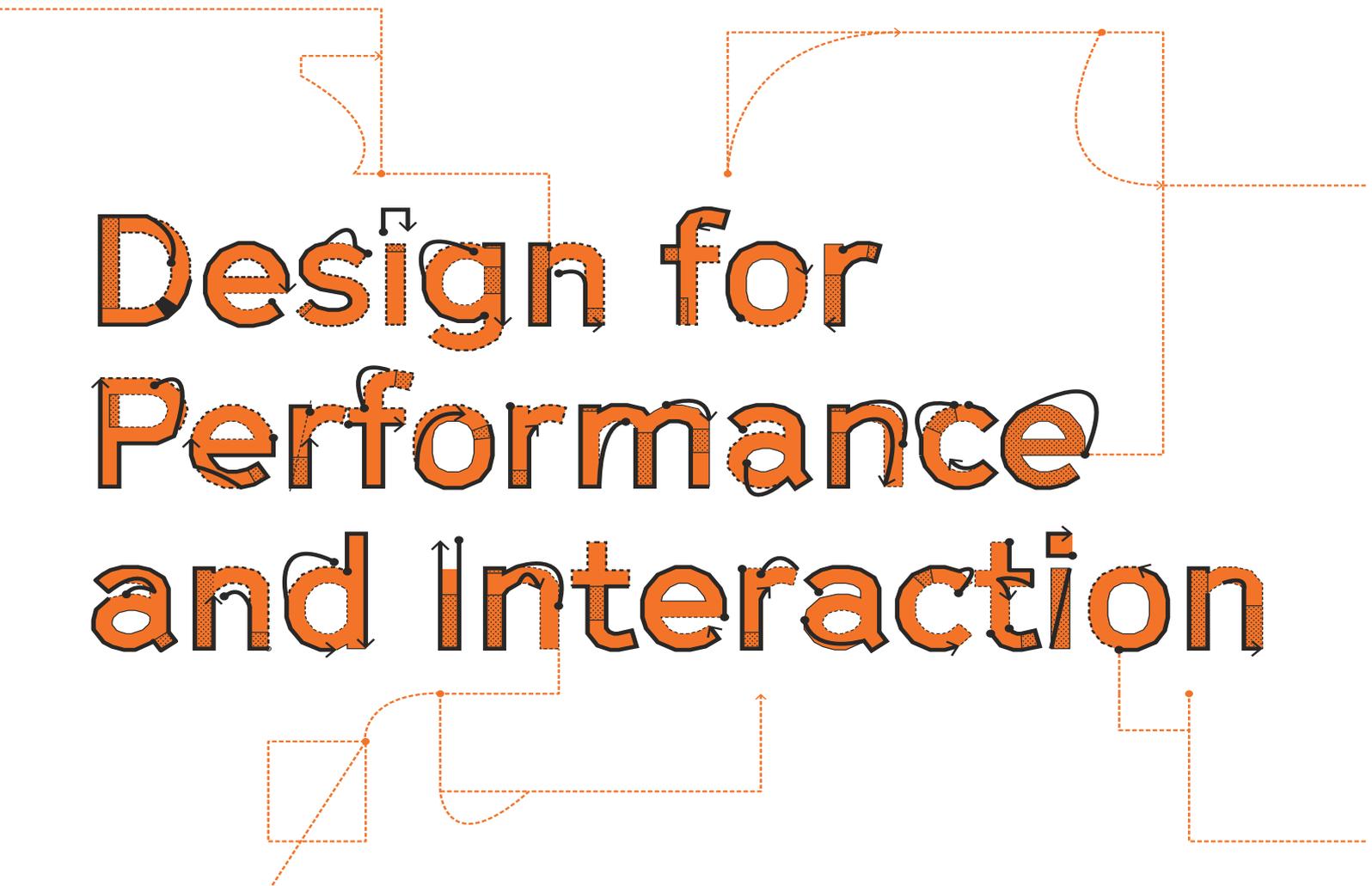


The Bartlett School
of Architecture, UCL

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Design for Performance and Interaction

MArch Programme

Apply now for courses
starting October 2017



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MArch Design for Performance and Interaction

Programme Originator: Professor Stephen Gage

OVERVIEW

Design for Performance and Interaction is a unique interdisciplinary programme which invites students from a wide range of artistic and technical backgrounds. The core of the programme is the belief that the creation of spaces for performance and the creation of performances within them are symbiotic design activities. Design using interactive technologies enables us to consider objects, space, people and systems as potential performers. Design for performance and interaction has relevance across spatial and urban design, interface and systems design, auditoria and scenographic design, lighting and sound installation, performance and event design, and virtual and physical environments that draw people together. At The Bartlett School of Architecture, we believe this provides an unprecedented opportunity for informed, skilled and trans-disciplinary designers to define, and also deliver, spaces and systems for performance and interaction in the 21st century.

