UCD College of Engineering
and Architecture

UCD School of Architecture
STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMME

UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE CELEBRATING ITS CENTENARY IN 2011/12
STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMME

THE UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, celebrating its centenary in 2011/12, is home to Ireland's longest-running and most prestigious architecture programme. Over the past century, the School has been of central importance to all aspects of Ireland's architectural culture: producing graduates of the highest calibre; achieving excellence in research; and, fostering innovation, experiment and debate. From Kevin Roche to Grafton Architects, many of its graduates have achieved worldwide renown, while its research and graduate programmes have contributed at an international level in key areas of practice, scholarship and research.

The UCD School of Architecture is well known for its academic excellence and for its strong commitment to high standards in the practice of architecture. The two degrees which constitute the School's architecture programme – the BSc and the BArch/MArch – are accredited by the professional institutes of both Ireland and Britain (RIAI and RIBA, respectively). The architecture programme attracts high-achieving students with a range of talents and approaches: from the technically minded to the artistically gifted; and, from the socially conscious to the natural communicators and leaders.

The school fosters a high level of staff–student engagement. The programme is taught by a combination of full-time staff, all active in architectural research and scholarship, and a cohort of studio staff, all of whom are involved in innovative design practice. The leaders of many of the country's most important practices are centrally involved in the studio programme. The studios encourage creative experiment and individual responses to design

problems. The School's building laboratory brings another dimension to the student experience, serving as a space for demonstration, for making and for experiment. Here students engage directly with building materials, components and techniques through their own experiments, by watching experts and by engaging with research projects. They also model and experiment with their own designs at a range of scales and with a variety of materials and techniques.

Lectures, seminars and tutorials – the more traditional educational settings of the university – form the other main component of the programme. Here the student experience is directed towards the acquisition of a broad range of knowledge and understanding. While bodies of knowledge and modes of understanding (historical, scientific, technical, etc.) are valued in their own right, they are also seen as having immediate applicability and relevance to other parts of the student's endeavours. Knowledge is put to use.

TOD WILLIAMS and BILLIE TSIEN
Architects, Louis Kahn Chair, School of Architecture,
Yale University

We have reviewed the work of students at UCD over several years. It is exceptional work. The programme of study addresses architectural issues in ways that are both global and particularly Irish. There is a clear understanding of the issues and theory that inform and drive current pedagogy. Yet the work here is done with a grounded artfulness. The hand is considered a powerful tool. The heart has parity with the head.

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMME
(FOR ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS FROM ACCREDITED PROGRAMMES)

Each year of UCD's architecture programme combines design studio with lecture and seminar-based subjects. The emphasis in the first three years is on equipping students with the knowledge, skills and understanding essential to the discipline of architecture. Knowledge acquired in lecture courses is applied in design projects of increasing complexity. Acquiring skills and techniques in a range of media, students develop strong individual work methods. In the graduate course, the focus is on introducing students to research, scholarship and innovation. Students are invited to discover and develop their own specific path in architecture by engaging systematically and deeply with the discipline and its many contexts. The themes treated in seminars and in studios derive from the research interests and current concerns of staff. Independence of thought, critical enquiry and structured exploration are encouraged and supported.

The school's library, with a collection of international and national material comparable to other leading international institutions, is viewed as a laboratory rather than a repository: its resources feed directly into the students' individual experiments, while exposing them to the breadth and depth of the discipline within which these experiments occur. Architecture is understood as a field of knowledge to be engaged with critically.

Central to every aspect of the School's activities is the idea of 'architecture in context': architecture is understood as emerging from and relating to a whole series of framing contexts – the social, cultural and political frameworks within which it is produced, the materials and processes from which it is made and the bodies of theoretical and practical knowledge which sustain it. Thus, contexts range from the local and specific to the global and abstract.

KENNETH FRAMPTON
Ware Professor of Architecture,
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation,
Columbia University

Looking back over the years it seems to me that the ethos of architectural culture in Dublin has always been based on cultivating a particular type of sensitivity towards the nature of the environmental grain, irrespective of whether the subject in question is an urban grain or the grain of a particular landscape, or a mixture of both. It is just this tactile quality that makes the teaching of architecture at University College Dublin into a unique experience, one which is not available today elsewhere. Understated, modest, and non-spectacular and yet, at the same time, always pertinent, UCD has something to offer that the big global schools cannot match, namely, a commitment to the craft of architecture that is as critical as it is pragmatic.

At the same time, there is a commitment to engaging with contemporary society with many projects involving work with communities, local government and other stakeholders. In other words, the course asks students to consider how best to position themselves in architecture, in the world. Visiting students participate fully in every aspect of the UCD School of Architecture programme, which combines studio programmes with seminars, and lecture subjects and which also offers a wider range of elective subjects. In the UCD School of Architecture, the fourth year of the programme has an established tradition of taking in students from European and international universities for either a single semester or the whole year. many UCD students also use the fourth year to study abroad as part of Erasmus exchange and other international networks. Thus this year has a strong international mix of students, and is the most common point of entry for visiting students, even though we accept students in every stage of the Architecture programme

The programme has been very active at an international level, with an extensive network of schools in Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the US. More than half of its students spend at least one semester studying abroad.

