

**Note:**

The following curriculum is a consolidated version. It is legally non-binding and for informational purposes only.

The legally binding versions are found in the University of Innsbruck Bulletins (in German).

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**Complete version as of 1 October 2019**

Curriculum for the  
**Master's Programme Architecture**  
at the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Innsbruck

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## **§ 1 Allocation of the study programme**

Acc. to §54 Universities Act 2002, the Master's Programme Architecture is grouped among the engineering studies.

## **§ 2 Qualification profile**

### **(1) Subject-specific competences**

Architecture is a field of expertise that is located in an interdisciplinary field between art, culture, technology and society and that involves the planning and design of living space and the environment on different scales. Graduates have the knowledge and skills to work out and implement solutions for complex architectural issues. In addition, they are able to analyse subject-specific relationships and utilise them creatively and in an integrative way in drafts. They are able to resort to their specialised knowledge, which is based on the latest findings in different areas of architecture, in a reflected way in the discourse with colleagues.

### **(2) Scientific professional education**

In addition to already established branches of architecture such as urban research, building research or architectural theory, new research areas such as automation and digitisation are expanding the scientific fields of activity of architects. The graduates can advance their scientific and methodological skills in these areas. Another option for scientific specialisation during the course of studies is "Research by Design", where the students acquire the most important methodological and theoretical foundations.

### **(3) Generic competences**

The Master's programme imparts core competences and advanced specialist knowledge in the practice and theory of architecture, taking into account current and innovation-oriented problems and issues. Due to individual choices such as interdisciplinary study and student mobility through attractive exchange programmes of the faculty with renowned, international partner universities, the graduates acquire complementary professional, social and intercultural competences.

### **(4) The completion of the Master's Programme Architecture at the University of Innsbruck qualifies its graduates for**

- leading and responsible implementation of projects in architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, regional development and related disciplines,
- self-employed and/or senior co-worker in an architectural planning office, in public administration, in construction and planning departments of companies, in the construction industry.
- performing project development and consulting tasks
- performing of activities in the fields of architecture and media, architecture journalism, architectural theory, architectural criticism, architectural history, building research and monument protection,
- working in new design disciplines arising in the context of the information society.

## **§ 3 Scope and duration**

The Master's Programme Architecture covers 120 ECTS-Credits. This corresponds to a duration of the study programme of four semesters. One ECTS-Credit corresponds to a workload of 25 hours.

## **§ 4 Admission**

- (1) Completion of a relevant University Bachelor's Programme or a relevant Bachelor's Programme at a University of Applied Science, or completion of other equivalent studies at an accredited Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary educational institution is required for admission to the Master's Programme Architecture.

- (2) A completed Bachelor's Programme Architecture at the University of Innsbruck is in any case a relevant study programme. The rectorate decides based on the regulations specified in the Universities Act on the admission for graduates having completed other study programmes at approved Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary education institutions or on the equivalence of the achievements.
- (3) In the event that equivalence has been established in principle but with certain qualifications missing for full equivalence, supplemental examinations may be required. These examinations must be completed during the Master's Programme.

## § 5 Types of courses

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:
  1. **Lectures (VO)** are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. No maximum number of participants;
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
  1. **Practical courses (UE)**: focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks within an area. Maximum number of participants: 20
  2. **Seminars (SE)** provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 20
  3. **Lectures with integrated practical elements (VU)** focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 20
  4. **Excursions (EX)**: conducted outside the premises of the university, serve to demonstrate and deepen course contents. Maximum number of participants: 20
  5. **Excursion with integrated practical elements (EU)**: conducted outside the premises of the university, serve to demonstrate and deepen course contents through practical experience with concrete scientific tasks. Maximum number of participants: 20
  6. **Design projects (EP)** are project-oriented practical courses to develop design skills. Maximum number of participants: 15

## § 6 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

In courses with a limited number of participants, course places are allocated as follows:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If the criterium in no. 1 do not suffice, first, students for whom this course is part of a compulsory module are to be given priority, and second, students for whom this course is part of an elective module.
3. If the criteria in no. 1 and 2 do not suffice, the available places are drawn by random.

## § 7 Compulsory and elective modules

- (1) The following compulsory modules covering altogether 60 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Design Studio M1	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>EP Design Studio 1</b> Working on an individual complex design project, reflection of the specific subject-specific contents and methods as well as their application in the design through intensive supervision of the students and knowledge transfer in small groups	5	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>

	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students can independently formulate and implement architectural concepts. They can convincingly communicate their designs, present them in detail and position them within their respective theoretical or creative context.
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none

