2025

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

WAIHANGA TAIAO
ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGNED ENVIRONMENTS

Bachelor of Architectural Studies
Bachelor of Building Science

CONTENTS

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington has been awarded an overall five-stars-plus rating in the QS Stars university rating system, one of only 17 universities worldwide to do so. The University gained a total score of 966 out of a possible 1,000 points across eight audited categories, including maximum points for the employability and inclusiveness categories. Maximum points were awarded for 25 of the more than 30 indicators, including overall student satisfaction; further study; graduate employment rate; international diversity, support, and collaborations; academic reputation; satisfaction with teaching; campus facilities; accreditations; art and cultural investment and facilities; disabled access; scholarships and bursaries; low-income outreach; and student cohort diversity.

Cover image: Growing Wetlands *by Nidhi Solanki for LAND 411 Landscape Architecture Design Studio V / Te Taupuni Mahi Pokepoke, Whakarākei i a Papa-tūā-nuku V.*

Opposite: Shelly Bay Community Library model *by Danbie Bong for ARCI 212 Architecture Design Integration I / Te Whakakotahitanga o ngā Tikanga Whakarākei Whare I.*

WAIHANGA TAIAO
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Te Kura Waihanga—School of Architecture provides a comprehensive suite of environmental design programmes to address the complex conditions of today's world. Architecture is much more than designing buildings. It is about understanding what the building is for, how to reduce the impact on the environment, who is going to use it, how it will be made, and how it will fit in with its surroundings. That's why we offer programmes in Architecture, Building Science, Interior Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Planning so you can learn about all aspects of the built environment.

You will explore the cultural, technological, and creative aspects of environmental design. You'll consider today's most pressing challenges for contemporary designers and the built environment, both locally and globally. Sustainability and mātauranga Māori are embedded throughout all majors.

Studying at the School of Architecture means you'll work in world-class design studios using state-of-the-art tools, including contemporary digital tools, and software, alongside global experts in the design and construction of buildings and spaces.

Our students, who are based in the creative heart of Wellington just off vibrant Cuba Street, regularly engage with industry professionals, forging pathways to their future careers. Our programmes span a range of disciplines at the core of the built environment and have been developed to meet the growing needs of the design and construction sectors.

Powhiri by *Lee Jaewon for ARCI 312 Architecture Design Integration Capstone / Te Whakakotahitanga o ngā Tikanga—Tūtohu o te Whakarākei Whare.*

OUR DEGREES

We offer two three-year undergraduate qualifications: the Tohu Paetahi Waihanga—Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS) and the Tohu Paetahi Whare Hangahanga—Bachelor of Building Science (BBSc).

The BAS and BBSc share first-year core courses, so you'll have the option to choose a major that suits your interests and aspirations before your second year. In your first year, you'll be introduced to a broad range of subjects, including design studio work, digital technologies, architectural history, environmental science, interior architecture, and landscape architecture. These explorations will give you a solid understanding of the built environment.

Conjoint degrees

You can choose to combine your degree with another in a conjoint degree. This will take you less time than completing two degrees separately. Some students combine Architectural Studies with Building Science, and some choose a degree offered at another of the University's schools. Our student advisers can help you make a plan that will work for you.

ⓘ www.wgtn.ac.nz/course-planning

TOHU PAETAHI WAIHANGA
BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES

As we respond to new challenges relating to environmental sustainability, the evolution of technology, and the changing needs of human habitation, we are constantly making and remaking the physical world. With the BAS, you will gain the knowledge and practical skills you need to be an innovator in the natural and built environment design professions.

You'll gain a solid grounding in the fascinating blend of skills necessary to contribute to the ongoing design of communities and cities, and how houses, high-rises, infrastructure, urban streets and squares, water systems, and new sustainable construction technologies, ideas, and theories are developed, designed, and planned. The first steps on your journey towards a career in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, or interior architecture will be carefully managed and fully supported by our hugely experienced and fully engaged teaching and student support staff.

OUR STUDIO APPROACH

The design studio is at the heart of our programme. This is where you learn design by doing design. It's a forum for reflecting on design ideas by talking about your own work and that of your fellow students. You'll actively explore the disciplines of environmental design and their roles in addressing contemporary issues facing the built environment—including changes in society, ecology, and advances in technology.

