NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY

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Bachelor of Architectural Studies (Honours)

Dear Prospective Bachelor of Architectural Studies (Honours) Applicant,

RE: Application Process

The application process for the BAS Hons degree at Nelson Mandela University consists of two essential components.

Firstly, all applicants are required to complete a general postgraduate online application by the Univeristy's set deadline. Additionally, as part of this online application process, please ensure to submit the U24 form, which is available for download [available here], ID, and your transcript. After completing the online application, it is important to email a copy of the U24 form to Mr Basson at jpbasson@mandela.ac.za. When completing the U24 form, kindly leave the "treatise topic" field blank. If you are pursuing your BAS degree, please indicate this in section C of the form.

It is important to note that both Mandela University students and non-Mandela prospective applicants are required to complete the online application. For more detailed information regarding the online application process, we encourage you to visit www.mandela.ac.za.

To be considered for admission into the BAS Hons programme, applicants must meet the minimum academic requirements established for the programme, which are as follows:

- Attainment of a Bachelor of Architectural Studies degree with a minimum of 60% in the design module.

Once you have successfully finished the online application, you will need to submit a design portfolio as part of the admission process for the BAS Hons programme, following the departmental selection process detailed below. Please keep in mind that the Department of Architecture can only accommodate a limited number of students, with 40 available seats for prospective applicants. The final acceptance to all applicants will be given during the first week of December.

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Nelson Mandela University Applicant: Current year of study:

All 3rd-year students must apply online with all relevant documentation outlined in step 1. Students will enter the November portfolio review, and only after the portfolio review will the result of the application be made known. There are three possible outcomes, with three different routes to follow:

Outcome 1: Student failed design (below 49%)
> The student enrols for design three again the following year to better the design mark to obtain the minimum 60% to enter the BAS Hons programme.

Outcome 2: Student received between 50% and 59% for design
> Students can follow **Option 1** as outlined above and register for design again the following year.
> Students can follow **Option 2** and follow the RPL route (outlined below)

Outcome 3: Student received 60% or more for design
> The application will be completed and returned to the admission department with accepted into the BAS Hons programme, where the applicant received 60% or more for the design module.
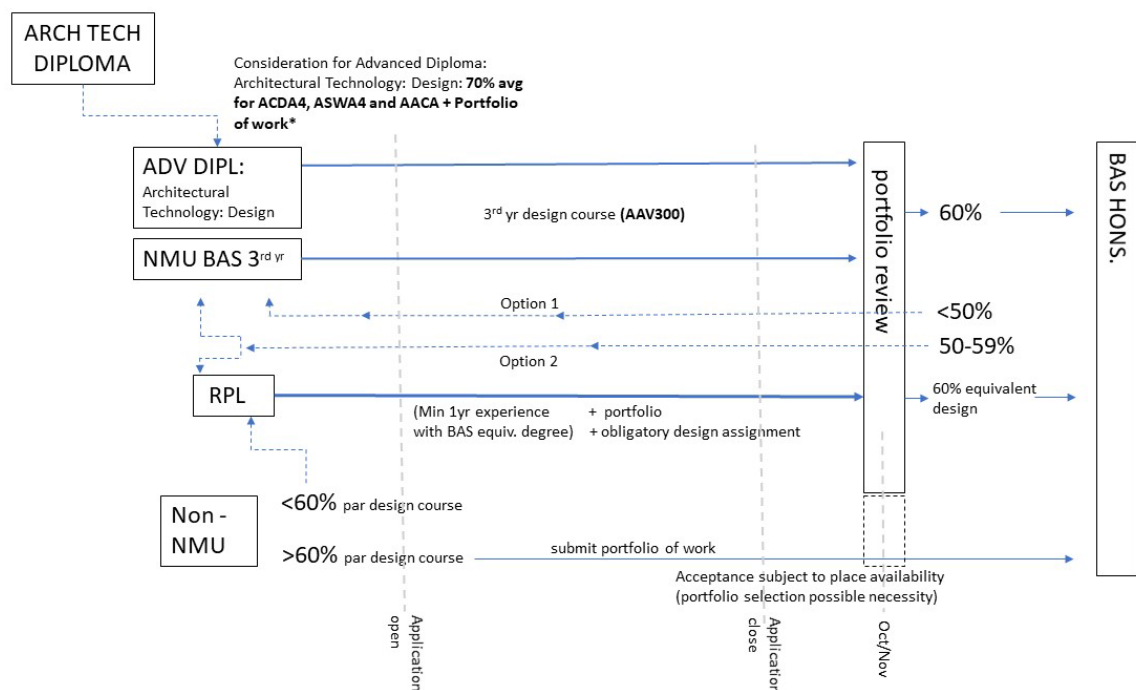
* ACDA 4001 – Construction and Detailing (30 Cr); ASWA 4001 – Studio Work (40 Cr); AACA – Adv Computer application (30 Cr)