2.	Compulsory Module: Design Studio M2	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>EP Design Studio 2</b> Working on an individual complex design project, reflection of the specific subject-specific contents and methods as well as their application in the design through intensive supervision of the students and knowledge transfer in small groups	5	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Advanced working on architectural concepts. The students can convincingly communicate their designs, present them in detail and position them within the respective theoretical or creative context.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Design Studio Pre-Diploma	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>One of the following courses must be passed:</b>  <b>EP Design Studio Pre-Diploma (5 h, 10 ECTS-Credits)</b> Working on a further individual complex design project, imparting and advanced study of specific design and scientific methods required for working on a Master's Thesis  <b>SE Design Studio Pre-Diploma (5 h, 10 ECTS-Credits)</b> Formulation of an individual research questions, imparting and advanced study of the specific scientific methods and contents required for working on a Master's Thesis	5	10
b.	<b>SE Master's Thesis Seminar</b> Imparting the state of research or the current discourse within the respective field of the planned Master's Thesis, method reflection, writing an abstract of the Master's Thesis	2	2.5
c.	<b>SE Presentation and Communication</b> Relevant and specific methods of presenting and communicating scientific papers or design projects, e.g. in exhibitions; conceptual design and implementation of individual projects	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have a solid theoretical and methodical basis for independently carrying out the planned Master's Thesis within the following semester. Conceptual design, implementation, embedding in a theoretical discourse, communication and the communication of design projects and scientific papers are imparted.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successfully completion of compulsory modules 1 and 2		

4.	Compulsory Module: Lectures in Architecture 1	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<p><b>One of the following courses must be passed:</b></p> <p><b>VO Architectural Theory (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> Continuing and advanced study of theoretical topics and issues in architecture, town and landscape in relation to current discourses and debates</p> <p><b>VO Building History (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> Selected topics in the history of building and town planning, structural engineering history and art history</p> <p><b>VO Interdisciplinary Artistic Practice (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> Explanation of transdisciplinary approaches between art and architecture, mutual references and influences, conclusions from historical and contemporary events, language and expression within artistic creative processes</p>	2	2.5
b.	<p><b>One of the following courses must be passed:</b></p> <p><b>VO Urban Development (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> Presentation and analysis of contemporary theories and positions within urban planning, analysis of current global and regional developments as well as economic, ecological and sociological backgrounds and contexts</p> <p><b>VO Territorial Strategies and Sustainability (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> Examination of urban and regional development with attention to their socio-cultural and ecological conditions; discussion of the main theories and methods of territorial design and planning</p> <p><b>VO Landscape (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> Imparting of contemporary theories and positions within landscape architecture</p>	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students know the most important current discourses in urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture, architectural history, architectural theory or art. They know relevant connections and backgrounds and understand the effects of these discourses on global and regional developments.</p>		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

5.	Compulsory Module: Lectures in Architecture 2	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<p><b>One of the following courses must be passed:</b></p> <p><b>VO Structure and Computer-Based Design (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> Imparting computer-based methods in design and construction with special attention to the interfaces between digital modelling and material processes</p> <p><b>VO Structural Design and Lightweight Buildings (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> Imparting of basic knowledge in lightweight architecture including methods of planning, evaluation and implementation, taking into account ecological aspects</p> <p><b>VO Sustainable Architecture (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> Imparting basic knowledge about planning and designing sustainable buildings and/or built environment among other things with explanations of terminology, knowledge of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary planning culture, presentation of best practice examples, life with unpredictable extremes</p>	2	2.5
b.	<p><b>VU Experimental Building Construction</b> Presentation and analysis of practical examples of architecture that is complex, experimental and innovative in terms of structural engineering; development of specific solutions and their elaboration in the constructional sense including new materials, energy design, new processes and the use of future-oriented technologies</p>	3	5
c.	<p><b>One of the following courses must be passed:</b></p> <p><b>VO Building Typologies (2 hrs., 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> Imparting of in-depth knowledge in architectural typologies with a focus on interdisciplinarity in research and design</p> <p><b>VO Residential Building (2 hrs., 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> In-depth knowledge of housing with a focus on interdisciplinarity in research and design is imparted.</p> <p><b>VO Spatial Design (2 hrs., 2.5 ECTS-Credits)</b> In-depth knowledge of the subject of spatial design under the aspect of interdisciplinarity in research and design, among other things with a focus on the topics "mixed reality" and "intangible qualities in architecture" are imparted.</p>	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have knowledge in building design and innovative strategies of implementing architectural typologies. They immerse themselves in a relevant discourse within the field of engineering, technology and sustainability as well as building theory, housing construction or interior design.</p>		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

6.	Compulsory Module: Preparation of the Master's Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	Agreement on the topic, the scope and the form of the Master's Thesis on the basis of a brief summary of the content (abstract) as well as agreement on the work processes and the progress of the study. Planning an appropriate time frame for the completion of the Master's Thesis.	-	7.5
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> After successful completion of the module, the students are able to write a summary of the content of the planned master thesis (abstract), outline a timeline and conclude a written master thesis agreement.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

7.	Compulsory Module: Master's Thesis Defence	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral presentation and defence of the Master's Thesis before a board of examiners		2.5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students are able to connect their Master's Thesis with the relevant architectural discourse and to present and defend it in front of an audience of specialists.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> positive evaluation of all other compulsory and elective modules as well as the Master's Thesis		

