A Introduction

This document is designed to provide additional information about entrance requirements and admissions in relation to the degree programme or group of programmes listed above. It also provides an explanation of how we handle applications from candidates. It should be read in conjunction with the University’s current Undergraduate Admissions Policy which is available on the University’s website at www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/requirements/. We hope that you will find this information helpful when completing your UCAS application. If you have not yet decided which course is the best one for you, detailed information about all our courses is available on our website at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/a-z.

It is expected that the degree programme will have around 90 places available for new UK and EU students in the 2016 intake.

B Selection Process

a) How Does it Happen?

i) General Process

Each candidate will be asked to submit a portfolio upon our receipt of their application. Portfolios must be returned within 6 weeks or applications will be deemed unsuccessful. Information will be provided to each candidate detailing the requirements of the portfolio. Once portfolios have been reviewed, offers will be notified to candidates via the UCAS system.

ii) Applications for Deferred entry

We shall consider applications from candidates who wish to defer entry by a year provided that they use their time constructively

iii) Direct Entry to Stage 2

In exceptional cases applicants may be considered for direct entry to Stage 2 of the programme. Examples of such cases may be where an applicant has significant work experience in an architect's office and/or prior achievement in a related degree.

iv) ‘Late’ Applications

The deadline for applications to reach UCAS is 15 January 2016. Applications received after this date (‘late’ applications) may be considered at the School’s discretion.
v) Confirmation

Applicants who receive conditional offers will automatically have their offer of a place 'confirmed' if they meet the conditions of their offer, for example through achieving required grades in examinations. The applications of those who narrowly miss achieving the required grades will normally be reconsidered if there are places still available on the degree programme in question, and it may sometimes be the case that they are accepted onto the programme (or offered an alternative programme), even though they have not achieved the conditions of their offer.

b) What Are Selectors Looking For?

i) Academic Criteria

Typical entrance requirements for our undergraduate degree programmes, for a range of the qualifications most commonly offered by our applicants, are set out in the Undergraduate Prospectus 2016 Entry and on our website at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/.

Applications from candidates whose qualifications are not listed are considered on an individual basis. For the programme(s) listed above, the following academic criteria apply:

- AAA at A level or equivalent is required. Art or Design at AS or A level, or equivalent, is preferred, but not essential.
- Typical entry requirements for other qualifications are on our website at: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/k100/entryrequirements/
- Applicants should have Maths and English at GCSE grade B or higher (or the equivalent).
- Previous qualification levels in Art or Design (such as GCSE) will also be taken into account by the selector as part of the overall application.
- Candidates with the highest grades (such as A or A* at GCSE) will be at an advantage. Candidates who are not predicted AAA at A Level should still apply and will be considered on an individual basis.

All candidates must submit a portfolio as part of the application process. Your portfolio may include examples of any of the following:
- artwork
- line drawings
- life drawing
- photography
- model making
- demonstration of colour awareness, sculpture or any other artefact that showcases creativity.

Please note that all portfolios should be submitted electronically and by email. Further guidance on what to submit and how will be given when the portfolio is requested.

ii) Additional Criteria
The examination grades that applicants have achieved and are expected to achieve at school or college are not the only indicators that selectors use to judge whether individuals are likely to succeed on a particular degree programme. Other criteria that might be used by selectors include personal qualities, attributes, skills and interest in a subject. They will look for evidence of these in the applicant’s personal statement and reference in a UCAS application, and in some cases through interviews or other means of assessment. For the Architecture course, selectors will be looking for the following:

Evidence of insight on the part of applicants into their personal attributes, the learning that has resulted from their experiences, and an understanding of the relevance of these factors to a career in Architecture. Selectors are looking for applicants to show evidence of:

- commitment and insight into Architecture
- empathy with reflection, i.e. insight and personal attributes that have been acquired as a result of experience gained and showing how these attributes will be useful in a career in Architecture
- breadth and quality of experience in extra-curricular interests, e.g. which interests have been pursued which are directly relevant to a career in Architecture
- knowledge and understanding of Architecture as both a profession and an art
- understanding of how Architecture relates to the wider world
- Evidence of the above can be shown in the following ways:
  - significant work experience in an Architect’s office
  - significant reading around the subject of Architecture
  - knowledge and understanding of current debates in Architecture
  - knowledge and understanding of different Architects and their work
  - attendance at courses of art or design outside the School curriculum
  - attendance at University ‘taster’ days for Architecture
  - ability to show how all subjects studied by the applicant relate to Architecture

Please note: The above examples are not intended to be exhaustive and any other examples of insight and commitment to a career in Architecture will be welcomed.

c) Feedback
The University does not provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants automatically, but will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants who submit a written request. Requests for feedback should be addressed to: brigid.shaw@ncl.ac.uk. Feedback will be given only to applicants, and not to third parties such as schools or parents.