You'll be encouraged to think and act experimentally while addressing problem-based design projects that range from the abstract and conceptual to real-world situations. In developing your studio work, you'll interact with, and learn collaboratively from, peers, senior postgraduate students, academic staff, and practising designers.

Design studio courses also provide a powerful platform to apply and explore principles that you learn in other courses, including communication, construction materials, digital technologies, history and theory, and spatial planning.

"The University fully exceeded my initial expectations. The Wellington School of Architecture's interdisciplinary approach bridging Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Building Science provides a broader, collaborative understanding of designing for the built environment. We are taught by the best in Aotearoa—the academic staff are industry professionals who expose us to various areas of expertise."

Danbie Bong
Graduate, Bachelor of Architectural Studies in Architecture

Read more about Danbie at www.wgtn.ac.nz/architecture-profiles

CAREERS

Bachelor of Architectural Studies graduates complete their degrees with an in-demand mix of creative, problem-solving, interpersonal, and technical skills. Our alumni go on to a range of careers, from general design practice to specialisations such as acoustics, conservation planning, heritage building conservation, lighting, surveying, wetland design, or zero-carbon design and construction. They also move into areas such as arbitration and mediation, building performance, housing policy, regulatory advice, and resource management.

Note: If you plan to become a registered architect or landscape architect, you'll also need to complete the Master of Architecture (Professional) / Master of Landscape Architecture following your Bachelor's degree.

Potential jobs include:

- architect
- building conservation designer
- community planner
- environmental designer
- heritage consultant
- interior designer
- landscape architect
- project manager
- urban designer.

FURTHER STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

At the end of your Bachelor's degree, you can continue to study for a Master's degree or a PhD—both of which are recognised worldwide. We offer a range of postgraduate qualifications in our seven disciplines:

- Graduate Certificate in Designed Environments
- Graduate Diploma in Designed Environments
- Postgraduate Certificate in Architectural Science
- Postgraduate Diploma in Architectural Science
- Postgraduate Certificate in Designed Environments
- Postgraduate Diploma in Designed Environments
- Master of Architecture
- Master of Architecture (Professional)
- Master of Architectural Science
- Master of Architectural Science (Research)
- Master of Interior Architecture
- Master of Landscape Architecture
- Master of Urban and Regional Planning
- Doctor of Philosophy.

Our Master of Architecture (Professional) and Master of Landscape Architecture degrees meet the academic requirements for professional registration as an architect or landscape architect.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A broad selection of school subjects is recommended, and these might include art, design, economics, English, geography, graphics, and any science or technology.

The Guaranteed Entry Score for the BAS is 180 points, based on your NCEA results. If you are an international student, or haven't done NCEA, your academic suitability will be assessed during the application process. For more information on entry requirements, go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/study

Information on degrees, course details, and prescriptions is on our website.