Broadly, the MArch programme has two goals:

- To provide a high-quality stand-alone qualification which enables students from a wide range of backgrounds to engage with the creation of performance and places for performance in multiple settings
- To provide high-quality design-led research training to enable students to carry out future doctoral research in the field.

The programme will provide knowledge and training in the principles and skills of design for performance and interaction in relation to underlying interdisciplinary theories taken from performing arts, digital media, spatial interaction, anthropology, sociology, cybernetics, cognitive neuroscience and aesthetics.

Relevant technologies and skills include 3D and 4D representation, performance including working with actors and puppets, collaboration in real-time simulation, networked media spaces, and design for sensory and interactive environments.

Students will have the opportunity to gain a working knowledge of sound systems (including acoustics and acoustic simulation), lighting systems (including projection and lighting simulation), interactive computation and electronics, behaviour of individuals and crowds, and the equipment and software that is used to track this behaviour and the software that simulates this in both relaxed and emergency conditions. In addition, students can gain an understanding of parametric simulations of seating and viewing layouts, required when designing or adapting large performance spaces.

Central to the programme's outlook will be its engagement with a network from industry and other Higher Education institutions. On the former, membership of the programme development team illustrates an existing network that includes diverse practices such as Umbrellium, Jason Bruges Studio, Ciminod Studio, Bompas and Parr, Soundforms, Stufish and ScanLAB Projects. Significantly, all of these practices and firms have a long standing relationship with the Bartlett, many of whom spun out from the interactive workshop led by Professor Gage (1991-2012). Between them, these firms have pioneered international projects in a market that is growing rapidly. Within London, the Bartlett School of Architecture has long standing collaborative relationships in the field of performance with the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, the Royal Academy, the Roundhouse, Tate Modern, and the BBC.

The new MArch will draw upon the related and internationally recognised expertise within The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, as well as across UCL generally, including the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL Engineering and UCL Computer science . The Bartlett also hosts one of the leading PhD by Design (PhD AD) programmes in the world, with candidates drawn from across the spatial disciplines, including architects, designers, artists, and performers.

The 15-month structure of the course allows for an important three month overlap between incoming and graduating students. The School anticipates that the output from the programme will be inspiring and that the incoming students will learn from the heightened atmosphere of production by the previous year’s cohort in the autumn term.

The Bartlett School of Architecture possesses an internationally recognised profile in the subject of architecture as an expanded field, with a reputation for engaging closely with cross-disciplinary working. Students will be located at the Bartlett’s new Here East complex within London’s Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park which provides space for public events and world class facilities for large scale construction of installations; an ideal environment in which to balance intellectual curiosity and creative flair, with an essential requirement to excel.

STRUCTURE

The programme is structured to offer the widest scope for creativity in the design modules. These modules are the basis of the programme, with other modules put in place to support them. Students can choose to make performances, make settings for performances or combine the two of any medium or technology that they choose to work in.

The curriculum is outlined in the following diagram:

MArch Design for Performance and Interaction - 15 Month Programme - 180 Credits					180 credits
Term 1 Sep-Dec	Term 2 Jan-Apr	Term 3 May-Jun	Summer Jul-Sep	Term 4 Sep-Dec	
		< INTERIM PORTFOLIO REVIEW			FINAL EXAMINATIONS >
DESIGN	15 credits Introductory Workshops Students take 3 workshops. Each student prepares an individual design workshop portfolio. This is formatively marked at the end of Term 1	30 credits Thesis, Preliminary Projects Students work in groups with their specialist design tutor to prepare an initial design portfolio. This is formatively marked at the interim portfolio review	60 credits Thesis, Final Project Students work in groups with their specialist design tutor to prepare a final design project		Internal and External Exams Exhibition
THEORY	15 credits Contextual Theory: DP+I Students write a 2500 word paper comparing the different approaches and indicating a preference, arguing why they consider it most relevant to their future studies. This is formatively marked at the start of Term 2		30 credits Design Thesis Written Report Students work individually to identify a key research question that arises out of the design work in Term 2 and research it over Term 3, in parallel with their developing design thesis. The report is written up over the summer vacation and is submitted at the start of Term 4.		Verbal Presentation (Oral Exam) >
SKILLS	30 credits Skills Portfolio Students are directed to learn skills appropriate to both the course in general and their chosen preference. Both analytical (simulation and sensing) and synthetic (making) skills are taught. The portfolio is formatively marked at the end of Term 2				
	PREVIOUS COHORT				NEXT COHORT

CONTENT Term 1

The first term is an introduction. Students undertake a 15 credit design workshop module, the first tranche 30 credit skills module, and a 15 credit theory module giving the background to the programme, its context and purpose.

