

UCD ARCHITECTURE- PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA (ARCHITECTURE) COURSE INFORMATION 2011/12

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTOR UCD Course Code: PDARCH002 -Major T157

The Professional Diploma (Architecture) is the final professional examination for architectural graduates leading to a UCD Level 4 (Masters) award (equivalent to NQAI Level 9). The programme includes lectures, tutorials, academic support and examinations in five modules. The programme is flexible and may be taken over a number of years, and in 2011/12 examinations all five modules will be available in both Semesters 1 and 2.

This post-graduate programme is accredited by the Registration Body for Ireland, the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) and is equivalent to the RIAI Professional Practice Examination. The Building Control Act 2007 lists graduates who have passed the 'NUI Professional Practice Examination' as eligible for direct admission to the 'Register of Architects'.

Note: Since 2008, the RIBA no longer accredit professional (Part 3) examinations outside the UK and for this reason the UCD 'Part 3' is no longer listed as an accredited RIBA course.

COURSE ENQUIRIES

The Course is available in the School of Architecture, Landscape & Civil Engineering, UCD, Richview, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14.

General Enquiries- professionalpractice@ucd.ie tel- (01) 716 2761

Course Director – Ms. Orla Hegarty BArch MRIA RIBA (orla.hegarty@ucd.ie).

Updates to this Course Information will be available at the UCD School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering post-graduate programmes website at <http://www.ucd.ie/arcel/architecture/postgraduate/index.htm>

An Information Meeting will be held on **Friday 25th March** at 10.00am in The Red Room, School of Architecture, Landscape & Civil Engineering, UCD Richview, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14. <http://www.ucd.ie/maps/>

APPLICATIONS

Applications will open in late March 2011 for the Professional Diploma (Architecture) programme and the closing date is Monday 16 May 2011. Late Applications will not be accepted for the Diploma programme after this date.

Supporting Documents, following your online application, must be submitted by 30 June 2011. Course Fees will be payable in August. Applications can be made online at UCD Online Applications (<http://www.ucd.ie/apply/>) There is a non-refundable application fee of €45. Graduates of schools of architecture outside of Ireland and the UK must have their qualifications verified by the RIAI, (for a fee of €100) OR to provide evidence of Architectural Graduate membership of the RIAI (annual fee €145.)

Applicants who have been offered a place (or who have registered) in a previous year should contact the Course Administrator (professionalpractice@ucd.ie) for further information.

FEES

The course fees include lectures, tutorials, academic support, lecture notes and handouts, online access to Blackboard, UCD Student/ Library card and access to other student facilities. 2011/ 12 Fees are €2,140. Tax relief is available on tuition fees for this UCD post-graduate diploma programme as an approved Post-Graduate Course. The tax relief can be claimed by whoever pays the fees (there is no longer a requirement for the payment to be made by the student or a family member).

Revenue Commissioners- Tax Relief (link to <http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it31.html>)

PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12

The Programme (including submission dates) for 2011/12 is on Page 4 of this document. The Lecture course for the first three modules (Architectural Practice, Construction Legislation and Procurement & Contracts) will be held on one day per week, generally Mondays (11.30am - 5.30pm) from September-December (excl. October Bank Holiday Monday). Occasional additional sessions are held from 10-11.00am for Case Study and Examination advice etc.

COURSE STRUCTURE

CODE	MODULE	Examination	Requirements	Credits
ARCT40130	Architectural Practice	Essay	2-3,000 words	5
ARCT40140	Construction Legislation	Written Paper 1	2 hours	5
ARCT40090	Procurement & Contracts	Written Paper 2	2 hours	5
ARCT40100	Case Study	Dissertation (80%) & Oral Examination (20%)	9,000- 11,000 words	10
ARCT40110	Practical Experience	Oral Examination (80%) & Written Assessment of Experience (20%)	2x 20+ minute Interviews & 1,500 word Assessment of Experience	5
TOTAL				30

Compensation is not permitted in ARCT40100 (Module 4:Case Study) or ARCT40110 (Module 5: Practical Experience). The Pass Mark for each Module is 50%.

