

Programme Specification

**BEng Architectural Engineering with International Foundation
Year**

**UCAS Code:
K251**

For students entering Foundation year in September 2026

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	Accreditation is to be sought from the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) and Energy Institute (EI).
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Engineering

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a thorough degree-level education in Architectural engineering, enabling you to deliver engineering solutions to solve problems in the built environment.

Based on a grounding in the fundamental principles of engineering, architectural concepts and relevant aspects of the Built Environment at both building and urban levels, the programme covers the design, management and operation of resource-efficient buildings within the urban context. Major areas covered include design and management of building environmental systems and urban energy systems, structural analysis, building pathology, construction site engineering, architectural design, and digital technologies with a focus on numerical modelling and programming.

The programme will prepare students for subsequent studies at Master/PhD level or for pursuing a career in the built environment industry by providing:

- Practical, experimental and laboratory-based engineering experience in the design and management of buildings within the broader context of urban environment;
- Problem-solving skills;
- Underpinning skills in mathematics, programming and relevant science and technology;
- Knowledge of the state-of-the-art in building and environmental systems as applied in the design and management of the built environment;
- Understanding of ethics and health and safety issues associated with the design, construction and management of the built environment;
- The ability to work in an academic, industrial or research environment as individuals or as part of a team;

- The ability to plan, manage and conduct an in-depth individual project in architectural engineering.

This programme comprises a foundation year (Part 0) provided through the International Foundation Programme (IFP) which provides access to higher education to international students who do not meet the normal entry requirements 'A Level' or the equivalent. Through part 0 you will be equipped with subject-specific knowledge which will prepare you for the demands of undergraduate study. This is achieved through the provision of high-quality teaching which is sympathetic to the needs of students from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

Foundation year:	In the Foundation year, you will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills through the provision of a compulsory credit-bearing Academic Skills module. The key skills relate to critical thinking, essay writing, research, referencing and avoiding plagiarism, group work and projects, and presentations. In addition, in the Foundation year, you will have the opportunity to develop knowledge in Mathematics, Physics and Quantitative Analysis aligned to the 'A Level' entry requirements for the degree.
Part 1:	Introduces the fundamental underpinning principles and techniques in architecture, science and engineering needed for a career in architectural engineering.
Part 2:	Provides knowledge and understanding in more advanced areas of architectural engineering, building upon the fundamentals learned in Part 1. Part 2 provides students with the opportunity to work in teams to design and develop an engineering solution for real-world engineering needs in the built environment.
Part 3:	Part 3 allows you to specialise in the areas of Architectural Engineering that interest you the most. You will gain experience in planning, managing and conducting an in-depth research project in Architectural Engineering.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BEng Architectural Engineering with International Foundation Year

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Demonstrate detailed knowledge and critical understanding of concepts, principles, and theories relevant to Architectural Engineering.
2	Use the knowledge and understanding, developed through the course of study and personal investigations as an individual and as part of a team as well as engineering principles, analytical methods, modelling techniques, qualitative and quantitative

	methods, and appropriate computational tools and packages to respond systematically to engineering challenges in the built environment.
3	Combine the knowledge and understanding of underpinning scientific principles, mathematical methods, and engineering practice to analyse engineering problems in Architectural Engineering and formulate appropriate solutions.
4	Analyse and integrate information and data from a variety of sources and critically evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving a set of defined engineering problems in the built environment.
5	Analyse and evaluate solutions to engineering challenges in energy and environmental systems using a range of scientific theories, engineering analysis, and evaluation skills, taking into account appropriate quality standards, codes of practice, and industry standards.
6	Demonstrate awareness of the possible conflicting demands of clients, stakeholders, and other design and construction bodies in the development of appropriate interdisciplinary and sustainable solutions in the design and management of the built environment.
7	Undertake engineering projects responsibly, professionally, and ethically, with regard to environmental risk considering the sustainability agenda in the built environment as well as the framework of relevant legal requirements.
8	Practice a range of transferable skills including problem-solving, communication, team working, IT skills, information management, planning self-learning, and reflection, all within the context of progression toward professional engineering status.
9	Draw on an understanding of the engineering principles in evaluating existing practices in Architectural Engineering, investigating new technologies, and dealing with unfamiliar situations professionally.
10	Apply techniques relative to the evaluation of energy efficiency and environmental impacts of buildings to contribute to achieving our net zero carbon future in the building sector.
11	Understanding of ethics, professional responsibilities, and health and safety issues associated with the design, and management of the built environment.
<p>You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.</p> <p>To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.</p>	

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
N/A	

Module information

Part 0 comprises 140 credits and Parts 1, 2 and 3 each comprise 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0CMA	Core Mathematics	20	0
IF0QM	Quantitative Methods	20	0
IF0RAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0
MA0FM	Further Mathematics	20	0
MA0PH	Physics	20	0

