

UCD School of Architecture,
Planning & Environmental Policy



PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA (ARCHITECTURE) 2024-25

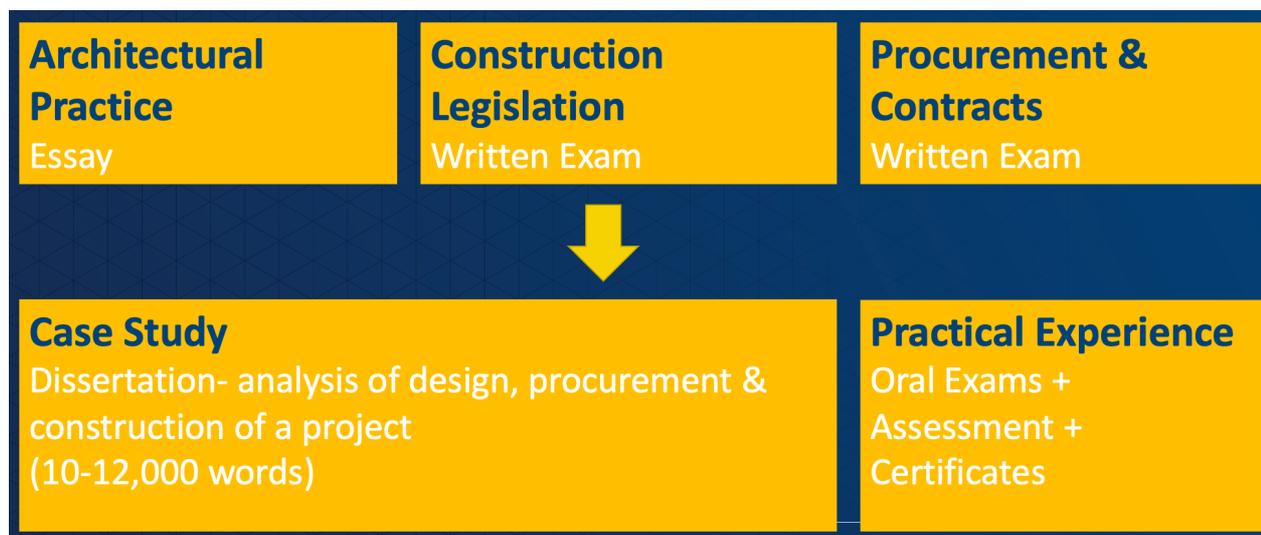
Architecture is a regulated profession. The Professional Diploma (Architecture) is the final professional examination for architectural graduates, and is required for entry to the statutory [Register for Architects in Ireland](#), and in order to use the title 'architect'. It is also required for [recognition of Irish architects' qualifications in EU member states](#) and in [the United Kingdom](#).



The UCD Diploma is part-time, taken over one or two years (up to four trimesters) during, or after, the time when an architectural graduate completes a minimum 24 months of professional practical experience under supervision.

The programme provides a context and support to architectural graduates as they develop through professional training, and progress into leadership roles. Graduates arrange their own practice placements, in Ireland or abroad.

There are five modules- three lecture-based foundation modules in the Spring, followed by the Case Study dissertation and Practical Experience modules.



ACCREDITATION

This UCD post-graduate programme is accredited by the [Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland \(RIAI\)](#) as Registration Body in Ireland for direct admission to the statutory 'Register for Architects' established under the [Building Control Act, 2007](#).

Graduates who complete the Professional Diploma, and who are EU citizens, are entitled to automatic recognition in EU member states under the [Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive, 2005/36/EC](#).

PROGRAMME

In the Spring trimester, the foundation modules of Architectural Practice, Construction Legislation, and Procurement & Contracts will take place over 12 full days of the [academic teaching term](#) (20 January – 25 April 2025).

The lecture course will be delivered in-person on the UCD campus. Lecture recordings, learning material and readings will also be available to students. Teaching will be by UCD academic staff, practicing architects and other professionals with expertise in critical subject areas.

The Professional Diploma is designed to be current, relevant, and useful for an architectural graduate who is developing a professional career in the construction sector, by enabling them to become fully conversant in industry-specific culture, practices, procedures, and statutory requirements.

Preparing for independent practice as a professional also requires a graduate to develop key skills in research, critical analysis, objectivity, judgement, and communication. The UCD Diploma equips graduates with an understanding of the ethical and professional obligations of practice, within an awareness of their own personal values, skillsets, attributes, education, and specialisations.

Architectural Practice is an introduction to practice, the profession, ethics, client relationships, design team leadership, resource and finance management, professional risk and liability, communications, record-keeping, sustainability, and sectoral change. **Construction Legislation** and **Procurement & Contracts** include the full 'body of knowledge' necessary for practice and project delivery, from inception to completion including current policy and standards, markets and economic conditions, law, regulatory requirements and procedures (Planning, Building Control, Health & Safety), Construction Procurement, Project Management, Contracts and Contract Administration, etc.

Graduates entering the Diploma in January 2025, will take the **Case Study** and **Practical Experience** modules in Autumn 2025 or 2026. [UCD Modules](#) contain full details of the contents, format, learning and assessment.

APPLICATIONS/ ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Professional Diploma (Architecture), you must provide original documentation to confirm your primary qualification (B.Arch., M.Arch. or equivalent approved) and certified translations (in English), as follows:

- Qualifications from UCD: (B.Arch./ M.Arch.): no transcripts required
- Qualifications from TUD, SETU, CCAE and SAUL: full transcripts for five years of your primary qualification (B.Arch./ M.Arch. etc.)
- Qualifications from schools outside Ireland, and mixed qualifications from Ireland and elsewhere: full transcripts for five years of your primary qualification (B.Arch., M.Arch., etc.) and further verification documentation, subject to the following guidance:
- Qualifications from EU member states (for EU citizens): confirmation from the relevant [Competent Authority](#).
- Qualifications from the UK: confirmation from the [Architects Registration Board \(ARB\)](#).
- Qualifications from outside the EU: either an RIAI [Transcript Evaluation](#) from the RIAI or evidence of RIAI [Architectural Graduate Membership](#).

FEES

Fees include attendance at lectures and tutorials, academic support, lecture recordings, learning material, online access to Brightspace, UCD Student Card, access to all UCD Libraries, and the use of UCD student facilities.

The 2024/25 fees are €5,190.00 (€865 per 5ECTs modules and €1,730 per 10ECTs module). Fees are payable by module, at the start of each trimester.

Repeat fees are currently €230.00 per module. If you take the course over more than one academic year you will also pay a portion of the [UCD Student Centre Levy](#) (currently €254.00 per annum) in each year you are registered.

[Tax relief](#) is available on tuition fees for this approved post-graduate course.

SUPPORTS

Support and advice are available from [UCD Access Centre](#) for students who have a disability, mental health condition, a significant on-going illness or a specific learning disability. Students are advised to contact the Assess Centre as soon as possible after registration, where required.

ENQUIRIES

Ms. Michelle Murray, Course Administrator professionalpractice@ucd.ie

Ms. Orla Hegarty BArch FRIAI RIBA, Course Director orla.hegarty@ucd.ie

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