



2019 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS MASTER OF ARTS IN ARCHITECTURE

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 1 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
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INTRODUCTION

At Aarhus School of Architecture, we wish to engage in dialogue with the world around us, ask questions, and provide physical solutions to society's challenges through our professional expertise: architecture.

The school focuses on three qualifying and outreaching focus areas that are relevant to society: Sustainability - economic, in terms of resources, and social. Habitation - from individual dwellings to developments and towns. Transformation - understood as the development of the existing building stock, urban areas, and landscapes.

The academic regulations have been approved by the Rector and are in accordance with *Bekendtgørelse nr. 683 af 27. juni 2019 om uddannelser ved de videregående kunstneriske uddannelsesinstitutioner på Uddannelses- og Forskningsministeriets område* (<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=209735>).

The academic regulations will be in force from 1 September 2019 and is revised 10 March 2022.

THE MASTER OF ARTS IN ARCHITECTURE

The Master's degree programme offered by Aarhus School of Architecture is an academic, artistic graduate programme of 120 ECTS carried out as a two-year educational programme on a full-time basis.

The Master of Arts in Architecture can also be carried out as a vocationally- oriented four-year master on a part time basis.

Admission to the Master of Arts in Architecture offered by Aarhus School of Architecture is conditional on having obtained a Bachelor's degree in architecture.

An additional requirement for admission to the vocationally-oriented four-year master is carrying out paid work relevant to the profession of, on average, no less than 25 hours per week.

Students who have completed the Master of Arts in Architecture programme have the right to use the title *Master of Arts in Architecture, MA* - in Danish: *cand.arch.*, *candidatus/candidata architecturae*.

The Master of Arts in Architecture must be completed within four years after the programme was commenced. For the vocationally-oriented four-year master the requirement is: within six years after the programme was commenced.

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 2 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk

1.1. The Objectives and Academic Profile of the Educational Programme

The aim of the Master of Arts in Architecture is to qualify students for employment as architects in Denmark and internationally, based on an artistic and scientific foundation.

The Master of Arts in Architecture is a research-based programme aimed at training graduates who master scientific analysis as well as artistic experimentation. Another purpose is to equip graduates to transform complex architectural problems into solutions and statements which relate to historical and contemporary conditions in a meaningful manner.

The purpose of the programme is to train graduates who:

- Possess knowledge, skills and competencies that qualify them to practice the architectural profession independently
- Meet the discipline's need for graduates who have specialised in the main areas and academic specialties of architecture
- Are qualified to study architecture at PhD level
- Meet the EU's standards for architectural qualifications and are able to work internationally

The programme is based on the artistic and scientific foundation of the architect's profession. Practicing the architectural profession requires mastery of space, form, composition and materiality at different scales as well as insight into the use-related purposes, functions, construction,

materials and legal conditions.

The Master of Arts in Architecture comprises:

- Exercises and assignments which progressively, in relation to the level of study, develops the ability to work in an experimental manner with specific architectural problems of high complexity in a societal context
- Project-oriented and integrated teaching in subject-specific tool-based disciplines, including digital mapping, design and fabrication tools
- Project-oriented teaching and integrated teaching of a cross-disciplinary nature involving cooperation with one or more external partners
- Basic lectures in architecture from a contemporary and societally relevant perspective
- Relevant excursions and short-term study trips
- Project-integrated courses focusing on the conditions for building architecture, including an introduction to building legislation and relevant legislation as well as building technologies and the realisation of projects in practice
- Courses where students work with critical written reflection as a tool for developing the projects of students

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 3 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk

1.2 Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the Master of Arts in Architecture, students must:

- Possess knowledge which, within specific academic areas, is based on the highest level of international research and artistic development
- Be able to understand and relate critically to the knowledge of the architectural discipline and be able to identify scientific and artistic problems
- Master the scientific and/or artistic methods of the architectural discipline, modes of communication and tools, as well as the general skills related to employment within the architectural profession
- Must be able to organise and manage work and development processes that are complex and unpredictable
- Independently be able to launch and carry out academic and cross-disciplinary cooperation and be able to assume professional responsibility
- Be able to independently assume responsibility for their own academic development and specialisation
- Possess skills in communicating and discussing the discipline's artistic and scientific problems and solutions in language and visually



with both colleagues and laymen

The student must through documentation, knowledge and understanding demonstrate:

- Having knowledge of the historical and theoretical basis for a specific architectural subject area as well as knowledge of conditions within the practice of the profession
- Having knowledge of methods for development within the subject area of architecture
- The ability to interpret, analyse, and put into perspective complex problems
- The ability to create architectural designs that satisfy aesthetic as well as technical requirements
- An understanding of the role of the architectural discipline and architects in society
- An understanding of building and construction-technical issues related to architectural design
- Having skills that bring in costs, legislation and the needs of potential users

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 4 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk

1.3 Mode of Study

Project-oriented study activities form the core of the Master of Arts in Architecture. The aim is to build a strong research-based academic and professional knowledge within the subject area of the study. Regardless of the subject area, students work by applying an investigative and experimental mode of study based on specific architectural design.

The project-oriented academic work is based on mutual dialogue between students, teachers, and fellow students and therefore requires students to be present in studios.

As part of the project work, each student must present their work at regular intervals. The process as well as the results of the project work must be substantiated and presented in the form of analogue and digital project material and models.

The project-oriented study activities may be supplemented by lecture series, workshops, and study trips.

Students are enrolled in one unit of study for the entire duration of the Master of Arts in Architecture. The teaching team of the study unit performs the planning and execution of teaching, including supervision,



which constitutes the most important project-centered contact between students and the educational institution.

All students are assigned a principal supervisor. This supervisor is responsible for monitoring the progression of individual students, in general one semester at a time. As a rule, the principal supervisor is also examiner at the concluding exam of the semester.

To supplement project work, students must each semester prepare a written reflection in accordance with the study plan of the unit of study. The purpose of the written reflection is to present and discuss students' approach to and understanding of their project work. The written reflection reflects a specific theme and, from semester to semester, varies between a theoretical, practice-oriented and particularly subject-based approach.

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 5 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk

1.4 Language

The languages of teaching of the study units and lectures of the Master of Arts in Architecture are Danish and English. Students should expect extensive use of English-language specialist literature and an international team of supervisors.

2 THE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

The content and structure of the Master of Arts in Architecture is based on a progression from semester to semester in which students are expected to independently incorporate knowledge, skills and competencies from previous study elements in answering the assignments they are given.

Each semester consists of exercise, course, lecture and project development activities, all of which amount to 30 ECTS credits.

The vocationally-oriented four-year master has the same content as the two-year Master of Arts in Architecture. It is, however, structured as eight teen-week blocks: one each autumn and one each spring. Taken two and two together, the blocks comprise 30 ECTS credits; examinations are consequently held once per academic year.

2.1 Study Elements on Semesters 1-3 of the Master of Arts in Architecture

The purpose of studies during semesters 1-3 is to further develop the

students' independent methods for doing project work as well as their knowledge, skills and competencies within the chosen area of specialisation and focus specified in the study plans for the specific study units and the learning objectives stated in the study plans for the units. Studies on semesters 1-3 comprise the following educational components:

- Semester 1: Project work, written reflection and workshops: 30 ECTS
- Semester 2: Project work, written reflection and workshops: 30 ECTS
- Semester 3: Project work, written reflection and workshops: 30 ECTS

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 6 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk

Students may choose to replace project work, written reflection and workshops during the second semester with a thesis-specific external study period.

Each semester of semesters 1-3 of the Master of Arts in Architecture contains two study elements: project work and written reflection and results in one overall mark at the end of the semester. Semesters 1 and 2 alternate between critical written reflection (CWR) and design realisation (DR), while a specialisation focus area (SF) course is organised during the third semester.

In the vocationally-oriented four-year master, CWR is held in both semesters 1 and 2.

In order to pass a semester, students must obtain the mark 02 or higher for their project work and the written reflection must be assessed as 'approved'.