For further information on UCD Academic Regulations and Modularisation refer to http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/info_stud.htm

BLACKBOARD/ UCD CONNECT

Blackboard is the UCD 'Virtual Learning Environment'. Course documents, handouts, announcements, timetables, etc. are made available electronically to registered students to download.

Registered Students will also be issued with a UCD Connect account and email address. These facilities are particularly suited to part-time students who are not based on campus.

LIBRARY

Registered students will be issued with a UCD Student Card for the Academic Year 2011/12: This entitles you to use all UCD Libraries and other facilities on campus. You can also access Library facilities (book ordering, renewals etc) and a wide range of databases and publications online. Richview Library (based in the School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering) is the largest dedicated Architecture Library in the country.

TUTORIALS

Additional tutorials are arranged in Semester 2 (February- March 2012) to assist students in drafting their Case Study and preparing for the Oral Examination. The course director is available throughout the year to give advice on Case Studies, work experience etc, and to provide feedback and mentoring.

SUBMISSION DATES

The Course submission and examination dates for 2011/12 are as follows:

SEMESTER 1

MODULE	SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Semester 1- Architectural Practice ARCT40130	
mid-Oct 2011	Essay topics available for selection (online through Blackboard)
mid-December 2011	Essay Submission date
Semester 1- Construction Legislation ARCT40140	
Semester 1- Procurement & Contracts ARCT40090	
early January 2012	Each Module has one 2-hour (closed- book) written examination. Both Written Exams are held on the same day. In 2012 these examinations will also be offered in Semester 2 (April/ May 2012).

SEMESTER 2

NEW APPLICANTS IN 2010	
Semester 2- Case Study ARCT40100	
<i>Students can defer this module to Semester 1 or Semester 2 in a future year, subject to seeking a leave of absence from the Architecture Programme Board.</i>	
End October 2010	Case Study Proposal Form can be submitted for approval at any time up until this date.
mid- February 2011	Draft Case Studies <u>may</u> be submitted for feedback at any time up until this date (Feedback will be issued in March 2012).
late March 2011	Final submission of completed Case Study.
Semester 2- Practical Experience ARCT40110	
<i>Students can defer this module to Semester 1 or Semester 2 in a future year, subject to seeking a leave of absence from the Architecture Programme Board. Graduates from 2010 will not have completed 24 months experience in Semester 2 and can take these modules in Semester 1 (December) at the earliest.</i>	
late March 2012	Updated Assessment of Experience and additional Certificate(s) of Experience, (if Certificates for min. 24 months have not been submitted previously).
Late April/ early May 2012	Oral Examinations

DEFERRAL/ REPEATS

STUDENTS FROM 2010/11 OR EARLIER	
Semester 1- Case Study ARCT40100	
<i>Students can take this module in Semester 1 or Semester 2 (dates above)</i>	
June 2011	Case Study Proposal Form can be submitted for approval at any time up until this date.
Late September 2011	Draft Case Studies <u>may</u> be submitted for feedback at any time up until this date (Feedback will be issued in October 2011).
late October 2011	Final submission of completed Case Study.
Semester 1- Practical Experience ARCT40110	
<i>Students can take this module in Semester 1 or Semester 2 (dates above)</i>	
late October 2011	Updated Assessment of Experience and additional Certificate(s) of Experience, if 24 months have not been submitted previously.
Early January 2012	Oral Examinations

COURSE STRUCTURE

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTOR

The Professional Diploma (Architecture) is a post-graduate course for graduates in architecture (B. Arch degree or equivalent approved) who have obtained at least 24 months satisfactory practical professional training. Applicants must have obtained a UCD B. Arch degree (or equivalent approved) in 2010 or earlier for admission in 2011.