Figure 1: Application process diagram for prospective students, the limit of 40 seats available.

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Non-Nelson Mandela University Applicants (National and International):

All applicants must apply online with all relevant documentation outlined in step 1. There are two different routes for applicants to follow:

Route 1: Student obtained between 50% and 59% in the <u>Bachelor of Architectural Studies degree</u> for design

Option 1: The student enrols for design three at Nelson Mandela University the following year to better the design mark to obtain a minimum of 60% to reapply for entry into the BAS Hons programme.

Students can follow **Option 2** and follow the RPL route (outlined below).

Route 2: Student received 60% or more for the review in the Bachelor of Architectural Studies degree for design

To ensure a comprehensive and fair evaluation process, we have outlined the portfolio requirements and guidelines:

1. **Bachelor of Architectural Studies degree:** Applicants must hold a recognised degree in architecture from an accredited institution. A copy of your official transcript is required as part of the application.
2. **Letter(s) of recommendation:** Please submit a letter of recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic and/or professional qualifications. These letters should speak to your potential for success in our Bachelor of Architectural Studies (Honours) programme.
3. **Statement of Purpose:** Write a statement of purpose (approximately 500 -750 words) that articulates your academic and career goals, your specific interest within the field of architecture, and why you are interested in pursuing our Bachelor of Architectural Studies (Honours) programme.
4. **Resume/Curriculum Vitae:** Include a current resume or curriculum vitae (CV) that outlines your academic and professional background, relevant experiences and achievements.
5. **Portfolio of work:** The portfolio is a crucial component of your application. It should include a selection of your design and architectural work that showcases your creativity, design thinking and technical skills. To aid you in preparing your portfolio, we provide the following suggested structure:
   a. **Cover page:** Include a cover page with your name, contact information, student number, and the title "Bachelor of Architectural Studies (Honours) Portfolio Submission".
   b. **Table of Contents:** Provide a clear and organised table of contents to guide reviewers through your portfolio.
   c. **Introduction (1 page):** Write a concise introduction introducing yourself, your academic and professional background, and your motivation for pursuing the Bachelor of Architectural Studies (Honours) programme.
   d. **Design Projects (Design Skills):** Showcase a selection of design projects that demonstrate your creative thinking, design sensibility and problem-solving abilities. These may include architectural drawings, sketches, renderings, and design concepts. Include both conceptual and realised projects that highlight your design process and evolution.
   e. **Construction and Technical Work (Construction Skills):** Present work that showcases your understanding of construction techniques, technical proficiency, and ability to translate design concepts into practical, buildable structures. Include construction details, technical drawings, structural analysis, or any projects that emphasise your knowledge of construction and materials.
   f. **Theoretical Exploration (Theory Skills):** Include research papers, essays or theoretical projects that reflect your engagement with architectural theory and critical thinking. Share your thoughts on architectural history, contemporary issues, or theoretical frameworks that have influenced your perspective on architecture.
   g. **Built Projects:** If applicable, highlight any built projects or professional work that demonstrates your practical experience and the application of your architectural knowledge.
   h. **Descriptions:** Provide descriptions and context for each project. Explain the objectives, challenges and solutions for each project.
   i. **Process Documentation:** If possible, include process documentation such as sketches, models, or drafts that showcase the evolution of your projects from concept to completion.
   j. **Digital Presentation:** Organise your portfolio in a digital format (PDF) with a clear and visually appealing layout. Ensure that images, drawings, and text are presented professionally, easily read, and understood.