ⓘ www.wgtn.ac.nz/bas

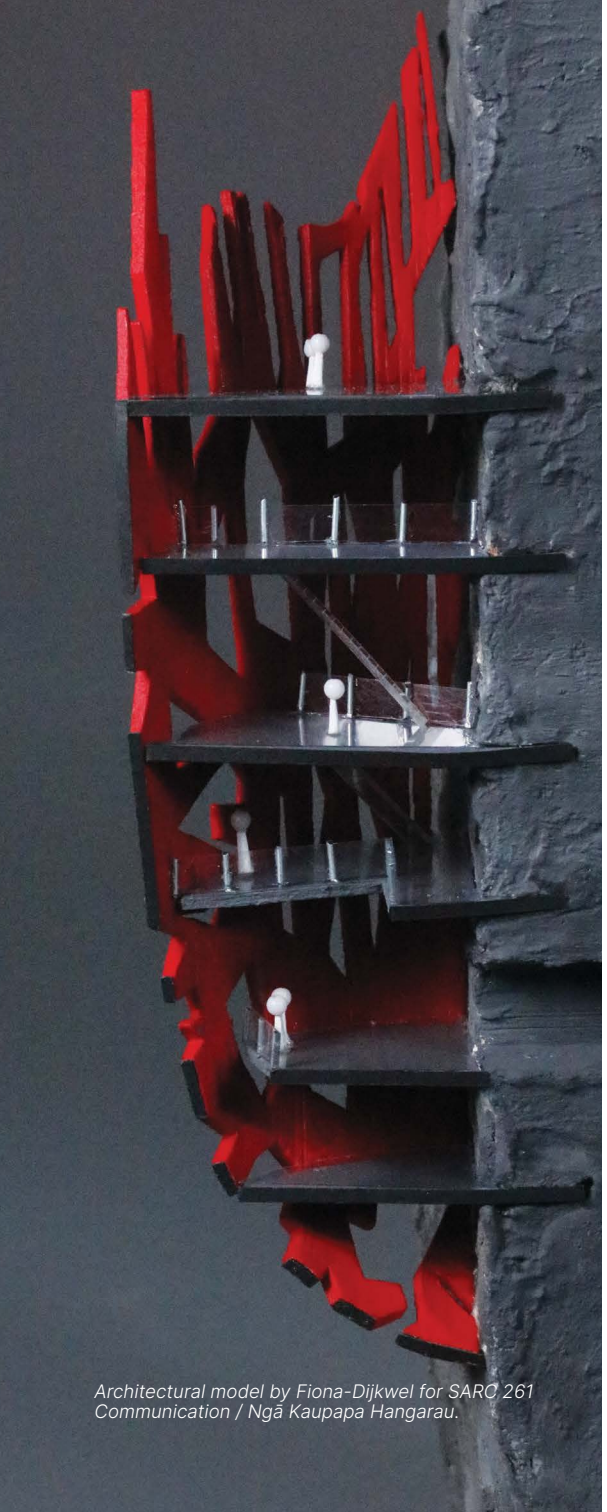
Architectural model by Haoyu Ye for ARCI 212 Architecture Design Integration I / Te Whakakotahitanga o ngā Tikanga Wakarākei Whare I.

"Architecture is an amalgamation of many subjects I am passionate about, which also include design, history, wellbeing, sustainability, art, and science. It is a direct reflection of social, environmental, economic, and political issues, and it impacts every one of us every day.

"The most basic concept of sustainability we all learnt at primary school: reduce, reuse, recycle. Our land and resources are taonga and we should treat them with kaitiakitanga. Let's reduce our building footprints and design smaller buildings. Let's reduce the amount of non-renewable resources we are using. Let's use methods of standardised sizing and prefabrication to reduce construction waste. Let's stop demolishing buildings and building new structures, and instead learn to adapt and retrofit our existing stock. We should also design buildings so that they can be repurposed or deconstructed at the end of their life, including recycling materials where we can.

"Sustainability doesn't have to be overwhelming and complicated; it can be stripped back to these fundamental concepts."

Eloise Blewden
Student, Master of Architecture
2022 Future Thinker of the Year (New Zealand Green Building Council)



Architectural model by Fiona-Dijkwel for SARC 261 Communication / Ngā Kaupapa Hangarau.

DEGREE STRUCTURE

The Bachelor of Architectural Studies is a three-year undergraduate degree.

Your first year

In your first year, you'll study eight introductory core courses alongside Building Science students, giving you a basic understanding of the principles and theory behind the built environment. These courses give you a broad introduction to the concepts, history, and theory of design, as well as how design is communicated. By the end of your first year, you'll have a strong grasp of the main ideas, vocabulary, and technology of environmental design.

Your second year

You will choose your major at the end of your first year, and in your second year you'll begin to focus on your chosen major—Architecture, Architecture History and Theory, Interior Architecture, or Landscape Architecture. You'll look closely at specific areas such as building technologies, culture and heritage, design communication, and site systems and ecology.

Your third year

By this stage, you'll have developed a good understanding of your major and be confident in your skills and knowledge. You'll delve even further into your chosen subject and apply what you've learnt to large-scale projects and research assignments.

Limited entry

Some courses and programmes admit a limited number of students—this is called limited entry. Selection into second-year courses is determined by the subject in which you are majoring. Our BAS majors have limited entry, and where applications exceed available places, selection into majors is determined by grade performance across SARC 112 and the best grades from five other SARC 100-level courses. Students who have passed their first-year studies but miss the cut for their preferred major will be offered a place in another major.

The deadline for limited entry programmes is 1 December when applying for the following year. For more information on limited entry, go to our website.

