



# Portfolio advice

## Architecture BA (Hons)



### Why do we ask for a portfolio?

We look at portfolios as part of our selection process as some of our courses need specialist skills. Seeing your portfolio gives us an idea of your skills and helps 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 would recommended 15 to 25 pieces. Ensure that your work is clearly laid out and easy to look through.

### What are we looking for?

- A passion for the subject and your knowledge of the built environment -this could include buildings, cities or man-made landscapes
- Drawing skills and spatial awareness - in the broadest sense
- How you generate and develop your ideas
- 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?

#### Drawing

- Your portfolio need to demonstrate a good level of 3D drawing
- Show your drawing ability through observational (people and objects) and concept (ideas and developments) design sketches and sketch work
- Include a range of approaches using a variety of media e.g. paint, pencil, markers ink
- Include examples of CAD, Google SketchUp, Photoshop, as well as photography, or video / animation, if you have experience with this software

#### Design process

- We are interested to see how you utilise imagery and a concept to develop ideas through experimentation, include examples of the design process

- They will show us how you approach a project as well as evidence of the subject matter that inspires you - think about reasoned development as well as your conclusion
- You should include primary and secondary research source material, such as exhibition visits, study trips abroad, artists' inspiration and own interests
- Include visual references to contemporary architects, artists and designers that show your interests in the wider areas of architecture

### **Making**

- 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 your 3D work, models and finished designs is helpful to see

### **Projects**

- We want to see how you develop an idea and how you research and respond to a project brief. Show evidence of a project in your portfolio that demonstrates creativity, a deep involvement in your work and your conclusion or final idea
- This could be any art piece or design project, either as part of your course or an independent project
- Include your personal work, it shows you can work independently, without being driven by a brief or a deadline

### **Written work**

- Please bring an essay or a recent example of writing as evidence of your writing ability
- Although this is a practice-based degree there are written elements within the course and writing is an essential tool for designers to develop their critical and communication skills

### **Size and Format**

#### UK / EU applicants

- Usually on paper. Can be presented electronically e.g. on a tablet for video
- Can include physical objects / 3D forms e.g. products, sculpture

#### International applicants (living outside of the UK)

- Usually one PDF
- 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
- Files need to be compressed or zipped and not exceed 1GB in size
- Submitted via <http://www.mailbigfile.com/dmuac> or posted, see address below

## **Submission**

### UK / EU applicants

- Once you have applied, if you meet our minimum entry requirements, you will be invited to attend a face to face interview with one of our course tutors where you will present your portfolio
- You will be sent further advice of what to expect and how to prepare for your Interview Day

### International applicants (living outside of the UK)

- Once you have applied, if you meet our minimum entry requirements you will be asked to submit your portfolio electronically
- We may wish to contact you through skype or telephone to discuss your portfolio, you will be sent further advice of what to expect and how to prepare

## **Contact**

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

### **Arts, Design and Humanities Admissions Team**

**T:** 0116 257 7555

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

**A:** De Montfort University

The Gateway

Leicester LE1 9BH

UK