The Professional Diploma (Architecture) is recognised by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI). The Building Control Act 2007 lists graduates who have passed the NUI Professional Practice Examination as eligible for admission to the 'Register of Architects'. *From 2008, the RIBA no longer accredit professional (Part 3) examinations outside the UK and for this reason the UCD 'Part 3' is no longer listed as an accredited RIBA course.*

UCD LEVEL

Level 4, Masters (NQAI- National Qualifications Authority of Ireland Level 9)

CORE MODULES

Students are automatically registered to all five modules in Year 1. Modules 4 & 5 (Case Study & Practical Experience) may be taken in Semester 2 of Year 1 or in Semester 1 or Semester 2 of a subsequent year. Students must complete the five Modules in 5 years. *A student may be re-admitted after the five years, subject to approval from the Architecture Programme Board.*

MODULE DEPENDENCIES

Students must have attempted examinations in all other modules ARCT40130: Architectural Practice, ARCT40140: Construction Legislation, ARCT40090: Procurement & Contracts and ARCT40100: Case Study before being admitted to an examination in ARCT40110: Practical Experience.

MODULE 1- ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE (ARCT 40130)

Credits- 5

Lecture Course- 18 hours

Private Study/ Revision- 52 hours

Assignment- 40 hours

Total- 100 hours

Subject Material- The Architectural Profession, History of Professionalism, EU Practice & Policy, Codes of Conduct, Registration of Title, Forms of Practice, The Construction Industry in Ireland, The RIAI (Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland), Current Issues for the Architectural Profession, Dealing with Clients, Appointment of the Architect, Architectural Services, Liability Issues, Dealing with Third Parties, Introduction to Management (Theory and Forms of Practice), Financial Management, Record-keeping, Practice Management (Functions and Internal Organisation), Professional Liability, Legal Issues relating to Practice and Construction.

Learning Outcomes- On completion of this Module the student should be able to-

- Show an awareness of the historical, social, environmental, legislative and economic context in which the built environment is procured.
- Demonstrate a good working knowledge of the architect's role, responsibilities and liabilities.
- Demonstrate an ability to advise and represent a client in relation to legislation, programme, budget, contract and procurement.
- Show a good knowledge and understanding of Architectural Practice Management
- Demonstrate an understanding of legal, liability and contractual issues and an ability to apply this knowledge to specific problems.

Examination- Essay 2-3,000 words. The student can select a title for the essay from a range of five subjects. Pass Mark 50%.

MODULE 2- CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION (ARCT 40140)

Credits- 5

Lecture Course- 18 hours

Private Study/ Revision- 80 hours

Examination Time- 2 hours

Total- 98 hours

Subject Material- Legal Framework, EU Issues (relating to Construction Legislation), Planning & Development Legislation (Planning Law, Procedure and Practice), Health & Safety Legislation (Law, Procedure & Practice), Building Control Legislation (Law, Procedure and Practice), Conservation Legislation (International Treaties and Policy, National Monuments Act, Planning & Development Legislation related to Protected Structures and Special Amenity Areas etc.)

Learning Outcomes- On completion of this Module the student should -

- Have a good working knowledge and understanding of all current relevant legislation and regulations relating to planning, development, environment, conservation, construction and architectural practice.
- Be able to identify the legislation and regulations relevant to a project and advise a client in relation to compliance.
- Demonstrate an ability to apply all relevant legislation, regulations and 'best practice' standards throughout the design and construction of a project.
- Be aware of their own limitations and know other sources of information and expertise.

Examination- Written Examination (2 hours). Pass Mark 50%.

MODULE 3- PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTS (ARCT 40090)

Credits- 5

Lecture Course- 18 hours

Private Study/ Revision- 80 hours

Examination Time- 2 hours

Total- 98 hours

Subject Material- Building Procurement (pre-tender and post-tender from inception to completion and operation), Design Team and Consultants, Construction Contracts (standard forms of contract and alternatives), Project Management (theory and practice related to construction projects), Project Programming, Cost Control, Reports & Surveys (report writing, legal and technical issues), Risk Management & Construction Insurances.