The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available from a list provided by the International Foundation Programme. If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, Academic English 1 (IF0AE1) and Academic English 2 (IF0AE2) must be selected from the optional modules.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
CE1BSP	Building Services and Project	20	4
CE1CIC2	Information and Communication	20	4
CE1ENM	Engineering Mathematics	20	4
CE1ESE	Empirical Studies and Site Engineering	20	4
CE1HMS	History of the Built Environment, Material, and Structural Analysis	20	4
CE1PNM	Numerical Modelling and Programming	20	4

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
CE2ARD	Architectural Design	20	5
CE2BPS	Building Pathology and Surveying Practice	20	5
CE2BSA	Building Services Fundamentals and Applications	20	5
CE2PNM	Numerical Modelling and Project	20	5
CE2STA	Statistical Analysis	20	5
CE2THF	Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer and Fluids Mechanics	20	5

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
CE3BRD	BEng Research Method and Dissertation	40	6

CE3DCT	Digital Technology use in Construction	20	6
CE3HVD	Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Design	20	6
CE3SBE	Sustainable Built Environments	20	6

The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of the Built Environment.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, tutorials and seminars, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work. Some elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The International Foundation Programme will include at least 15 hours of classroom-based teaching each week.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology-enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

A mixture of the following teaching and learning methods are used to achieve the programme learning outcomes. The proportions vary depending upon the specific modules. For the student, the proportion will also be determined by the pathway and options chosen.

Lectures and tutorials

Formal lectures are typically one to two hours in length. Academic staff and guest lecturers deliver subject content in creative and innovative ways to achieve active participation by the learner students. Substantive problems are illustrated in lectures and discussed in smaller tutorial groups for selected modules. The students are expected to undertake independent self-directed study to extend and deepen their understanding.

Project work

In all years of the programme, students undertake project-based activities integrated in various modules. Students are provided with real-life and simulated scenarios and practical exercises which apply the theory and concepts that they learn from the programme.

These project-based activities involve substantial amounts of group work and help build both technical and interpersonal skills. They often use enquiry-based learning techniques which help deepen students' understanding and also help them develop problem-solving skills. Peer assessment is an important element of this group work.

Field trips / industry visits

Throughout the three years of the programme, students have opportunity to go on field trips, site and industry visits. This is part of our industry-orientated approach that underpins our programme. Field trips are organised by the programme director, module convenors or the career development advisor. Career events are organised on-campus where small, medium and large consultancies and construction organisations talk to students, display their placement offerings and job opportunities for all year groups.

Online learning

We use the University of Reading's Virtual Learning Environment (Blackboard) to give students all their module and programme materials. This online tool is also used for classwork, questions and answer forums and other related work. We also use Teams for online classes and meetings with students. Students' assignments are submitted and graded via Turnitin or Blackboard and feedback is also given online. We use some subject specific e-learning, such as the teaching of Revit for production of drawings and simulation packages for building modelling and assessment of relevant performance indicators.

Accreditation details

Accreditation is to be sought from the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) and Energy Institute (EI). If accreditation of this programme is approved, graduates from this programme may, after a period of professional experience, together with other appropriate educational requirements, apply for Chartered Engineer status.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed using a range of assessment methods including written examinations, coursework, in-class tests, reports, and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Foundation Year

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

- (i) obtain an overall weighted average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 0; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all individual modules.

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 and be eligible for transfer to BEng Architectural Engineering, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) at least 50% in each of Academic English 1 (IF0AE1 or IF0E1J) and Academic English 2 (IF0AE2 or IF0E2J) (if taken).

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

Students who do not meet the above requirements may be eligible to transfer to BEng in Architectural Engineering Technology with International Foundation Year which is not accredited.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students are able to transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to:

- Meeting the University Threshold Standard at the end of Part 1; and
- Achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules (e.g., 2 x 20 credit modules) in the subject to which they wish to transfer; and
- Meeting any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

NB Students taking a Major/Minor programme may only transfer to a Single Honours programme in the Major subject and must meet the above requirements.

Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Students who transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 220 credits taken in Parts 1 and 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

Students who do not meet the above requirements may be eligible to transfer to BEng in Architectural Engineering Technology with International Foundation Year which is not accredited.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 3

To obtain BEng in Architectural Engineering with International Foundation Year, students shall be required:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 3; and
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 340 credits taken in Parts 1,2, and 3; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits in part 3,

Students who do not meet the above requirements may be eligible to transfer to BEng in Architectural Engineering Technology with International Foundation Year which is not accredited.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study abroad: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Additional costs of the programme

Students enrolled in this programme are required to purchase a drawing board. It may cost approximately £100.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2025.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BEng Architectural Engineering with International Foundation Year for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27

15 October 2025

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