ⓘ www.wgtn.ac.nz/limited-entry

BAS degree structure

Example: BAS majoring in Architecture

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2
SARC 111 Introduction to Design Processes (15 points)	SARC 112 Design Processes (15 points)	ARCI 211 Architecture Design I (15 points)	ARCI 222 Structural Systems for Architecture (15 points)	ARCI 311 Architecture Design II (15 points)	ARCI 312 Architecture Design Integration Capstone (30 points)
SARC 131 Introduction to Sustainability in the Designed Environment (15 points)	SARC 121 Introduction to Built Environment Technology (15 points)	ARCI 251 History and Theory of Architecture (15 points)	ARCI 212 Architecture Design Integration I (30 points)	SARC 351 Urban Design Theory and Practice (15 points)	
SARC 151 Introduction to Design History and Theory (15 points)	SARC 122 Introduction to Environmental Design Sciences (15 points)	SARC 221 Building Materials and Construction (15 points)		SARC 362 Introduction to Practice and Management (15 points)	SARC 321 Construction (15 points)
SARC 161 Introduction to Design Communication (15 points)	SARC 162 Design Communication (15 points)	SARC 223 Human Environmental Science (15 points)	Elective course (15 points)	Elective course (15 points)	SARC 352 Pacific Designed Environments (15 points)
60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS
120 POINTS		120 POINTS		120 POINTS	

Core courses | Major courses | Elective courses

Total points required: 360

Total points completed: 360

Core: Core courses are the courses you are required to take to complete a Bachelor of Architectural Studies.

Major: A major is the main subject you'll focus on in your degree.

Elective: Elective courses are courses in other subjects you are interested in and they don't necessarily need to be related to your major subject.

MAJORS

After your first year, you can choose one of four majors.

Architecture

Bringing together the theoretical and the practical, our Architecture programme encompasses the technological, cultural, and creative aspects of our built environment. This includes everything from construction and environmental science to cultural theory and the development of your own creative voice.

Many students intend to become registered architects, and the BAS in Architecture is the first part in meeting the requirements for registration.

Architecture History and Theory

Explore architecture from a cultural and historical angle. Discover how and why we design buildings and spaces from a political and social context. You will investigate the history of architecture in New Zealand and worldwide, studying its origins and influence on society now and in the past.