BENVGP11 INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOPS includes presentations by the design teaching staff who run design clusters within the design thesis portfolio module. Students take three of these workshops and subsequently elect which cluster to join for the remainder of the year.

BENVGP21 THEORY INTRODUCTION: DESIGN FOR PERFORMANCE AND INTERACTION introduces students to the various theoretical and practical positions that can be taken in the subject.

BENVGP31 SKILLS PORTFOLIO commences with operations that are generic to the programme. These skills are both digital and analogue. For example, the first element of the portfolio will be an “icebreaker” exercise where all students are taught (or reminded of) the basics of body movement and interaction, linking these with a study of the hardware and software needed for body tracking.

Term 2

Students elect to join a design cluster for the remainder of the programme. The design cluster is the primary teaching and learning vehicle of the entire programme and mirrors one of the distinguishing elements of teaching as a whole in The Bartlett School of Architecture.

Students take the second tranche of BENVGP31 SKILLS PORTFOLIO as project specific skills workshops that are indicated by their design cluster tutors.

They simultaneously commence BENVGP12 THESIS PORTFOLIO, PRELIMINARY PROJECTS and at this point as the skills module and the design module form intimate ties one of the core objectives of the programme is established.

Term 3

Students commence BENVGP13 THESIS PORTFOLIO, FINAL PROJECT which follows on from the preliminary project as a new and related challenge.

At the same time they start BENVGP22 THESIS REPORT, which examines a key research question that has arisen from their preliminary design work and which will inform their final project. BENVGP22 is staffed with dedicated tutors who work closely with the design thesis tutors on providing appropriate support applicable to the design thesis project. Students write up their submissions for BENVGP22 THESIS REPORT over the summer with tutorials from their BENVGP22 tutors.

Term 4 (overlapping with Term 1 for incoming new cohort)

At the beginning of term students hand in their submissions for BENVGP22 THESIS REPORT. There is a conference where they present a summary of their report to staff and incoming students. Students then complete BENVGP13 , FINAL PROJECT and prepare presentations for a public exhibition at the end of term. Simultaneously, the new cohort undertakes Term 1 as described above, and witnesses the preceding cohort complete Term 4

STAFF Programme Staff are to be confirmed.

The programme has been developed by Professor [Stephen Gage](#) and a programme development team from The Bartlett, including [Ruairi Glynn](#) of the [Interactive Architecture Lab](#) & [Paul Bavister](#), and Professor [Bob Sheil](#).

The programme scrutineer is [Professor Omar Kahn](#) from the University of Buffalo.

FAQs General Information

How long is the Masters course?

15 months, from late September to December in the following year.

When should I apply?

You are advised to apply as early as possible Applications open in the October and close in the July prior to the programme commencement in September.

How can I apply?

You may apply online via clicking here: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/degrees/design-performance-interaction-march>

Is there an application fee?

There is an admissions processing fee per online application, this was £75 for 2016-17 applications.

What are the Entry Requirements for MArch Design for Performance and Interaction?

You will need the minimum of a lower second-class (2:2) Honours degree at undergraduate level, or the international equivalent. International Students may click on this link to ascertain qualification equivalents: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/international/countries>

A strong portfolio is required, see below for details. See below for English language requirements. If you do not have the above qualifications but have relevant experience and are interested in applying for the programme then please contact The Bartlett Faculty Office for advice on this email address: t.heintz@ucl.ac.uk

What does the admissions process involve?

Your online application, once submitted, will be received by the UCL Central Admissions Office. Once your details have been logged, your application will be sent to the Department for consideration. The department may contact you regarding the submission of a portfolio. Once a recommendation has been made, your application will be returned to the Admissions Office where an official letter will be produced and sent to you informing you of the admissions decision.

How long should my Personal Statement be?

One side of A4 is usually sufficient.

Can I visit in person to talk to staff about my application and/or tour the facilities?