2.2 Learning Objectives for Semesters 1-3

The aim of teaching in semesters 1, 2 and 3 is to enable students to:

- Demonstrate their ability to plan and program the project assignments stated in the study plans for the individual study units and critically identify and gather project-relevant knowledge
- Develop an architectural proposal through experiments, studies and analyses and present a competent architectural solution
- Assess and choose between methods and forms of communication with the aim of producing a reflected assignment solution
- Be able to discuss and present complex and subject-specific issues



and solutions to assignments to colleagues and non-professionals in a public forum

- Acquire knowledge of the historical and theoretical basis for a specific architectural subject area and knowledge of contemporary conditions in practice
- Independently be able to read, analyse and put into perspective a complex problem

Students must demonstrate a clear development during semesters 1, 2, and 3.

Individual students must demonstrate their ability to manage the learning objectives in a progression from semesters 1 to 3 in relation to mastering,

in an independent and reflected manner, the application of academic and professional knowledge and understanding at a high level.

Based on specific assignments, specified in the study plans of the individual study units, individual students must be able to handle investigative, unpredictable and creative work processes, achieving a competent result.

Individual students must independently be able to initiate and carry out academic and cross-disciplinary cooperation and be able to assume responsibility for own learning and specialisation.

2.3 Study Elements During Semester 4 of the Master of Arts in Architecture

The purpose of studies during semester 4 is to further develop the students' independent methods for doing project work as well as their knowledge, skills and competencies within the chosen subject area.

At the commencement of semester 4, students must state the academic foundation for the Master's projects which is part of the Master's degree programme. This statement should be followed by a written problem statement for the Master's project. Together with the ministerial order and the academic regulations, this constitutes the formal basis for the assessment of the Master's project.

The written problem statement for the Master's project must in brief (no more than six pages A4) account for the relevance, content, academic

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 7 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk



objectives and delimitation of the problem.

Commencing the process leading up to graduation is conditional on the approval of the problem statement of the Master's project. Problem statements are approved by the project supervisor and the internal examiner.

As an integral part of students' work on the Master's project, students must prepare a summarising report of studies conducted during the fourth semester. The report should present the background studies on which the project is based, summarised in the form of a document that can inform the conclusion of the project.

It is a requirement that the summarising report should not exceed 3500 words or comprise more than 80 pages, including optional supporting material in the form of illustrations, photos, drawings, etc.

Any submitted material in excess of the above will not be included in the assessment of the fourth semester.

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 8 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk

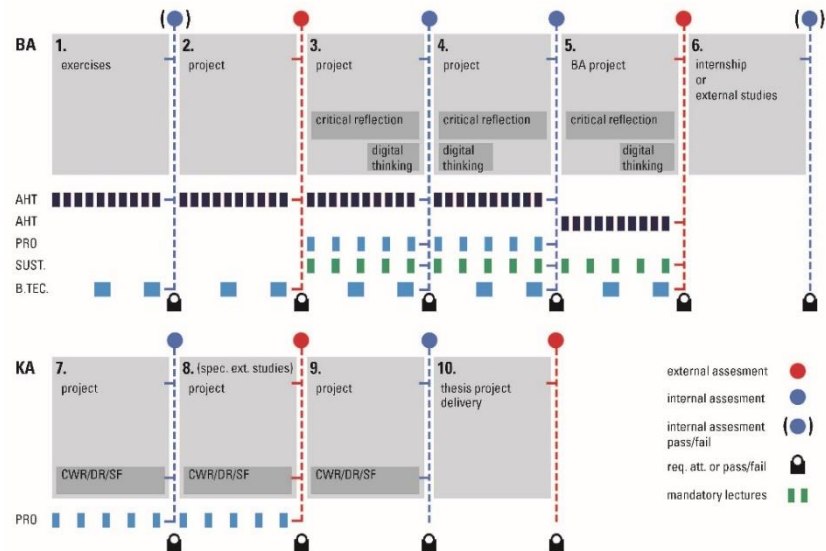
2.4 Learning Objectives for Semester 4

The Master's project must demonstrate the ability of students to:

- Organise, develop and communicate proposals based on an independently formulated programme
- Develop analytical models and solutions models and master the skills connected with the architectural discipline in general and the special

skills of the chosen subject area

2.5 Graphic Overview of the Way Studies Are Structured



Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 9 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk

2.6 Requirement to Participate Actively in Studies

Students are expected to participate actively in all study elements and planned study activities. The general requirements for active participation in teaching are as follows:

- Participating actively in the planned activities of the study unit - including introductions, lectures, reviews, pin-ups, critiques and attendance in studios
- A minimum of 80% attendance in the following cross-curricular study activities:
 - Design Realisation (DR)
 - Critical Written Reflection (CWR)
 - Specialisation Focus Area (SF)

2.7 Examinations and Assessments

In the Master's degree programme students are assessed by external examiners after semesters 2 and 4, respectively. The other semesters are



assessed by internal examiners.

