



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

Careers in Architecture, Design and Urban Planning



Shape the future with Architecture, Design and Urban Planning

Whether you dream of designing sustainable buildings, creating innovative products and experiences, or planning the cities and communities of tomorrow, your career starts here at one of Queensland's top-ranked universities for architecture and built environment.

As demand grows for sustainable housing, smarter cities and solutions to complex global challenges, graduates in Architectural Design, Design and Urban Planning are entering careers with purpose, impact and opportunity. From shaping iconic buildings and vibrant urban precincts to designing products, services and experiences that improve lives, you'll develop sought-after skills that open doors across the built environment, technology, consulting, property, government and design industries.

You'll also build critical digital capabilities, including data-driven design, AI-assisted workflows, digital collaboration and problem-solving, alongside the practical skills needed to lead in a rapidly evolving world.



What is...?

Architecture

Architecture combines creative thinking with technical expertise, shaping environments that are functional, sustainable and impactful. It's about designing the spaces where life happens - from homes, workplaces and schools to public spaces and entire communities.

Architecture is more than designing buildings. It's about responding to global challenges such as climate change, housing affordability and urbanisation, and creating places that are sustainable, inclusive and designed for people to thrive.

Graduates can pursue careers across architecture, urban design, planning, sustainable design, heritage conservation, construction and project management, interior architecture, property development and the broader built environment sector. You can enter straight into the workforce or progress your studies to become a registered Architect in Australia.

Strong earning potential

Architects in Queensland typically earn between **\$95,000 and \$115,000 per year**, with opportunities to progress into senior design, project leadership and practice management roles. *(Seek, 2026)*

Growing population driving demand

Queensland's population is projected to grow by 15% by 2036, driving demand for housing, urban development and built environment professionals. *(ABS, 2026)*

Olympic Games legacy projects

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will generate significant investment in infrastructure, housing and precinct development, creating opportunities for the next generation of architectural professional to contribute to projects that will shape Queensland for decades to come.

Leadership opportunities

Design Managers and Planning Managers sit at the top of the architecture salary spectrum, often earning more than **\$165,000** per year. *(Seek, 2026)*

Meeting housing demand

The Australian government has committed to delivering 1.2 million new homes over five years, creating significant demand for architects, planners, designers and construction professionals. *(The Guardian, 2025)*

Design

The most successful solutions don't happen by accident. They're designed. Good design combines creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving to create solutions that deliver value, whether that's designing a digital app, improving a service, creating more sustainable products, or reimagining how communities and cities function. **At its core, design is about creating positive change through innovation and human-centred thinking.**

Today, designers work across almost every industry. They help businesses innovate, improve user experiences, address environmental challenges, and solve social issues. As the world becomes more complex, organisations increasingly rely on designers to think strategically, understand people, and develop solutions with lasting impact.

High-value careers

Design graduates are in demand across industries, with roles such as:

- **UX Designer: \$120,000–\$135,000**
- **Product Designer: \$105,000–\$125,000**
- **Service Designer: \$94,000–\$128,000**

(Seek; Glassdoor, 2026)

Design drives innovation

From digital products and customer experiences to sustainability and social innovation, designers help organisations solve problems and create new opportunities.

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The Bachelor of Design and its dual degree options are built around this evolving landscape, giving you adaptable, cross disciplinary skills that prepare you for emerging roles and new ways of working.

A major contributor to the economy

Design-related industries contribute approximately \$67.5 billion annually to Australia's economy, reflecting the growing value of design-led thinking across business, government and industry. *(Good Design Australia, 2024)*

Urban Planning

Urban planning is the profession responsible for shaping how cities, towns and regions grow and function. It brings together policy, design, data and community perspectives to guide decisions about housing, infrastructure, transport, development and the environment.

As Australia's population grows and communities evolve, urban planners play a vital role in creating places that are sustainable, connected and liveable. Urban Planners work alongside governments, developers, businesses and communities, they help shape housing, transport networks, infrastructure and public spaces that support economic prosperity, environmental sustainability and quality of life.

Urban planning offers diverse career opportunities for people who want to influence the future of communities. From guiding major development projects and transport initiatives to shaping public policy and protecting environmental assets, urban planners help create more liveable, resilient and connected places for future generations.

A growing profession

The number of urban planners in Australia has increased by 82% since 2006, reflecting growing demand for professionals who can shape sustainable and liveable communities.

(Planning Institute of Australia, 2026)

Strong employment growth

Urban planner jobs are projected to grow by 18.6% over 5 years, with 1,725 urban planner jobs currently listed in Australia and a typical salary of **\$95,000**, with opportunities to progress into senior planner and leadership roles earning more than **\$165,000** per year. *(Seek Explore Careers, June 2026)*

In demand across Australia

Australia is facing a growing shortage of urban and regional planners, with nearly two-thirds of surveyed planning organisations reporting difficulty filling planning roles in the past 12 months. This is creating strong career opportunities across government, consulting and development sectors.

