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Architecture and Technology – Joining Instructions

Welcome to Southampton Solent University and to the Architecture and Technology courses!

As Course Leader, I'd like to be the first to congratulate you and thank you for choosing to study with us. We are delighted to have you join us and hope you're enjoying the summer as you prepare to begin an exciting and rewarding journey ahead.

Our Architecture and Technology programme brings together students from a wide range of backgrounds, from school and college leavers to those with a keen interest in design, construction, innovation, and the built environment. Whatever your experience, you'll find a welcoming and supportive learning community here.

This document provides important information about the equipment, materials, and preparations required before the start of your studies. Please take the time to read through it carefully to ensure you are fully prepared for the beginning of the academic year.

Course Expectations

Architecture and Technology courses are practical, design-focused courses that combines creativity, technical knowledge, digital skills, and hands-on model making. Students are expected to participate fully in studio activities, workshops, site visits, and independent study.

You should arrive prepared with the required equipment to ensure you can engage effectively in all learning activities from the first week.

Essential Equipment

The following items are required for all students:

Drawing and Sketching Equipment

- A3 sketchbook (hardback preferred)
- A3 Graph paper.
- A4 notebook for lectures and tutorials
- Tracing Paper A3 size, 90 gsm or 112 gsm (this is better weight). Pad minimum 20 sheets;
- Mechanical pencils (0.5 mm and 0.7 mm) Long steel point, HB leads Pentel recommended. Avoid deluxe pencils that are heavy, these are more difficult to control and more difficult to use
- HB, 2B, and 4B pencil leads
- Eraser - Staedtler or similar, Mars-Plastic are best, or putty erasers.
- Pencil sharpener

- Fine-line technical pens (various nib sizes)
- Black marker pens
- Colour pencils or rendering markers
- Steel ruler (300 mm)
- Scale ruler (architectural scale) needs 1:1, 1:100, 1:5, 1:50, 1:20, 1:200, 1:1250 & 1:2500 scales. Do not be tempted to buy scale rule with inappropriate scales.
- Protractor
- Portfolio - to store work
- Masking tape

Model-Making Equipment

- Cutting mat (A3 minimum)
- Craft knife with spare blades
- Metal safety ruler
- PVA glue
- Glue stick
- Masking tape
- Hot glue gun with glue sticks

Digital Equipment

- Laptop (not Mac) computer suitable for CAD and design software with specifications to suit the requirements for Revit 2027
<https://www.autodesk.com/support/technical/article/caas/sfdcarticles/sfdcarticles/System-requirements-for-Revit-2027-products.html#value>
- Cloud backup solution (provided by the university)

Software

Students may be required to use software such as:

- AutoCAD (provided by the university).
You can download and install your personal version on your laptop through Autodesk Student Community for free if you access the service using your university email address.
- Revit (provided by the university)
You can download and install your personal version through Autodesk Student Community for free if you access the service using your university email address.
- SketchUp Pro (installed on university computers)
- Adobe Creative Cloud applications (installed on university computers)
- Microsoft Office 365
- LinkedIn Learning Tutorials will be provided by the university throughout the course.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

For site visits, students must have:

- Steel toe-capped safety boots
- High-visibility vest
- Safety glasses/goggles
- Hard Hats

Additional PPE may be required for specific workshop sessions.

Studio Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Attend all timetabled sessions punctually.
- Bring sketchbooks and drawing equipment to every studio session.
- Maintain a professional and safe working environment.
- Back up digital work regularly.
- Respect workshop and studio health and safety procedures.

Before You Arrive

Please ensure you have:

- Completed enrolment and registration requirements.
- Access to your student email account.
- Obtained the required equipment listed above.
- Installed any software required during induction.
- Reviewed the course handbook on the course page, and timetable.

Induction Week

During induction, you will:

- Meet academic staff and fellow students.
- Receive course and module information.
- Be introduced to studio facilities and workshops.
- Learn about essential SOL learning environment.
- Receive guidance on software and digital learning platforms.

Contact Information

If you have any questions before the start of the course, please contact the:

Course Leader: Dr Monkiz Khasreen

Email: Monkiz.khasreen@solent.ac.uk

Telephone: 02382013059

We look forward to welcoming you and supporting your development as a future professional in Architecture and Technology.

We wish you every success in your studies