2.7.1 Forms of examination, Semesters 1-3

For the examinations after semesters 1, 2, and 3 the following two forms of examination are used:

1. Presentation and critique of the semester project
2. Presentation and critique of the semester project + written assignment

Students can register for the first form of examination if they meet the general requirement for participating actively in studies.

Students who do not meet the general requirement for participating actively in studies are automatically registered for the second form of examination.

Whether students meet the requirement for participating actively in studies is estimated on 15 December in the autumn semester and on 25 June in the spring semester, based on the recommendations of the teachers.

2.7.2.2 Second Form of Examination: Presentation and critique of the semester project

The examination takes 30-40 minutes. The examination is conducted in Danish (Scandinavian) or English. The examiner decides which examination language is to be used prior to the examination period.

The student is given 10-15 minutes to present his or her project. Followed by a period of 20-25 minutes for questions, dialogue and final comments by the examiners and other participants in the critique.

The examination is concluded by the deliberation of the examiners. The examination is assessed on a 7-point grading scale.

2.7.2.2 Second Form of Examination: Presentation and critique of the semester project + written assignments

The examination comprises two parts. The first part is a presentation and critique of the semester project, which is identical to the first form of For each of the study elements for which the student failed to meet the requirement for active participation, the teacher who is responsible sets the student a written assignment. The assignment is handed out after the student's presentation and critique of the semester project during the

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 10 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk



spring semester. The deadline for submitting the assignment is 15 August. In the autumn semester the assignment is handed out at the end of December and has to be submitted on 25 January.

The answer to each of the written assignments students are given must comprise 15 standard pages, excluding notes and bibliography.

The written assignments are assessed on a 7-point grading scale by the person who has set the assignment together with an external examiner, during semesters 2 and 4, and by an internal examiner, during semesters 1 and 3.

The assessment of the semester project and the written assignments are each weighted 50%. In the event of more than one written assignment, each of the assignments is weighted equally towards the 50%.

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 11 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk

2.7.3 Forms of Examination During Semester 4

The assessment process comprises the student's presentation of the Master's project, questions from the assessment committee to the student, comments from the assessment committee and the deliberation. Marks are given based on the 7-point grading scale.

The assessment is carried out by internal examiners and external examiners who are members of a team of examiners appointed by the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science. As a rule, the presentation and debate are public, whereas the deliberation process is closed to the public.

The Master's project must be carried out and assessed in accordance with the detailed rules for graduation, which can be found on the school's website.

The Master's project may be carried out as group work. See the applicable guidelines for group examinations.

Students who have not completed their Master's project within five months from the start of the semester must prepare a new problem statement for their Master's project within the same subject area and are given a new date of assessment. The new date shall fall three months after the original date of assessment. If the student fails his or her second assessment, he or she will be awarded a third attempt, which is subject to



the same conditions which applied to the student's second attempt.

Students who have not completed their Master's project within 24 months from the problem statement for the Master's projects was approved, are required to submit a new problem statement for their Master's project.

3. RULES OF THE PROGRAMME

3.1 Registering and De-registering for Examinations

Prior to the start of a semester, students are automatically registered for the study activities of the semester in question and associated exam(s).

When students are registered for examinations they cannot de-register.

Commenced study elements must be passed no later than three semesters after the commencement of the relevant educational component.

3.2 Re-examination and Re-examination Due to Illness

For examinations the following applies: The Study Board may, upon application by the student, grant permission for re-examination and re-examination due to illness within the same examination period.

When students apply for a re-examination due to illness they are required to attach a doctor's note to the application. A doctor's note is the necessary but not always sufficient basis for gaining access to a re-examination due to illness.

3.3 Exam Cheating

For a written examination direct copying without indicating a clear source of reference is considered as plagiarism and exam cheating.

