

# ARCHITECTURE BA (HONS)

## PORTFOLIO ADVICE

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MIMU



# WHY DO WE ASK FOR A PORTFOLIO?

At DMU we have put everything in place to help you build the skills and confidence you need to succeed in the world. We ask to look at a portfolio as part of our selection process to give us an idea of your skills, help us understand if you will enjoy studying with us and to make sure you are choosing the right course for you.

A good portfolio should contain quality work: it's not about quantity. Be selective about what to include and avoid repetition, we recommended 15 to 25 pieces. Ensure that your work is clearly laid out and easy to look through.

We receive and view a variety of portfolios, and whether you are currently involved in creative studies or not, we will look for the potential in your work so please respond to the advice in this guide as best you can.

## WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- A passion for the subject and your interest in the built environment - this could include buildings, cities or man-made landscapes, evident in photographs or drawings for example
- Drawing skills - in the broadest sense
- Spatial awareness - evident in things you have made or in 2D work
- Your experimental approach to 3D work through drawing and making
- Innovative thinking and creative problem-solving skills
- Your potential to learn and have ambitions for your own future, along with showing your creativity and imagination

# WHAT SHOULD A PORTFOLIO CONTAIN?

## EVIDENCE OF DRAWING / 2D SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Your portfolio needs to demonstrate a good level of 3D drawing, evident in observational work (people, objects etc) and/or concept (ideas and developments) design sketches and sketch work
- Include evidence of the full range of skills you have e.g. paint, pencil, markers ink, photography, collage
- Include examples of CAD, Google SketchUp, Photoshop, as well as photography, or video/animation, if you have experience with this software

## EVIDENCE OF MAKING / 3D SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Evidence that you enjoy exploration of space through models. We want to see 2D to 3D experimentation with materials
- Your models don't have to be highly complex or finished models of buildings. We are looking for evidence of manipulating materials this could be sculpture, jewellery or fashion for example
- Photographs of things you have made or other 3D work is helpful to see

## EVIDENCE OF SUBJECT INTEREST

- Drawn evidence – if you do not have this, you might include photographs of buildings close to home with short annotations to explain why you took the photograph – why you chose that building, why you chose that view etc
- We are interested to see how you utilise imagery and a concept to develop ideas through experimentation: include examples of the design process
- This could be any art piece or design project, either as part of your course or an independent project
- Do you visit exhibitions about art, design or architecture, or have you visited interesting places and buildings on a trip to another town, city or overseas? Can you include evidence of these visits or activities?
- Do you have an interest in a particular architect, building, artist, designer, film-maker or similar? Can you include evidence of this?



Design by Anson Hau,  
Architecture BA (Hons), graduate





## HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH AND DIGITISE YOUR WORK

- Take the highest quality images you can of your work, most smart phone cameras will have a high enough resolution
- Good lighting is really important, try to photograph your work in front of a window to provide bright natural lighting without shadows or distorted colours. The flash on your phone may be too bright!
- Make sure any photographs of your work are taken at the best angle to showcase all aspects of it – decide if landscape or portrait is best for the image so there is no wasted space in your photograph
- It's best to place your work against a plain background when photographing it so that it's easy to see and there is nothing distracting from the work
- When scanning your work make sure you choose a high-quality resolution and large file size to ensure it is not compressed or distorted
- Make sure it's clear what your work is and some of the techniques used to create it. You won't be able to talk to us in person about your work so you may want to include a short 10-20 word description of each piece
- Rather than directing us to your website or Instagram account, please include the pieces that you would like us to see within your digital portfolio

## SIZE AND FORMAT

- Please submit your digital portfolio as a multi-page single PDF file
- Files need to be compressed or zipped and not exceed 1GB in size and submitted via **[www.mailbigfile.com/dmuac](http://www.mailbigfile.com/dmuac)**
- For moving images such as animation or video please use .mp4, .MOV or .AVI format
- All work needs to be saved in one folder and labelled with your name, student reference number and the name of the course you have applied for

Front cover: Sam Dorrity, Architecture BA (Hons), graduate

## CONTACT

If you require further information about your portfolio submission, contact our Admissions Team who will be happy to support.

**T:** +44 (0)116 207 8443



**07970 655 800**

**E:** [admissions@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@dmu.ac.uk)

**W:** [dmu.ac.uk/architecture](https://dmu.ac.uk/architecture)

**De Montfort University**  
**The Gateway**  
**Leicester**  
**LE1 9BH**  
**UK**



[Art\\_and\\_Design](#)



[dmucreative](#)



[dmucreative](#)



[\\_dmucreative](#)



[dmucreative](#)

[dmu.ac.uk/socialmedia](https://dmu.ac.uk/socialmedia)