No, unfortunately this will not be possible, as the Bartlett is not open to the public. Applicants for some programmes may be asked to attend for interview in person post-submission where it is deemed warranted (or interviewed by telephone/Skype if it is more convenient), but speculative visits are not possible. Additionally The Bartlett hosts a series of open lectures and exhibitions throughout term time. These are all open to the public and may provide a chance to speak to current students. Please check the Bartlett website for further details and updates at: <https://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/latest/events>. Alternatively if you would like to visit the main UCL campus (the

Bartlett buildings are not included), you can book yourself onto one of the guided tours given by current UCL students during the summer. If you're not able to get to the UCL main campus, you can also enjoy a virtual tour through the Meet UCL website. Visit the Meet UCL website at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/access-ucl/> to find out more.

Portfolios

What should I include in my portfolio?

The portfolio that you submit will depend on your first degree or prior experience. Otherwise no specific skills are required but a design and /or performance capability must be demonstrated. Both static image and time-based media are acceptable in digital format. The latter should be edited to give a maximum 5-minute sample.

When and how do I upload my portfolio?

Please do not upload a portfolio at the initial application stage. The Department will contact you regarding your design work once your completed application form has arrived in the Department. This will only be once your referees have uploaded their references. You should upload it to your application. It must be compressed to 2MB or less. . Give a link to any time based presentations (video, sound etc.) that you wish to include.

English Language Proficiency

What are the English Language requirements?

UCL's full English language requirements can be viewed here: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/life/international>. The Bartlett requires the 'Standard' level in all cases. (IELTS: Overall grade of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each subtest.) Please note that tests or pre-sessional courses not listed on the above webpage will not be accepted by UCL.

I am going to take an English test later in the year, can I still apply now?

You may apply for a place on a programme without a current English test as long as you send your qualification as soon as you receive it. If you are offered a place, it will be conditional on your providing evidence of English before you will be allowed to enrol.

References

Do both of my references need to be academic?

At least one of your references should be from an academic source. Your application will not normally be processed without one. The other may be from an employer or colleague who has worked with you closely.

What happens if I graduated a long time ago and I cannot provide an academic reference?

Please note that your academic referee does not necessarily need to be someone that knows you from your undergraduate degree – they may know you through another programme of study. As long as they can comment on your performance in an academic capacity, this will suffice. If this is not possible, please provide two employment references and we will contact you if

we require further information.

Admissions Process

How long should I expect to wait for an admissions decision?

Because we require a portfolio and possibly an interview it may take approximately two months before you hear a result.

Why has no decision been made on my application yet?

We will only consider complete applications. Any that are missing a reference(s) and/or an academic transcript will not be sent on to us for consideration. Therefore please check your application to see if anything is missing and if it is please supply it at your earliest convenience.

What happens after I have been made an offer?

Once you have been made an offer the Department and the Registry will contact you with any relevant information regarding your time as a UCL student – this will be sent by post/e-mail. Over the summer months the Department will send you induction information by email before the course commences.

Can I ask for feedback on an unsuccessful application?

No, we regret that we cannot offer feedback on unsuccessful applications.

If my application is unsuccessful can I claim a refund of the admissions processing fee?

No, a refund is not possible. This is because the fee covers the cost of processing your application regardless of the admissions decision.

Deferring Entry

If I cannot take up my offer of a place can I defer it to next year?

It is not usually a problem to defer your offer of a place to the following year. Applicants will need the authorisation of the Programme Director and the Admissions Office will need to issue a renewed and updated offer letter.

How can I defer my offer of admission?

You can request to defer entry to postgraduate programmes by emailing admissions@ucl.ac.uk citing your name and student number.

Can I defer entry more than once?

No, you may only defer entry once. If you cannot take up your deferred offer you will forfeit your place and will need to re-apply.

What is the deadline for deferring entry?

Usually you can defer entry any time before enrolment.

Tuition Fees & Finances

What are the tuition fees?

Fees for the 15-month programme, commencing in 2017, are anticipated to be £12,947 for UK/EU students and £26,780 for Overseas students. These figures are provisional and the formal fee level will be confirmed on this website over the summer: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/money>

Can you tell me what my fee status will be before I submit my applications?

No, we cannot advise on this issue. Your fee status can only be determined following receipt of your application. Please see here for more details: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/money/fees-support/fee_status_proc

I am a part-time Masters student, how much are my fees?