Interior Architecture

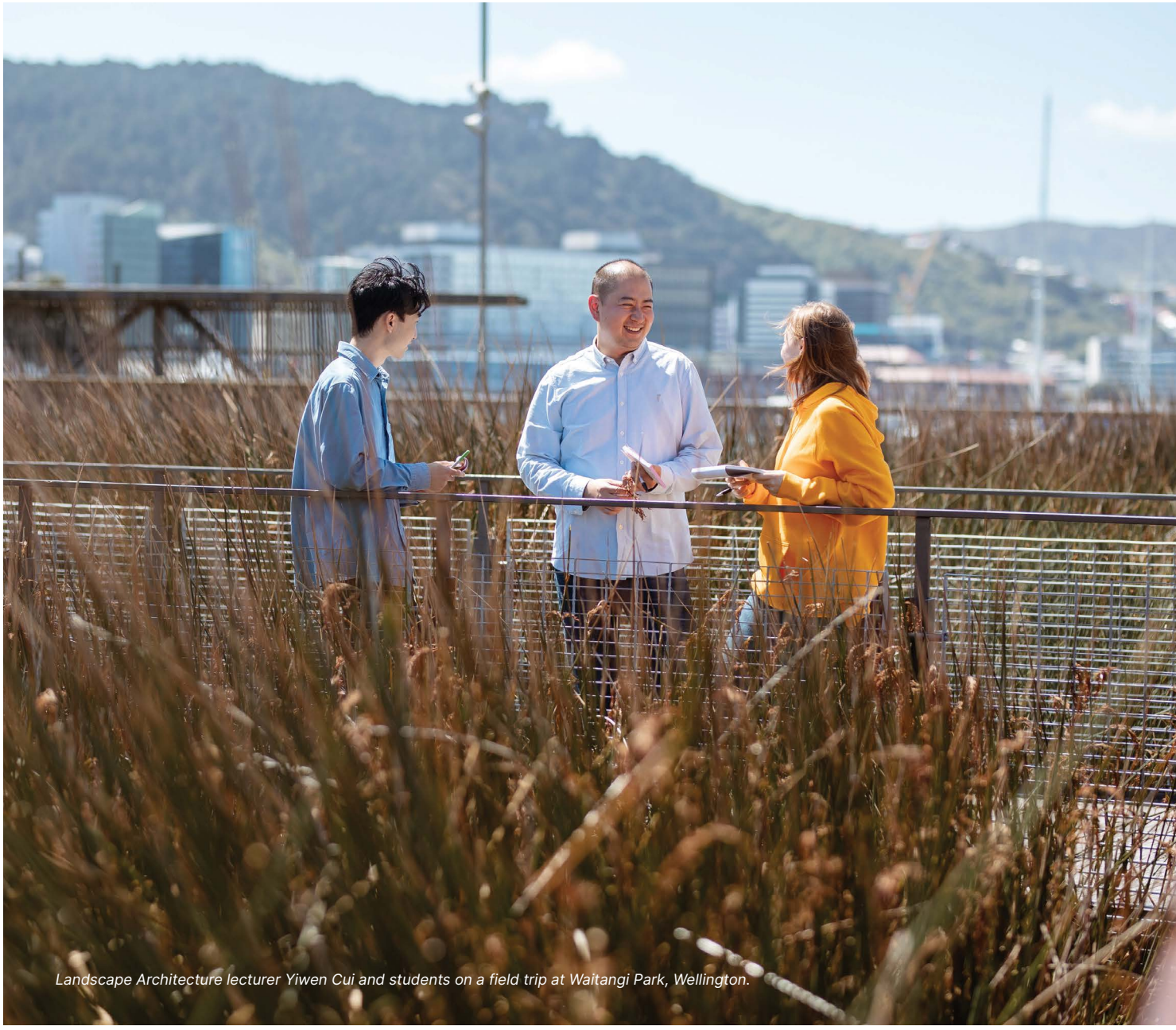
Interior Architecture teaches you how to design inspiring spaces to live in. You'll explore how people experience an interior through touch, smell, and sight, and how to apply architectural principles in the design of interiors for a range of commercial and residential settings. You'll develop your ability to communicate ideas to a range of clients through a variety of media. You will learn how to design space to have a positive effect on both our psychological wellbeing and environmental impact.

Landscape Architecture

Landscape Architecture is about investigating and creating better design solutions for outdoor spaces and the natural environment. You'll address contemporary challenges related to climate change, urbanisation, and sustainability, and bring together art, culture, nature, and science to create engaging and functional spaces. You'll learn how to understand scale, think spatially, and use the latest design software to plan spaces. You'll graduate with the tools and knowledge to shape our environment with beauty and function.

"Teaching landscape architecture is about exposing students to contemporary issues around climate change, urbanisation, and sustainability and then sparking their creativity to come up with the best design solutions for our built environment. In this journey, we all learn from each other."

Bruno Marques
Associate dean (academic) and senior lecturer, School of Architecture



Landscape Architecture lecturer Yiwen Cui and students on a field trip at Waitangi Park, Wellington.

MĀORI DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTS SPECIALISATION

Bachelor of Architectural Studies degrees with majors in Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Landscape Architecture can be taken with a specialisation in Māori Design and Environments.