The use of previously prepared projects and parts thereof which have already been assessed may only be included on an equal footing with other source material and with clear references. Entire sections and analyses from previous examinations may not be included in or assessed in new exam solutions.

If plagiarism is determined in an exam solution, the assignment is rejected and the student will have used one examination attempt. Exam cheating will, furthermore, be treated as a disciplinary case in accordance with the

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 12 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk



disciplinary measures of Aarhus School of Architecture.

3.4 Credit Transfer and Flexibility

Students who have passed educational components in another similar programme can apply for a credit transfer for the educational components they have passed.

Credit-awarding educational components that extend the stipulated period of studies will not be approved.

Applications for credit transfer must be submitted to The Education Secretariat and will be considered by the Head of Education.

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 13 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk

3.5 Exemptions

In exceptional circumstances, The Study Board may grant exemptions from rules laid down in the academic regulations.

Applications for exemptions must be reasoned and in writing. Applications must be submitted as soon as possible. In order for an application to be admissible, it must clearly state from which rule an exemption is applied for and what the student wishes to achieve by applying for the exemption.

Along with the application, students must enclose documentation of the unusual circumstances that justify the application. Undocumented circumstances are usually not assigned any importance.

3.6 Transitional Provisions

Students who have completed the Bachelor's Degree Programme under the academic regulations in force from 1 September 2016 before 31 August 2019 may choose to take the first semester of the Master of Arts in Architecture as an internship period, which is assessed according to the rules of the Bachelor's Degree Programme's sixth semester - See the 2019 academic regulations for the Bachelor's Degree Programme in Architecture. To make use of this opportunity, students must have been enrolled on the Master's degree programme before 1 September 2019.

3.7 Appeals and Complaints

Complaints about assessments are processed in accordance with the *Ministerial Order on Examination and Grading and the Fine Arts Programmes under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher*



Education (BEK 1526 af 16/12/2013). Complaints about assessments must be submitted to The Education Secretariat no later than 10 working days after the assessment has been notified.

Submitting a complaint about an assessment has suspensory effect. This means students have the opportunity of following studies on the next level of study until a decision regarding the complaint or appeal has been reached.

Complaints regarding teaching, supervision or any other matters which are not covered by the academic regulations must be submitted to The Education Secretariat and will be considered by the Rector of Aarhus School of Architecture.

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 14 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk

Complaints against decisions taken by Aarhus School of Architecture can, in so far they are concerned with legal matters, be appealed to the Ministry. Complaints about decisions taken by the school should be submitted to The Education Secretariat. Assessments are not subject to the Danish Public Administration Act.

Complaints can only immediately be dealt with if they are in writing and reasoned. The complaint must state what the complaint is about and what the complainant wishes to achieve by filing the complaint.



OVERVIEW OF REVISIONS

Revision 10 March 2022

- **Section 2.7.1 Forms of examination, Semesters 1-3**
The date for estimating active participating in studies is changed from 25 June to 25 May in the spring semester.

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 15 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk



CONTENT

Introduction	1
The master of arts in architecture.....	1
1.1. The Objectives and Academic Profile of the Educational Programme	2
1.2 Learning Objectives.....	3
1.3 Mode of Study	4
1.4 Language.....	5
2 The content and structure of the programme.....	5
2.1 Study Elements on Semesters 1-3 of the Master of Arts in Architecture.....	5
2.2 Learning Objectives for Semesters 1-3	6
2.3 Study Elements During Semester 4 of the Master of Arts in Architecture.....	7
2.4 Learning Objectives for Semester 4.....	8
2.5 Graphic Overview of the Way Studies Are Structured	9
2.6 Requirement to Participate Actively in Studies.....	9
2.7 Examinations and Assessments.....	9
2.7.1 Forms of examination, Semesters 1-3	10
2.7.3 Forms of Examination During Semester 4.....	11
3. Rules of the programme.....	12
3.1 Registering and De-registering for Examinations	12
3.2 Re-examination and Re-examination Due to Illness.....	12
3.4 Credit Transfer and Flexibility.....	13
3.5 Exemptions	13
3.6 Transitional Provisions.....	13
Overview of revisions	15

Dato: 10-03-2022
Side 16 af 16

J.nr.: S22-15002
Ref.: mbk