In addition, it has a regular influx of internationally renowned visiting lecturers and critics. Among our recent visitors were David Chipperfield, Willam Curtis, Kenneth Frampton, David Leatherbarrow, Elias Torres, Aurelio Galfetti, Jan Olav Jensen, Peter St. John, Tod Williams and Billie Tsien. This international network will continue to grow in the coming years, allowing the School to be both locally rooted and globally connected.

DAVID LEATHERBARROW

Professor of Architecture, Associate Dean, Chair Graduate Group in Architecture,
University of Pennsylvania

In times such as ours, when the interests of students and teachers of architecture oscillate between focused but narrow expertise and free but often irrelevant experimentation, the existence and ambition of a School such as University College Dublin offers a welcome alternative, for a number of reasons. First, UCD's dedication to both its home city, Dublin, and its surrounding countryside, situates its programmes at the intersection of themes that are essential in architecture today: culture and nature, modernity and tradition, the attractive promise of new technologies and the tested wisdom of craft methods. A second strength of UCD is its inclusive approach to architectural skills and their acquisition.

No choice between digital and manual methods can be made today. UCD's serious commitment to the full range of design techniques introduces students to their several strengths and their complementarities. Lastly, UCD offers students a combination of professors and professionals that binds together studies in the theoretical and practical aspects of architecture.
No School's graduates approximate the ideal of the "reflective practitioner" more closely than this one's. That the teachers and students are not just serious about their work but wonderfully collegial makes the School even more special.

STUDY ABROAD STUDIO PROGRAMME:
DESIGN IN CONTEXT

THE 15-CREDIT DESIGN studio lies at the heart of the UCD Architecture Programme. In keeping with the School's overarching aim of producing architecture in context, the studio course will invite students to engage with the various frameworks within which an architectural project takes shape. Beginning with a specific site and specific brief, as it develops the investigation will encompass not just the physical context and functional parameters, but also the social, cultural and political context within which the project is being proposed. Typically, students would take a combination of a 15 ECTS credit design studio, a five ECTS credit lecture module and a five ECTS credit seminar – based module. In addition, UCD's modular degree programmes allow students to choose electives from across the university and through a new alliance, from the National College of Art and Design. Subject options range from computer science to art history, from Irish literature and drama to contemporary sociology.

Students will learn how the design process can draw upon and synthesise their particular knowledge, interests and enthusiasms, and their newfound insights and abilities, to produce rich, complex architectural propositions. They will be able to move from performing analysis to proposing action. In addition, through the process of regular tutorials, seminars and pin-up reviews, they will learn how to present and discuss these propositions with their tutors and their peers.

To help visualise, consider and develop their designs, students are instructed in a wide range of techniques, from model-making and measured survey to 3D computer modelling and photography. At every stage specific pieces of work and presentations will be produced, building to produce a comprehensive portfolio of design work, which should equip students to pursue study and careers in architecture. The studio is led by highly experienced practitioners and educators, supported by a team of architects, all teaching within UCD and all involved in research and practice. In addition, there is regular input from invited experts and visiting critics of international renown. The studio work will also be informed by study trips within Ireland and a field trip to a European city.

Cultural and social opportunities: One of the essential elements of the UCD experience is to fully understand and appreciate the richness of Irish society and culture. A full extra-curricular programme is designed to develop social and cultural links between Architecture Study Abroad students, and Irish and international students at UCD. This includes cultural activities, visits to historical sites, theatre outings, and sporting and social events.

JOHN TUOMEY Hon FAIA, RIBA, FRIAI
O'Donnell+Tuomey
Professor of Architectural Design, UCD

Studying architecture at UCD opened up a whole new world to me. It opened my eyes to the curious complex reality of the man-made world. It is a lifelong enquiry. I met many like-minded people in my first year at UCD, who would become lasting friends. Studying architecture can lead directly to a career in general architectural practice or to different directions in historic conservation, academic research, construction and environmental studies, strategic and urban planning, and landscape and furniture design; architects are specialists in non-specialisation. Studying architecture at UCD is a unique experience. The centre of the students' world while studying architecture in UCD is the design studio. The design studio is at the core of the course and is a very different world than the school classroom or college lecture hall. It is where each UCD Architecture student sets up their base and, although the hours are long, there is always an interesting conversation going on somewhere in the studio. It is a place where drawings and models are made and ideas are discussed in an informal creative atmosphere of exploration and learning by doing.

ACCOMMODATION

There is a team dedicated to ensuring that you have accommodation here in Dublin, during your time at UCD.
Once you have accepted your place on the programme, information on how to apply for accommodation will be supplied to you by the UCD Centre for Study Abroad.

CREDIT TRANSFER

At the end the semester, UCD provides an official transcript to the home institution. The home institution decides on credits to be awarded for the modules pursued at UCD. It is the responsibility of incoming Study Abroad students to agree with their home institution arrangements in credit. We will be pleased to provide all the necessary information on the modules offered to enable students to make their decisions on credit transfer.

ASSESSMENT

As is the case for all UCD students, UCD Architecture Study Abroad students are expected to undertake all assessments in accordance with University regulations. Assessments are based on a combination of continuous assessment, project work and end of semester examinations.

APPLICATION DETAILS

If you would like to register your interest or apply to study Architecture Abroad here in UCD, the application deadlines are:
May 1st for Full Year or first Semester (Fall)
October 15th for Second Semester (Spring)

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information contact:
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