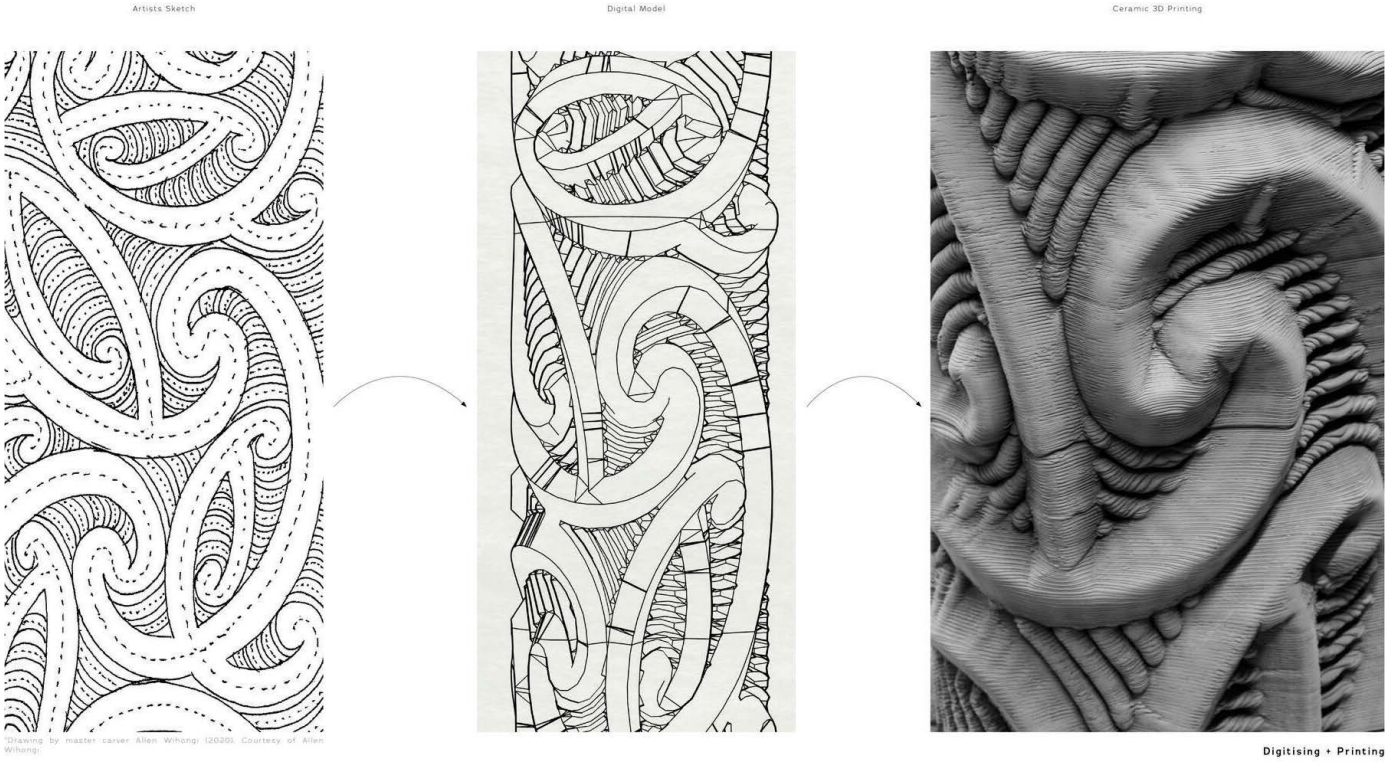
In your second or third year, you'll be able to study dedicated courses such as SARC 216 Mātauranga Māori and the Built and Natural Environment. These courses will complement existing course content, allowing you to focus on specific approaches underpinned by traditional and contemporary Māori practices of spatial and material design, construction techniques, and customary ecological knowledge.

In this specialisation, you will work with key concepts such as kaitiakitanga (guardianship), manaakitanga (respect), and whanaungatanga (kinship) based in both practice and theory that will prepare you for working in your creative industry.

Our kaiako Māori are deeply immersed in te ao Māori and tikanga Māori. With their guidance and support, you will develop key conceptual design skills that incorporate an understanding of kaupapa Māori through the use of novel multimedia exploration and craft.

Contact info@vuw.ac.nz for more information.

Ngā Kōrero: Reimagining the Design Process *by Mitra Homolja, Angus Horne, Savanah Hunt, Luke Ransfield, and Ellie Tuckey. Gold award winner in the Student Toitanga category of the Designers Institute of New Zealand's Best Design Awards 2019.*



Of the Land *explores the bounds of ceramic 3D printing and what it might offer traditional toi whakairo (wood carving). Work by Angus Horne and Ngāpuhi master carver Allen Wihongi.*

TOHU PAETAHI
WHARE HANGAHANGA
BACHELOR OF BUILDING SCIENCE

The quality of our buildings is vital to our economy, our environment, our health, and our lifestyles. Take your interest in the process and business of creating great buildings—from construction methods, materials, and systems to project management and contractor relations—and contribute to a more sustainable world.

