

**Wentworth Institute of Technology**  
**Master of Architecture Program**  
**Admissions Information**

**Program Tracks**

3-yr. track (4+3)

The M.Arch program is best understood as a three-year long program, which is designed to allow students with no formal background in architecture to complete a professional degree in just seven semesters. This path is what we call our “3-yr track,” and if you hold an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution, you are qualified for this option. Some applicants who are admitted to the 3-yr. track have backgrounds in architecture-adjacent field such as urban studies or landscape architecture. More often, applicants come from less directly related fields such as business, fashion design, anthropology, engineering, biology, film studies, or painting.

Advanced standing

At Wentworth, we believe in recognizing- to the extent possible- the prior scholastic achievements of our applicants. Depending on one’s undergraduate education, applicants could be eligible for advanced standing in the M.Arch program as follows:

2-yr. track (4+2)

If you have already earned a pre-professional degree in architecture (or are on the cusp of completing one at the time of application), you will typically be granted advanced standing to bypass the first year of the curriculum. You will instead enter into the second year and have the opportunity to earn a professional degree in architecture in just two years. Most commonly, a pre-professional degree in architecture is a Bachelor of Science, but we often find eligibility in the transcripts of those who have earned a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Design, a Bachelor of Fine Arts, or a Bachelor of Environmental Design. In all cases, a major in architecture is required (e.g., a BA in Architecture, a BFA in Architecture, a BDes in Architecture, etc.).

If you hold a *non-accredited* undergraduate degree with a major in architecture from an institution that does not also offer a professional Master of Architecture (in other words, if your degree is not part of a ‘single-institution’ professional degree path), you may still be considered for advanced standing. This is determined by a thorough review of your transcript and the content of the courses you’ve taken to assess equivalency. See “Course waivers and course remediation” in this document for a description of this process. Applicants are invited to contact us directly to discuss your particular educational goals and background at [gradsoad@wit.edu](mailto:gradsoad@wit.edu).

1-yr. track (4+1)

If you hold a Bachelor of Science in Architecture (BSArch) from Wentworth, you are uniquely eligible for advanced standing to bypass the first two years of the curriculum, entering into the third and final year. In addition, BSArch students who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher by the beginning of their senior year receive automatic admission to the M.Arch program. Please note that automatic

admission does not mean that you do not need to apply- it just means that once you do apply, admission is guaranteed. Notice of auto-admit status is broadcast to students during the fall semester of their senior year, in advance of the priority application deadline for the graduate program.

Total credits for degree: 34-36 (1-yr. track), 70-72 (2-yr. track), or 106-108 (3-yr. track)

## **Admissions Process**

Wentworth's holistic admissions process takes a comprehensive approach to applicant evaluation, going beyond mere academic achievements or standardized test scores. As just one example of this commitment, we no longer require GRE scores of applicants. The M.Arch admissions committee considers multiple factors to get a better picture of applicants as individuals who could bring to the program- and to our academic community- a range of different, and important, experiences. Such factors include one's academic background, professional experience, letters of recommendation, personal statements, and specific skills relevant to the program. Ultimately, our holistic admissions process aims to create a balanced and diverse student body by considering a broad range of qualifications and attributes beyond academic metrics alone. This approach seeks to identify candidates who will thrive academically, contribute positively to the program, and make a significant impact in the field after graduation.

### **1) Course waivers and course remediation**

The transcripts of all external applicants who generally qualify for advanced standing (i.e., those who hold a pre-professional degree in architecture) are reviewed carefully for either course waivers or course remediation. Wentworth's residency requirements allow for a maximum of 8 credits to be completed elsewhere, and course waivers are most commonly granted for prior coursework in structures and/or building systems. Transcript reviews happen automatically, so applicants are not required to initiate the process themselves.

Review of *non-accredited* undergraduate degrees (discussed in the previous section, "Program Tracks"), seek an approximation of the first year in our M.Arch program, which includes foundational design studios, a history and theory sequence, a visualization course, a materials and methods course, and a course in energy and resources. Alignments are sought in two ways. First, we review the relevant undergraduate coursework for general alignment with our own coursework in spirit and substance. Second, we review the courses for alignment with the specific NAAB accreditation criteria that our courses satisfy. This happens with reference to a curricular chart, course descriptions, and- where possible- course syllabi from your undergraduate institution. If a course syllabus cannot be readily accessed by the admissions committee, the applicant is enlisted to assist by contacting their undergraduate institution directly and requesting such information which is then passed along to our admissions committee. The committee in turn requests a review of the course syllabi from regular faculty members relevant subject matter expertise who teach similar courses in our program. Should equivalency not be found, we ask the applicant to take those courses here at Wentworth. Since the review of transcripts for course equivalency happens automatically during the admissions process, there are no forms that an applicant must complete to initiate this review.

For those external applicants who do not qualify for advanced standing (i.e., those without a pre-professional degree in architecture), the same idea applies. Most often, course credit is given for those

who may have already taken coursework equivalent to our first-year architectural history and theory sequence. However, there is rarely a need for course remediation among this applicant pool.