Learning Outcomes- On completion of this Module the student should –

- Be able to advise a client throughout all stages of a project from inception to completion.
- Demonstrate a good working knowledge of standard/ non-standard forms of contract and methods of procurement.
- Demonstrate good communication, organisational and leadership skills in managing the development and procurement of a project.
- Show an understanding of the principles and implementation of effective Project Management.
- Demonstrate an ability to competently undertake professional reports and surveys.
- Be aware of the principles of risk management and the requirements of construction insurances.
- Demonstrate an ability to initiate and manage a good system of record keeping, production of documents and circulation of information.

Examination- Written Examination (2 hours). Pass Mark 50%.

MODULE 4- CASE STUDY (ARCT 40100)

Credits- 10

Dissertation- 115 hours

Tutorial- 5 hours

Marking – Dissertation (Case Study) 80%, Presentation at Oral Examination 20%

Total- 120 hours

Note – The Case Study topic must be approved in advance.

Subject Material- The student prepares a Case Study (Dissertation) of 9- 11,000 words (excl. appendices) based on their personal experience, on-going involvement, assessment and analysis of an approved construction project (under supervision in an architectural practice). The student records their experience and commentary on the progress of the project and analyses each stage. The Case Study should identify, and form conclusions about, the problems and successes of the project, and suggest ways in which problems could have been avoided or minimised, and the successes expanded.

Learning Outcomes- On completion of this Module the student should be able to-

- Demonstrate their personal professional experience gained throughout the development and construction of the selected project.
- Identify and expound on all relevant and critical issues at each stage of the selected construction project.
- Discuss in detail the architect's role in relation to the client, design team, specialist consultants, local authorities and agencies, contractors, suppliers and building users.
- Analyse the successes and failures of the project and form a judgment on their personal contribution, professional abilities and competences.
- Make reference to standard practice where a selected Case Study project deviates from 'typical' or 'best' practice.
- Show an ability to write a professional report, including undertaking research, formatting the structure and presentation, accrediting references and assembling appendices.

Examination- Case Study 9,-11,000 words (excl. appendices) on candidate's personal experience, on-going involvement, assessment and analysis of an approved construction project. The Case Study topic is submitted for approval at the time that the student applies for the Course and it is submitted during the semester. Up to 20% of the mark is awarded for the presentation of the Case Study at the Oral Examination.

Pass Mark 50%. *Note- Compensation is not permitted in this Module.*

MODULE 5- PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE (ARCT 40110)

Credits -5

Seminar- 3 hours

Professional Placement- 110 hours

Assessment of Experience (written paper)- 10 hours

Examination Time- 1 hour

Marking- Assessment of Experience 20%, Oral Examination 80%

Total- 121 hours

Subject Material- The student is required to spend a minimum of 24 months (post B.Arch degree, or equivalent) of approved experience in professional practice, under supervision: During this time he/she is required to gain experience of all aspects of architectural practice. The student is required to submit a written (approx. 1,500 word) 'Assessment of Experience' as a summary and evaluation of their practical experience.

Learning Outcomes- On completion of this Module the student should be able to-

- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, competence and professionalism required for independent practice as an architect in Ireland.
- Show an ability to apply the 'body of knowledge' acquired in Modules 1, 2, 3 & 4 in response to specific issues and scenarios.
- Demonstrate judgment, integrity and impartiality in their professional dealings.
- Demonstrate an awareness of their personal professional responsibilities, skills, competences, limitations and on-going CPD (continuous professional development) requirements.
- Show an appreciation of the historical, social, environmental, legislative and economic context in which the built environment is procured'.
- Show an ability to communicate clearly and comprehensively.

Examination- Written 'Assessment of Experience' (20% of marks), Oral Examination (80% of marks) in two consecutive oral examinations of duration 20-30minutes each.

Pass Mark 50%. *Note- Compensation is not permitted in this Module.*

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants are required to have a recognized qualification in architecture. This includes

- a UCD B. Arch degree (2010 or earlier);
- an equivalent qualification from a recognized school of architecture;
- a qualification recognised by the Competent Authority in another EU member state;
- a qualification recognised by the professional or registration body in a non-EU state and assessed by the RIAI as equivalent to a qualification from a recognized school of architecture.