Part-time or modular/flexible students pay fees according to how many credits they take each year, calculated pro-rata the full-time fee. So if for example a student takes 60 credits in year one (one-third of the 180 credit programme) then they would be charged one-third of the full-time fee charged in that session.

I am a part-time Masters student, how much will my fees be in total?

It depends on how long it takes to complete the programme. Modular/flexible students have a maximum of 5 years in which to complete their studies and the fees increase annually.

How do I pay the tuition fees?

Fees are payable at enrolment in September, either in full or 50% by the end of October with the remaining 50% in early February. Payment by any other kind of installment plan is not an option.

I've been made Overseas fee status, but I should be UK/EU fee status. How do I change this?

You will need to request a Fees Questionnaire via the Admissions Office to have your fee status reconsidered.

How much is the fee deposit? When do we pay it?

There is currently no fee deposit payable in advance.

Visas & Immigration

How do I apply for my visa?

The UCL visa information web pages have detailed information on how to apply for a visa. Visa applications will be only open three months before the start of your Master's programme (i.e. 30 June). More details can be found here: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/iss/immigration-visa>

How can I request a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)?

If you have an unconditional offer you have formally accepted you will receive an email from admissions with information on how to request a CAS.

When will I receive my CAS?

CAS numbers will be issued 3 months before your programme start date. For example if your start date is 28 September you will not receive your CAS before 29 June. This is because UKVI will refuse any visa application that is made earlier than three months before the programme start date. CAS numbers will usually be issued within 5 working days of receiving your CAS request form (from 29 June onwards).

Employment & Money

Are there any scholarships available?

Unfortunately, funding for students is very scarce. Most of our students are self-funding through loans or saving although the Bartlett has offered some funding to Masters students in recent years (see here: <http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/programmes/applying/funding-and-scholarships/bartlett-masters-scholarships>). Information on funding opportunities may be found on UCL's main Scholarships and Funding page: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/scholarships>

Will The Bartlett help me find a part-time job?

No, although the UCL careers service will make you aware of the different options open to you. They may also offer tips and/or advice on finding part-time work. Please also look at the [Student Union Job shop](#).

How much money will I need to live on per month/year?

This differs from student to student but there are many websites such as [The Student Calculator](#) which help you to answer this question.

When will I be able to open a UK bank account?

Students will enrol during the first week of the course and once enrolment is complete, can use their student ID to open a bank account. This should be complete within the first 3 or 4 days.

How can I open a bank account when I arrive in the UK?

Please see here for information on opening a bank account: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/iss/before-you-arrive/bank-account>. It is recommended that you discuss your move to the UK with your bank at home and seek advice on what the best option is regarding the withdrawal of cash in the UK using their cards.

Joining UCL

Can you tell me how I can find accommodation during my studies?

Faculties can't advise on this issue but the UCL Accommodation Office can. Please see all sorts of queries answered here: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/accommodation/faqs>

When does the programme start?

The course starts each year in the last week of September.

When is induction and orientation?

Induction Week takes place in the last week of September. Students from outside the UK can apply to attend UCL's Orientation programme, which takes place the week prior.

Is there an airport pick-up?

No, unfortunately there is no airport pick-up but our central London location makes UCL very accessible from all major airports, train stations and bus stations.

Where should I go on my first day?

You will be sent information about this at a later stage – meanwhile please check the new student website (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/new-students>). If not advised where and when your first session is taking place by e-mail, please report to your School Office on arrival.

Can I get a programme timetable?

Timetables are only available to new students in the first week of term as they can change yearly.

Graduation

When is graduation?

Graduation ceremonies take place in the year after you complete your studies. For example, if you finish your programme in September 2016, your graduation ceremony will usually take place in early autumn 2017. You will be sent your degree certificate by postal delivery around 3 months after you complete your studies (to the 'contact address' in your personal records which you can update as and when necessary).

Further Information

Can I study part-time?

The programme can be taken part-time on a flexible basis over a maximum of 5 years. While we try to make part-time study as flexible as possible, our Masters programmes are demanding and we advise students that, if they intend to work alongside the programme, their work should be flexible in nature.

Is there more than one intake a year?

No, we only have one intake to taught programmes every year in September.

I am already studying at another institution. Can I enrol at UCL at the same
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time?

No, you cannot be enrolled in two institutions at once, so you would need to de-register from your current course.

Can I transfer my studies to UCL?

No, UCL does not accept transfer to Masters programmes.

Can I study by distance learning?

No, it is not possible to study any Bartlett programmes by distance learning or online.