

ARCHITECTURE

Sector Background

Architecture is the art and science of designing space. Students considering this career should have a creative aptitude for architectural design and the organisational ability to implement their designs in practice. They should also have an interest in artistic and cultural aspects of society, as well as an aptitude for technical and managerial challenges.

Architects are the professionals in the sector who plan and develop designs for construction projects. Once qualified, the variety of work open to professional Architects is wide ranging and graduates can find jobs as part of a team in a small or large private practice, some even working for themselves. Sections of Government Departments, Local Authorities, Semi-State or commercial organisations also employ Architects. Some Architects specialise in certain types of building, or concentrate on a particular aspect of the job, such as design, technology, architectural conservation or project management; depending on personal interests, abilities and opportunities. Some Architects also choose academic careers in teaching and research.

Founded in 1839, [The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland](#) supports and regulates the architectural profession and promotes the value that architecture brings to society.

Architectural Technology

Architectural Technologists usually work within multidisciplinary teams with particular responsibility for the preparation of production information, such as working drawings, schedules and specifications; as well as site surveys, administrative procedures to do with building regulations, fire safety certificates, planning applications, building contracts, etc. Some Technologists develop specialisations in particular areas, such as specification writing, technology, materials, regulations, CAD or BIM.

Landscape Architecture

Landscape Architecture involves the planning and design of all types of outdoor spaces. Landscape Architects work as part of a team of architects, surveyors, town planners, engineers and landscape contractors to design the landscape around us, such as parks, recreational areas, stadiums, roads, reservoirs and public squares.

Interior Architecture

Interior Architecture is about the art and science of designing an interior space, taking into account all elements of the build. Interior Architecture is a separate, though related, discipline, and does not lead to qualification as an architect.

Typical Roles

Some roles in this sector include;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Architect ● Landscape Architect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interior Architect ● Architectural Technologist/ Technician
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Entry Routes

Architect

The [Building Control Act 2007](#) introduced registration for Architects. Under the Act the RIAI must maintain a register of Architects who meet the qualification standards. Any person not on the Register who uses the title 'Architect' or practices under any name or title containing the word 'Architect' is guilty of an offence.

The best way to qualify as an Architect eligible for admission to the Register for Architects and to Membership of the RIAI is to:

1. Get a [degree from a recognised school of architecture](#)
2. Obtain two years of [approved post-graduate professional training](#)
3. Sit the [Professional Practice Exam](#)

Recognised degree courses in architecture take five years of full-time study. Many students take a year out for practical experience between the third and fourth years. So the whole process, from start to full professional qualification, generally takes seven to nine years.

Sometimes the five years of study are split into a three-year course followed by a two-year course, or a four-year course followed by a one-year course. Graduates of the three-year or four-year courses in Architecture are not eligible for any class of RIAI membership or for Registration.

The list below refers to the degrees in the Republic of Ireland awarded after the full five years of study have been completed and are accredited by the RIAI.

- [Bachelor of Science \(Hons\) in Architectural Science & Masters of Architecture](#), University College Dublin
- [Bachelor of Architecture \(Hons\)](#), Dublin Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Architecture \(Hons\)](#), Waterford Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Architecture \(Hons\)](#), University of Limerick
- [Bachelor of Science in Architecture \(Hons\) and Master of Architecture](#), University College Cork / Cork Institute of Technology

UK Study

There are over thirty recognised schools of architecture in the UK. [The Architects Registration Board](#) provides contact information for all recognised UK schools.

Courses in Northern Ireland recognised by the Royal Institute of British Architects:

- [Bachelor of Science in Architecture \(Hons\)](#), Queen's University Belfast
 - This course is accredited by the Architects Registration Board UK and the Royal Institute of British Architects.
- [Bachelor of Arts in Architecture \(Hons\)](#), University of Ulster
 - This course is accredited by the Architects Registration Board UK and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Professional Practice Exam

The Professional Practice Examination is the final stage in qualifying for admission to the Register of Architects and to RIAI Membership as an Architect. In Ireland there are currently two Professional Practice Examinations available to architectural graduates.

- [Professional Diploma in Architecture](#), University College Dublin
- [Professional Diploma in Architectural Practice](#), Dublin Institute of Technology

Architectural Technologist

To qualify as an Architectural Technologist candidates must take an accredited degree course, which generally takes three years of full-time study, followed a period of supervised practical training. Graduates are then eligible to become an Architectural Technologist member of the RIAI. Four-year Level 8 courses in Architectural Technology are now also available. RIAI accreditation of these degrees is now under way. The RIAI accredits courses in Architectural Technology in the following institutions:

- [Bachelor of Science \(Hons\) in Architectural Technology](#), Dublin Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Science \(Ord\) in Architectural Technology](#), Waterford Institute of Technology
 - also accredited by Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists in the UK (CIAT)
- [Bachelor of Science \(Ord\) in Architectural Technology](#), Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Science \(Ord\) in Architectural Technology](#), Galway Mayo Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Science \(Hons\) in Architectural Technology](#), Carlow Institute of Technology
 - also accredited by Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists in the UK (CIAT)

- [Bachelor of Science \(Ord\) in Architectural Technology](#), Cork Institute of Technology

Graduates of accredited programmes apply under [Route T1](#). Qualifications awarded outside the State are evaluated by the RIAI on a case by case basis against the Irish standard for entry through [Route T1](#). Graduates of non-accredited programmes awarded in the State may apply for the RIAI [Architectural Technologist Entry Exam](#) (Route T2).

Interior Architect

There are several courses in Interior Architecture available around Ireland. Interior Architecture is a separate, though related, discipline of Architecture. The courses will not lead to admission to the Register of Architects or to RIAI Membership as an Architect. These courses will however allow graduates to work in architectural practice, interior design firms, and allied disciplines in the capacity of Interior Architecture. Courses in Interior Architecture in Ireland can be found in:

- [Bachelor of Arts \(Ord\) in Interior Architecture & Design](#), Institute of Technology, Sligo
- [Bachelor of Science \(Hons\) in Interior Architecture](#), Cork Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Science \(Ord\) in Interior Architecture](#), Cork Institute of Technology
- [Bachelor of Arts \(Hons\) in Interior Architecture](#), Griffith College Dublin

Each of these three colleges above offer a Masters in Interior Architecture also which is open to applications from graduates with from architecturally related or cognate disciplines.

- [Master of Arts in Interior Architecture](#), Institute of Technology, Sligo
- [Master of Science in Interior Architecture](#), Cork Institute of Technology
- [Master of Arts in Design \(Interior Architecture\)](#), Griffith College Dublin

Landscape Architect

Currently there is only one course in the Republic of Ireland that allows students to study Landscape Architecture to degree level:

- [Bachelor of Science \(Hons\) in Landscape Architecture](#), University College Dublin

After two years of approved work experience, Landscape Architecture graduates can sit the [Irish Landscape Institute Professional Practice Exams](#), which lead to full professional membership of the [Irish Landscape Institute](#) (ILI).

Relevant Bodies & Professional Associations

<u>Royal Institute of The Architects of Ireland</u>	<u>Office of Public Works</u>
<u>Royal Institute of British Architects</u>	<u>Public Appointments Service</u>
<u>An Bord Pleanála</u>	<u>Architectural Association of Ireland</u>
<u>Irish Landscape Institute</u>	<u>International Federation of Landscape Architects</u>
<u>National Inventory of Architectural Heritage</u>	<u>Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists</u>
<u>European Council of Interior Architects</u>	