The abovementioned requirements can be integrated into your portfolio and submitted as a single PDF document.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL Option 2).

Applicants who wish to use the RPL route must contact the Department of Architecture (Mr Basson) before the end of July to indicate their intention to apply for BAS Hons via the RPL route for next year's study. During September, the student will receive the design project brief required for the design portfolio review that will take place in November. Students must also provide evidence during the portfolio review of design experience obtained outside the given design project briefs. Successful students will be notified in early December.

Our admission committee will carefully review and assess all applications based on academic achievements, portfolio quality, letters of recommendation and your statement of purpose.

Should you have any questions or require further information regarding the admission requirements, application process or the Bachelor of Architectural Studies (Honours) programme, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Basson.

We are excited to receive your application and learn more about your passion for architecture and our aspirations in the field. Thank you for considering Nelson Mandela University for your postgraduate studies, and we look forward to the possibility of welcoming you into our Bachelor of Architectural Studies (Honours) programme.

Best regards

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Portfolio assessment rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Needs Improvement
Design Skills	Exceptional demonstration of creative thinking, innovation, and problem-solving. Projects are well-conceived, highly original, and aesthetically pleasing.	Strong evidence of creative thinking and innovation with well-executed projects. Demonstrates strong problem-solving abilities.	Competent design skills with good concepts and execution. Projects are creative and adequately resolved.	Basic design skills are evident, but some conceptual and execution gaps exist. Projects show potential but lack refinement.	Limited evidence of creative thinking and innovation. Projects lack originality, and design execution is weak.
Construction Skills	Proficient understanding and application of construction techniques. Projects demonstrate practical feasibility and structural soundness. Technical drawings and details are exemplary.	Strong grasp of construction techniques with well-detailed and structurally sound projects. Technical drawings and details are well-executed.	Competent understanding and application of construction techniques, but some details may lack depth or precision. Projects are generally feasible and structurally sound.	Basic understanding of construction techniques with limited detail and structural considerations. Projects show potential but may lack technical rigour.	Limited understanding of construction techniques. Projects lack practical feasibility and structural soundness. Technical drawings and details are weak.
Theoretical Understanding of Architecture	Exceptional engagement with architectural theory and critical thinking. Demonstrates a profound understanding of architectural history and contemporary issues.	Strong engagement with architectural theory and critical thinking. Demonstrates a clear understanding of architectural history and relevant contemporary discourse.	Competent engagement with architectural theory and some critical thinking. Demonstrates a basic understanding of architectural history and contemporary issues.	Limited engagement with architectural theory and critical thinking. Demonstrates a surface-level understanding of architectural history and contemporary issues.	Minimal engagement with architectural theory and critical thinking. Demonstrates a lack of understanding of architectural history and contemporary issues.
Computer Usage	Outstanding proficiency in using digital tools for architectural visualisation. High-quality renderings, 3D models, or visual presentations demonstrate exceptional skill.	Strong proficiency in using digital tools for architectural visualisation. High-quality renderings, 3D models, or visual presentations are well-executed.	Competent proficiency in using digital tools for architectural visualisation. Projects include visually appealing renderings, 3D models, or presentations.	Basic proficiency in using digital tools, with room for visual quality improvement. Projects may lack refinement.	Limited proficiency in using digital tools for architectural visualisation. Renderings, 3D models, or presentations lack visual appeal and polish.

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