## 2) Undergraduate coursework

As a precondition for advanced standing in the 2nd year of the program, applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree that included coursework as follows:

- *Architecture design studios*: a minimum of 24 credits of design studios, which is typically four 6-credit courses.
- *Materials and methods or building construction* coursework with an earned grade of “B” or higher that is substantially equivalent to the following course at Wentworth:

### ARCH7300: Building Matters

*This lecture-and workshop-based course surveys common construction materials and their properties, as well as their use in simple and hybrid systems of assembly. Particular attention is devoted to wood, steel, and masonry systems. This course also introduces students to structural principles guiding vernacular construction, principles of building siting and orientation, and passive environmental building strategies.*

- *Visualization* coursework with an earned grade of “B” or higher that is substantially equivalent to the following course at Wentworth:

### ARCH 7350: 2D + 3D Media & Processes

*Requirement for incoming 3 year graduate students. The course introduces and applies fundamental manual drawing techniques and logics essential to the development of spatial and critical thinking skill sets and practice as well as digital 2D and 3D translations.*

- *Building systems* coursework with an earned grade of “B” or higher that is substantially equivalent to the following course at Wentworth:

### ARCH 7600: Energy & Resources in Architecture

*This lecture and workshop-based course focuses on architectural methods for achieving visual, thermal and acoustical comfort in buildings using primarily non-mechanical means: climate, form, orientation, materials, and structure. Students will learn to analyze energy phenomena and understand energetic implications of a range of design strategies. Principles of sustainable resource management will be introduced.*

- *Architectural history and theory* coursework with an earned grade of “B” or higher that is substantially equivalent to the following courses at Wentworth:

### ARCH 7250: Graduate History/Theory Lecture

*This lecture course surveys world architecture, urbanism and landscapes from the ancient world through roughly 1700 CE. Lectures shall discuss architecture as a form of cultural expression and in relation to the artistic, political, religious, scientific, technological, and social developments.*

### ARCH 7550: Graduate History/Theory Seminar

*This lecture course surveys world architecture, urbanism and landscapes from 1700 CE to the 1960's. Lectures discuss architecture as a form of cultural expression and in relation to artistic, political, religious, scientific, technological and social developments.*

### **Application requirements**

#### **1. Online application**

Required of all applicants. The online form can be found [here](#).

#### **2. Statement of objectives**

Required of all applicants. Please answer the first question below, and any ONE of the remaining three questions (your choice). Upload your responses together in a single letter sized .pdf file via the online application portal.

1. Describe why you are interested to pursue a graduate degree in architecture. For example, how will earning a M.Arch further your personal and professional goals and interests? (300 words +/-).

2. Describe a building you've visited in person that you felt was 'well-designed.' What criteria did you consider? Why are those criteria important to an analysis of architecture? (200 words +/-).

3. Name a building that you have never visited in person but would like to (and why?). (200 words +/-).

4. Speculate on the role that architecture does (or could) play in contemporary society. How might it make a positive impact? (200 words +/-).

#### **3. Resume or CV**

Required of all applicants.

#### **4. Official transcripts**

Required of all applicants. The Office of Graduate Admissions will automatically pull official transcripts for applicants from Wentworth.

#### **5. Portfolio**

Required of all applicants, except Wentworth BSArch students who have earned automatic admission.

Portfolios are required for applicants to all three M.Arch program tracks. Portfolios should include work that demonstrates your proficiency in architecture and/or other visual media; they should reflect the full range of your creative, research, and technical skills. The portfolio should be submitted electronically as a link to a webpage or a PDF file uploaded within the online application.

## Format

Applicants should submit an electronic copy of their portfolio. A link to an online portfolio is preferred, but portfolios may be uploaded to the application as a PDF. Portfolios should be designed for viewing one page at a time (not as a two-page spread) using landscape orientation and standard aspect ratios such as 4:3 or 16:9.

## Content

Please show a range of your original design work, including design drawings, sketches, model images, photography, sculpture, writing samples – any work that conveys your artistic sensibilities. Emphasize four to five of your best projects. Non-academic creative and professional work may be included if it demonstrates your abilities to perform successfully as a graduate student.

## Organization

Portfolios should be well organized with a brief introductory text for each project. Each project should be clearly labeled. Indicate whether the project was completed as part of a course by including the name of the professor, studio, and semester. In the case of team projects, you must identify your role on the team and specify authorship of drawings, images, and artifacts seen in the portfolio.

## Quality

The goal of the portfolio is to legibly display the quality of your design and creative work. Focus your efforts on making the clearest presentation with simple layouts of imagery and brief, informative texts using straightforward typefaces scaled for ease of reading on a laptop. Make an effort to document your work carefully so that all images of your work are of high resolution and large enough to understand in detail; the committee expects a professional presentation.

## **6. Letters of recommendation**

Two letters are required of all applicants except current Wentworth BSArch students, who only need to provide the names of two fulltime faculty members in architecture who are willing to serve as a reference.

## **7. Application fee**

A non-refundable \$50 fee is required of all applicants, except Wentworth BSArch students who have earned automatic admission.

## **Other requirements**

Proof of English Proficiency (for non-native English speakers). Please see Wentworth's English proficiency requirements [here](#).

International applicants are required to submit proof of financial support.

Please note that applicants do not apply for advanced standing in the M.Arch program. Rather, placement is determined during the admissions process by the selection committee.

### Reapplications

Applicants who are unsuccessful in their application to the program are invited to reapply in the future, after gaining additional relevant skills and experience. Repeat candidates receive full consideration alongside first-time applicants.

### Deferrals

As of Fall 2024, deferrals are no longer allowed. Successful applicants must enroll in the fall semester of the year that they were admitted to the M.Arch program or reapply later. Applicants who have earned a BSArch from Wentworth, but who did not enroll in the subsequent academic year are invited to reapply; however, they must submit the same materials as an external applicant.