UCD GRADUATES

UCD B. Arch graduates are not required to submit evidence of qualifications.

GRADUATE OF SCHOOLS IN IRELAND & UK

Graduates of all other institutions must submit original transcripts for 5 years and also arrange for confirmation from the relevant institution(s) to be submitted directly to UCD.

GRADUATES OF OTHER SCHOOLS

Graduates of institutions (other than Ireland and the UK) must either:

- (1) submit transcripts to the RIAI for verification. This is subject to a fee of €100. payable to the RIAI (Submissions to: Admissions Director, RIAI, 8 Merrion Square, Dublin 2) OR
- (2) provide evidence of Architectural Graduate Membership of the RIAI. This is subject to an annual fee of €145.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Practical Training requirements are required to be in accordance with the RIAI Practical Training Guidelines.

OBJECTIVES

Professional experience is an essential complement to academic learning. The fundamental objectives of practical training are to ensure that the student has:

- An understanding of the legal, contractual and procedural aspects of architectural practice;
- Practical experience of legal and ethical obligations arising from architect-client and employer-employee relationships;
- Experience, under direct supervision, of the duties and responsibilities of professional practice.
- Acquired knowledge, through "learning by doing" with responsibility in a busy office,
- It is most helpful to have worked on many work-stages of a well-managed project: This should include site experience, working with other consultants, experience of meetings with clients and statutory authorities. Experience in Ireland is very useful, as this alone provides familiarity with Irish practice, legislation, procurement and contract (which form the basis of the examination).

LOCATION

Practical Experience does not have to be in Ireland or the EU. (It can be anywhere in the world). Students should note, however, that the examination relates to practice in Ireland.

SUPERVISION

Practical Experience must be certified by your employer and must be under the direct supervision of an 'architect'. An 'Architect' is defined as any person who is registered/licensed to practice as an architect in any jurisdiction or who is a registered/chartered member of a professional body which is a Member Section of the International Union of Architects (UIA).

Freelance work or experience as a principal is not acceptable. In the rare cases where a student is a junior partner, supervision by a suitably qualified senior partner will be acceptable.

Experience in agency employment may be acceptable, if the work is of such a nature and quality as to satisfy the above requirements.

Applicants for the Professional Diploma (Architecture) for 2011/12 are no longer required to have 18 months professional experience at the time making an application.

The requirement is that applicants have a min. 6 months professional experience* at the time of application (April 2011).

This means that a graduate from 2010 can enter the programme in 2011, subject to having min. 6 months experience since their graduation.

**Certified Professional Experience must be in paid employment OR in an approved work placement/ internship scheme under the supervision of an architect for a min. 21 hours/ week. An 'Architect' is defined as any person who is registered/licensed to practice as an architect in any jurisdiction or who is a registered/ chartered member of a professional body which is a Member Section of the International Union of Architects (UIA).*

The requirement to have completed 24 months Professional Experience (all of which is after graduation- 'Part 2') before completing the course will not change. Therefore a graduate from 2010, entering the programme in 2011, cannot complete the programme until December 2012 at the earliest.

WORKING HOURS

A minimum of 21 hours/ week of paid employment will be accepted as full time work. Normal leave counts as working time. Employment periods of less than 4 months continuous duration are not normally accepted.

EXEMPTIONS

Applicants may apply for an exemption from 12 months of the Practical Experience requirement if immediately before, or during, the B.Arch course or equivalent they have at least 6 years appropriate experience. Applicants should provide supporting documents at the time of the application. *Exemptions are granted at the discretion of the School.*

Applicants may apply for an exemption from 12 months of the Practical Experience requirement if a maximum of 12 months has been spent in research and development work provided that- this is the first year of practical training; that the work is of such a nature and quality as to satisfy the objectives above; that the work is supervised by a recognised specialist in the field, personally engaged; that the work must be done in a reputable research organisation or institution with an established and adequately resourced programme. (A school of architecture employing assistants to work on established programmes would be an acceptable organization).