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington is an international leader in the field of building science, and our Bachelor of Building Science (BBSc) is the country's leading programme devoted to the science of buildings.

You will study building construction and sustainability to promote the construction of durable, economic, and healthy buildings, while being aware of architectural design issues. The BBSc has two majors: Project Management and Sustainable Engineering Systems. It is possible to do both majors.

At the end of three years' study, you will have the knowledge and skills to begin a satisfying career in the building industry or to continue your study at postgraduate level. Graduates have expertise in the human factors, science, and technology of building and an understanding of architecture.

ⓘ www.wgtn.ac.nz/bbsc

CAREERS

Building Science graduates have a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical experience that meets an urgent need for building science professionals. You will find careers in diverse areas including acoustics, building research and development, heating, lighting, project management, and sustainable design.

Potential jobs include:

- acoustician
- building consent manager
- building scientist
- fire consultant
- green building designer or assessor
- heating systems engineer
- project manager
- quantity surveyor
- sustainable systems engineer
- zero carbon consultant
- zero carbon designer.

FURTHER STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

At the end of your Bachelor's degree, you can stay on and study for a Master's degree or even a PhD. A BBSc leads to postgraduate study in the one-year (Trimesters 1, 2, and 3) taught-only Master of Architectural Science (MArchSc) programme, where you can extend your undergraduate major in Project Management or Sustainable Engineering Systems. Alternatively, you can stay for an extra year and take your research to the next level by exploring one of the following topics in your thesis:

- energy analysis
- lighting
- project management
- sustainable design
- or another area that can be supervised in the School of Architecture.

Other recommended postgraduate study options are the Master of Construction Law (subject to regulatory approval) and Master of Urban and Regional Planning.

ⓘ www.wgtn.ac.nz/postgraduate-architecture

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A broad selection of school subjects is recommended, and these might include design, graphics, English, mathematics, and any science or technology.

For more information, go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/study

Information on degrees, course details, and prescriptions is on our website.

ⓘ www.wgtn.ac.nz/bbsc

"Throughout primary school and up until high school, my favourite subjects were maths and physics. Building Science allows me to explore both my creative side and the logic of what goes into a building, understanding the materials and construction methods and also the social impacts that are applied to buildings, whether in project management or looking at sustainable systems."

Temukisa Taito
Graduate, Bachelor of Building Science
Keystone scholarship recipient

Read more about Temukisa at www.wgtn.ac.nz/architecture-profiles

DEGREE STRUCTURE

The Bachelor of Building Science is a three-year undergraduate degree.

Your first year

In your first year, you will study seven core introductory courses and one elective of your choice. Four of the courses will introduce you to the concepts, history, and theory of design, and how design is communicated. Other courses focus on the technology used in creating the built environment and on sustainability.

Your second year

This is the year you will choose your major in either Project Management or Sustainable Engineering Systems. You can also choose to study both majors. You will look more closely at areas such as energy and water use, or managing projects and compliance with relevant legislation.

Your third year

By this stage, you'll have developed a good understanding of building science and your major. You will appreciate the important questions related to sustainability, price, quality of construction, and the skill of people involved. At the end of your third year, you'll have the knowledge and skills to begin your career in the building industry or move into postgraduate education.

www.wgtn.ac.nz/bbsc

BBSc degree structure

Example: BBSc majoring in Project Management

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2
SARC 111 Introduction to Design Processes (15 points)	SARC 121 Introduction to Built Environment Technology (15 points)	SARC 221 Building Materials and Construction (15 points)	BILD 251 History of Building Technology (15 points)	BILD 364 Building Code Compliance (15 points)	BILD 322 Structures (15 points)
SARC 131 Introduction to Sustainability in the Designed Environment (15 points)	SARC 122 Introduction to Environmental Design Sciences (15 points)	BILD 222 Structural Systems for Building Science (15 points)	BILD 231 Environmental Design (15 points)	SARC 362 Introduction to Practice and Management (15 points)	SARC 321 Construction (15 points)
SARC 151 Introduction to Design History and Theory (15 points)	SARC 162 Design Communication (15 points)	SARC 223 Human Environmental Science (15 points)	BILD 262 Building Project Management Cost Planning (15 points)	BILD 362 Construction Law (15 points)	BILD 361 Project Management (15 points)
SARC 161 Introduction to Design Communication (15 points)	Elective course or SARC 112 Design Processes (15 points)	BILD 261 Building Project Management Economics (15 points)	Elective course (15 points)*	Elective course (15 points)*	Elective course (15 points)*
60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS
120 POINTS		120 POINTS		120 POINTS	

Core courses | Major courses | Elective courses

Total points required: 360

Total points completed: 360

Core: Core courses are the courses you are required to take to complete a Bachelor of Building Science.

