication	ARCH71-112	Contemporary Architectural Theory
Semester 2 (Jan)		Semester 2 (May)		Semester 2 (Sept)	
ARCH72-502	Architecture Masters Thesis Studio (20cp)	ARCH72-502	Architecture Masters Thesis Studio (20cp)	ARCH72-502	Architecture Masters Thesis Studio (20cp)
ARCH71-114	Professional Practice 2	ARCH71-114	Professional Practice 2	ARCH71-114	Professional Practice 2
	PG FSD Elective		PG FSD Elective		PG FSD Elective