Taught postgraduate courses are not acceptable.

Exemptions are granted at the discretion of the School.

ASSESSMENT OF EXPERIENCE

OBJECTIVE

At the time of application the student is required to prepare an 'Assessment of Professional Experience'. The student also submits and 'Updated Assessment of Experience' during the course and this submission is awarded up to 20% of the marks for Module 5: Practical Experience. The purpose of the Assessments is:

- To enable the School assess the nature and quality of the experience;
- To help the student to develop a critical attitude to the experience gained, and to see where it may not be a rounded experience of practice. If there are areas of practice [for example, site inspections and meetings, or fee negotiations, or planning appeals] in which one has not had experience, writing the assessment enables a student to identify gaps in their experience and to seek to remedy them during the course.
- To help preparation for the examination well in advance.

FORMAT

The Assessments should be typewritten, and approx. 1,500 words long. The Assessment of Experience should include a record of your employment since graduation, details of projects, relevant dates, forms of contract, relevant work stages etc. and a personal reflection on your professional experience to date.

The Assessment should supplement the outline of the experience as given in the Certificate(s) of Experience. You should identify areas of good experience, giving details (examples: "production drawings", "on-site operations", etc.) and also reflect on areas of poor experience, and how it is proposed to remedy this.

The Assessment may be presented in bullet point format as a list of Practices and /or Projects giving a brief description of the project, project size and value, critical dates and details of the students input at the relevant work-stages. The student should provide a summary paragraph identifying the strengths and weaknesses in their experience to date.

REFLECTION

The examination syllabus is similar to that for the undergraduate exams in the professional practice subjects. A different level of understanding, ability and attitude to professional practice is, however, expected.

Successful candidates show a familiarity with the detail of, and a maturity of attitude to, practice, and a level of competence to manage a project, which young, fully qualified, members of the profession should have to be able to stand alone and properly serve the society in which they work.

THE CASE STUDY

INTRODUCTION

The case study should demonstrate an ability to investigate a project and to formulate a report on its background and progress. It should identify, and form conclusions about, the problems and successes of the project, and suggest ways in which problems could have been avoided or minimised, and successes improved or extended. Its length should be 9,000 to 11,000 words (excluding appendices and index).

MENTORING

You are **not** required to formally nominate a mentor for your Case Study project. However, you are advised to discuss the project on an on-going basis with your employer(s) and to seek opportunities to actively discuss the issues with your colleagues.

PROJECT SELECTION

The selected project can be:

- A complete building
- A substantial section of a completed or partially completed complex of buildings. (For example, a canteen attached to an industrial building, or the residential section of, say, a hospital.)
- A partially completed building, at least 50% through the estimated contract period.

You must have been employed by the practice for min. 50% of the construction contract period.

These should be taken as a general guide and need not be interpreted rigidly. The preferred Study is from the first or the second category. The subject may be either a project on which one is actively engaged, or one already completed. The choice should be with the knowledge and agreement of one's employers. The subject must be approved by School in advance. (Refer to submission dates for approvals).

Case Studies outside Ireland will be considered on a case by case basis, depending on the nature of the project and the particular circumstances of the candidate.

Case Study projects on which you are an observer will be considered on a case by case basis. 'Monitored' projects will only be considered if you are in paid employment in the practice that is appointed to the project.

The range and scope of studies should match suggestions above in the most appropriate way. The School will advise on appropriate topics and provide feedback on drafts (refer to submission dates). If you have a Case Study subject approved which is based on a project where a 'non-traditional' building contract is used you will be required to write the Case Study with reference to a traditional (RIAI type) contract, in order to demonstrate that you have a full understanding of the role and responsibilities of the architect.

Studies are normally retained by the University, but may be returned to the student on written application. Case Study requirements are in accordance with RIAI Case Study Guidelines.