Major: A major is the main subject you'll focus on in your degree.

Elective: Elective courses are courses in other subjects you are interested in and they don't necessarily need to be related to your major subject.

*One of these electives must be a 200- or 300-level elective.

MAJORS

There are two majors available as part of a BBSc: Project Management and Sustainable Engineering Systems. After your first year, you choose to major in one, or both.

Project Management

Majoring in Project Management will give you the skills to manage a construction project, including contract management and effective communication. You will also be able to navigate both construction and environmental law and understand issues around supply, demand, and competition.

Sustainable Engineering Systems

Majoring in Sustainable Engineering Systems will provide you with the practical and theoretical knowledge you need to work in the design and construction of durable, healthy, and sustainable buildings. You'll get the skills you need to design systems that include the efficient use of sustainable materials.

ℹ www.wgtn.ac.nz/subjects

Photovoltaic panels on the roof of the Faculty of Architecture and Design Innovation.

FIND OUT MORE

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/architecture
- www.wgtn.ac.nz/apply

WHY WELLINGTON?

We're at the heart of New Zealand's creative capital city. You'll find this an exciting, inspirational, and enjoyable place to learn, study, and design. The School of Architecture is home to cutting-edge workshop facilities, extensive media labs, augmented- and virtual-reality research studios, huge 3D printing capability, and the largest robotic design laboratory (and robotic arm) in a New Zealand tertiary institution. You'll have the opportunity to work with, and learn from, our world-class academics and professional staff in our laboratories, studios, and workshops. You'll explore your ideas and build your skills, with multiple opportunities to showcase your work and network with industry professionals at the variety of events and exhibitions we hold each year.

ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT

You can apply for admission up to two years in advance of the year you plan to start studying. Apply through our student portal, Pūaha. Once you have met the requirements, you will receive either a conditional or an unconditional Offer of Place. Accept your offer to confirm your admission.

After accepting your Offer of Place, you will be invited to select your courses once course enrolment is open. You select courses for one academic year at a time.

We'd love to see you at one of our information events—check our website for dates.

- www.wgtn.ac.nz/puaha
- www.wgtn.ac.nz/information-evenings

CONTACT US

Te Wāhanga Waihanga-Hoahoa

Faculty of Architecture and Design Innovation

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- 0800 04 04 04
- info@vuw.ac.nz
- www.facebook.com/VUWArchitectureandDesign
- www.instagram.com/wgtnfadi
- www.linkedin.com/company/wellington-faculty-of-architecture-and-design-innovation
- www.wgtn.ac.nz/architecture

COURSE PLANNING

For help with course planning, contact Te Kahupapa—Future Students.

- 0800 04 04 04
- future-students@vuw.ac.nz
- www.wgtn.ac.nz/courses

Opposite: Hollow *by Deon Cromb for INTA 412 Interior Architecture Design Research / Te Mahi Rangahau o te Ao Whakanikoniko.*

OTHER STUDENT RESOURCES

Disability support
www.wgtn.ac.nz/disability

Māori student support
www.wgtn.ac.nz/awhina

Pasifika student success
www.wgtn.ac.nz/pasifika

Rainbow student support
www.wgtn.ac.nz/rainbow

Refugee-background student support
www.wgtn.ac.nz/refugee-background-students

Scholarships
www.wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships

Student services and support
www.wgtn.ac.nz/student-support

AVAILABLE MAJORS

BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
Architecture
Architecture History and Theory
Interior Architecture
Landscape Architecture
BACHELOR OF BUILDING SCIENCE
Project Management
Sustainable Engineering Systems

SPECIALISATION

BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
Māori Design and Environments (available in BAS degrees majoring in Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Landscape Architecture)

0800 04 04 04 info@vuw.ac.nz www.wgtn.ac.nz

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