(2) Elective modules covering altogether 40 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Elective Module: Specialisation	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>Courses covering 20 ECTS-Credits must be passed:</b>  <b>SE Existing Building Structures M</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE History of Building M</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Special Section of Architectural Theory</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Curatorial Practices</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Virtual Reality</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>UE Architecture and Fiction</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Field Research: Meta-Models and Organisation</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Field Research: Contexts and Environment</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Specialisation: Experimental Building Design and Technology</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>UE Specialisation: Experimental Building Design and Technology - Prototyping</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>UE Adaptive Structures</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>UE Specialisation: Construction and Design - Prototyping</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>EU Specialisation: Prototyping</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Phenomena and Paradigm in Architecture</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Design</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Landscape and Ecology</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits)		

	<b>SE Territorial Strategies</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Urban Design and Disciplinarity</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits)		
	<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students acquire individual but broadly diversified knowledge and skills in various fields of architecture. They develop a strategic understanding for the integration of technical knowledge into the conception, planning, implementation and teaching of architecture.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>2.</b>	<b>Elective Topics in Architecture</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>Courses covering 10 ECTS-Credits must be passed:</b>  <b>VO Advanced Architectural History M</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Theory and Practice of Monument Preservation</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Methods and Practice of Construction Research</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Archive Studies</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Architectural Criticism</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Architecture in Education</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Theoretical Discussions</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Gender Mainstreaming in Architecture</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Performative Artistic Practice</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Graphic Thinking</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Advanced Building Theory</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Advanced Residential Building</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Hybrid Processes</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE New Technologies</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>UE Methods of Lightweight Buildings</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Structure and Geometry</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Structure and Ecology</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>VO Buildings Renovation</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>VO Building Safety</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Hybrid Reality</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Scenographic Aspects of Space in Architecture</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Urban Design M</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>SE Selected Topics in Architecture</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>VO Building Law</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>VU Surveying for Architects</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>VU Construction Management 2</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>VU Project Management and Interdisciplinary Planning for Architects</b> (2 h, 2.5 ECTS-Credits) <b>EX Excursion</b> (3 h, 5 ECTS-Credits)		
	<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Acquisition of advanced individual knowledge in various fields of architecture and ability to use this knowledge for implementing architecture in a reflected and strategic way.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		



3.	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Providing the availability of places, courses from the Master's and/or Diploma programmes at the University of Innsbruck amounting to 10 ECTS-Credits can be freely chosen.		
	<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> This module serves the expansion of the study programme and the acquisition of additional qualifications. The students thus have qualifications that enable them to be constructive, responsible and sensitive – in particular also for gender aspects - in a scientific discourse.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> The registration requirements of the respective curricula must be met.		

#### 4. Individual Choice of Specialisation

For individual specialisation modules corresponding to a maximum of 20 ECTS-Credits can be freely chosen from the Master's Programmes offered at the University of Innsbruck. The pre-requisites specified in the respective curricula must be met.

#### § 8 Master's Thesis

- (1) In the Master's Programme Architecture a Master's Thesis amounting to 20 ECTS-Credits must be written. The Master's Thesis is a scientific piece of work that proves the ability to work on a scientific topic independently and in a justifiable way in terms of content and methodology.
- (2) The students must announce the topic and the supervisor of the Master's Thesis in writing to the Director of Studies before starting to work on it.

#### § 9 Examination regulations

- (1) Courses of modules are evaluated by course examinations. Course examinations are
  1. examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in the lectures in which course assessment is based on a single examination at the end of the course. The course instructor has to define and communicate the method of examination (written or oral) before the course begins.
  2. Courses with continuous assessment, for which course assessment is based on regular written and/or oral contributions by participants.
- (2) The course instructor has to inform the students on the objectives, contents and methods used in the course, as well as the contents, methods and evaluation criteria of the course examinations in a suitable manner before the start of the course.
- (3) The compulsory module "Preparation of the Master's Thesis" is evaluated by the supervisor based on an abstract. Positive evaluation reads "successfully completed", negative evaluation "unsuccessfully completed".
- (4) The compulsory module "Master's Thesis Defence" is evaluated by an oral examination before an examination board consisting of the three persons including the supervisor of the Master's Thesis.

#### § 10 Academic degree

Graduates of the Master's Programme Architecture are awarded the academic degree of "Diplom-Ingenieurin" or "Diplom-Ingenieur", abbreviated "Dipl.-Ing." or "DI".

## **§ 11 Coming into force**

- (1) This curriculum comes into force as of 1 October 2019.
- (2) The changes of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28 June 2019, Issue 65, No. 567 come into force on 1 October 2019 and are to be applied to all students.

## **§ 12 Transitional provisions**

- (1) This curriculum comes applies to all students being admitted to the Master's Programme Architecture from the 2019/20 winter semester onwards.
- (2) Regular degree students who have started the Master's Programme Architecture (curriculum for the Master's Programme Architecture as published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 24 April 2008, Issue 34, No. 263) before the 1 October 2019 are entitled to finish this programme within a maximum of six semesters from this time onwards.
- (3) If the Master's Programme Architecture acc. to the curriculum of 2008 is not completed in time, the students are subject to the curriculum of the Master's Programme as published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 April 2019, Issue 40, No. 427 (curriculum of 2019). The students are also entitled to change to the curriculum of 2019 on a voluntary basis.