RETURNING THE CASE STUDY TO THE CANDIDATE

The School normally retains Case Studies. An application for the return of a Case Study will be considered but must be in writing and made at the same time as the submission of the Study. Candidates are recommended to retain duplicate copies of their Study for their own records.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I discuss with my Employer?

You should ask your Employer to support you in your preparation for the Exam. This Course is a critical part of the training of an architect and is of benefit both to yourself and to your practice. It is important that you attend all of the Lectures and that you are involved in a suitable Case Study project - this includes attending meetings, visiting site, having access to files and seeking opportunities to be involved in as many aspects of practice as possible. You should give your Employer a copy of the Case Study requirements and take a pro-active role in discussing this at the outset.

You should agree your requirements with your employer in advance: Students need time off to attend the lecture series, prepare their Case Studies and to study for the examinations. Your contribution to the practice will be greatly improved by undertaking the Course and your employer should acknowledge their duty to support you in your professional education.

How much time do I need to prepare for the Exam?

Students should start to work on their Case Study once the subject has been approved. The production of a comprehensive, well considered Case Study requires research and reflection, which is best achieved during the course of the project.

In addition to attending the Lecture Course, the Written Examinations also require preparation and many students take one week or more study leave in advance of the Written and Oral Examinations.

How do I select a project for my Case Study?

Ideally, you should consider this and discuss with prospective employers before you undertake your two years practical training. You can submit one or more Case Study proposals for discussion/ approval/ advice at any stage (refer to submission dates).

Do I need to be involved in every stage of the project?

It is not always possible for a student to be involved in every stage of a project. In this case, it is preferable to be involved in the later stages of a project (procurement, on-site, completion) rather than the early stages of a project, which may not be advanced on site at the time of the submission. Generally graduates have more experience at the early stages of several projects and the Case Study may be their first experience of on-site operations and contract administration.

I am registered for the RIAI Exam, do I also need to register for this examination?

No. The Lecture Course is run by UCD and candidates to the RIAI exam are permitted to register to attend. If you are an RIAI registered Professional Practice Exam student you will be sent details of the Lecture Course and registration information (for Major T159) in due course.

Are there any differences between this Course and the RIAI Course?

Both Courses are of a comparable standard and successful candidates are eligible for RIAI membership. Both examinations require candidates to complete a case study and to pass two written and an oral examination.

Also to note that the UCD examination leads to an academic award (Prof. Dip (Arch)), that fees are tax deductible and that UCD examinations and repeats are available twice every year.

If my Case Study is delayed, can I continue with the Course?

As the Course is now available in Modules, you can continue with the Lecture Course and be assessed in the first three modules (Architectural Practice, Construction Legislation and Procurement & Contracts). Students can take the Case Study and Practical Experience modules in the Semester 2 OR in Semester 1 or Semester 2 of a later year (so you will not have to wait a year to complete the course). Alternatively, you may seek to have a new Case Study approved. (The Practical Experience (Oral Examination) module cannot be taken until all other parts of the examination have been attempted).

Can I take the Lecture Course this year and defer the Exams until next year?

No. Once you have registered you must take the assessments in the first three modules (Architectural Practice, Construction Legislation and Procurement & Contracts). If you do not take the assessments in these core modules, your grades will be recorded as NG and you will be required to 'repeat' and pay repeat fees in a future year.

I do not yet have 2 years experience; can I take part of the Lecture Course?

Once you have min. 6 months experience you can register to the course. You cannot complete the Case Study and Practical Experience modules until you have min. 24 months certified experience.

Will I be at a disadvantage if I attempt all of the parts of the examination in one year?

No. This has been the only way to take the Course in previous years and students have benefited from sitting the examinations and preparing their Case Study at the same time as the Lecture Course.

Can I attend the Lecture Course or some of the lecture modules if I am not registered for the Exam?

Yes. The Lecture Course (under Major T158) is available by module to non-exam students as CPD subject to registering and paying a fee. (If however you register for the Professional Diploma (Architecture) in the future, you will not receive any exemption from attending the lectures again).