(Planning Institute of Australia, 2025)

Discover your options

I like...	My degree options	My speciality	I could be a...
+ Solving complex design challenges + Designing buildings + Hands-on design and model building + Architectural drawing + Computer-based design + Using visualising skills + Positively shaping communities	+ Thinking critically + Communicating my design ideas + Helping to improve quality of life + Responding to environmental and climate challenges + Collaborating with cross-disciplinary teams + Managing projects + Designing with purpose	Bachelor of Architectural Design	Design Thinking Sustainable buildings Urban Systems + Architect* + Architectural technician + Landscape designer + Building energy assessor + Community/cultural engagement consultant + Project manager + Developer + Sustainable development consultant + Change manager + Design manager
+ Solving complex design challenges + Making a positive impact in the world + Understanding user/human behaviours + Figuring out what people really need + Coming up with innovative ideas + Working across a variety of contexts + Working collaboratively and on interdisciplinary projects	+ Using material innovation + Engaging in social innovation + Communicating ideas visually + Communicating ideas digitally + Prototyping design concepts + Addressing climate challenges + Contributing to a more sustainable future	Bachelor of Design	Anthropology Architectural Design Environment and Society Information Environments Innovation and Entrepreneurship Media and Digital Cultures Urban Systems + User Experience (UX) designer + Strategic designer (sometimes called a design manager) + Sustainable design consultant/sustainability strategist
+ Planning, designing and constructing infrastructure + Prototyping scalable solutions + Being innovative + Finding creative solutions to complex challenges + Programming + Mathematics + Data science	+ Analysis + Understanding different building materials + Protecting and improving the environment + Addressing climate challenges + Meeting the needs of society + Understanding and meeting future population needs + Contributing to a more sustainable future	Bachelors of Engineering (Honours) / Design (dual degree)	Planning and analysis Infrastructure and transport Project management and engineering Design manufacture + Civil engineer + Environmental engineer + Geotechnical engineer + Structural engineer + Transport engineer + Water and marine engineer
+ Design entrepreneurship + Responding to complex business and societal problems + Solving problems in creative ways + Problem identification + Critical thinking	+ Business management and human resources + Business technologies + Challenging conventional thinking + Designing for purpose + Communicating design ideas	Bachelors of Business Management) / Design (dual degree)	Design entrepreneurship and business mindset Design media + Design entrepreneur + Business model designer + Strategic designer + Change manager
+ Communicating digitally + Creating apps and websites	+ Coding/programming + Human/consumer interactions	Bachelors of Information Technology / Design (dual degree)	User Experience Design + User Interface (UI) designer + Software developer
+ Thinking strategically + Creating plans for cities, towns and regional areas + Improving quality of life + Solving design challenges + Addressing climate and environmental challenges + Contributing to a more sustainable future + Understanding and meeting future population needs	+ Managing cultural heritage + Technological change + Working as part of a cross-disciplinary team + Working with diverse communities and stakeholder groups + Resource management + Systems management + Thinking about the future + Tackling global challenges and issues	Bachelor of Urban Planning	Strategic planning Building communities Property development Heritage and conservation + Urban planner + Transport planner + Development manager + Spatial analyst + Urban designer
			+ Sustainability consultant + Community engagement manager + Urban economist + Heritage consultant
			+ Environmental planner + Management consultant + Social planner

* Following the completion of your Bachelor of Architectural Design, your next step to becoming a registered architect is with UC's Master of Architecture.
 ** Following the completion of your Bachelor of Architectural Design, your next step to becoming a town planner / urban designer.

Why UQ?

	Architectural Design	Design	Urban Planning
Study at Queensland's best	≈1 in Queensland for architecture and built environment. <i>(QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2026)</i>	#1 in Queensland for arts and humanities. <i>(QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2026)</i>	#1 in Queensland for urban and regional planning and geography. <i>(QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2026; EduRank, 2025)</i>
Learn from experts	Be taught by architects and designers from leading global architecture firms such as BVN, Rothelowman and COX Architecture. Develop practical experience from lecturers like Dr Dan Luo whose research encompasses emerging technologies including AI, data analytics, digital modelling and robotics.	Work alongside internationally recognised designers, researchers and innovators, such as Professor Cara Wrigley who brings design-led strategy and industry insights into the classroom.	Get insights from internationally recognised academics and researchers in planning, along with industry leaders including Associate Professor Stephanie Wyeth.
Hands-on learning	Work in collaborative design studios modelled on professional architectural practice, from your first year. Get hands-on with digital tools such as Building Information Modeling (BIM), computational design and digital fabrication, so you can design and deliver architecture within any contemporary practice.	Create, prototype and test ideas using advanced design facilities. Access cutting-edge facilities like UQ Innovate, UQ's makerspace for prototyping and fabrication.	Build industry relevant skills through fieldwork, site visits, industry placement, and applied mapping and planning projects. Work with industry-standard digital tools such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS), modelling and data visualisation to prepare you for digitally integrated professional practice.
Tailor your future	As Queensland's only architecture degree with specialised majors, this program lets you tailor your studies to your interests and career goals. Choose from three majors - Design Thinking, Sustainable Buildings or Urban Systems, and build expertise in the area that inspires you most.	Your choice of seven majors - Anthropology, Architectural Design, Environment and Society, Information Environments, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Media and Digital Cultures, or Urban Systems.	Develop expertise in planning, policy, transport, infrastructure, sustainability, community development and urban design, alongside interdisciplinary and critical analysis skills, with a strong focus on technology and AI in planning.
Professional accreditation	Progress to accredited postgraduate study and professional registration as an architect, opening opportunities to work across Australia and internationally.	A portfolio of work, industry connections and recognition from the Design Institute of Australia, the nation's peak design body.	An internationally recognised qualification accredited by the Planning Institute of Australia.
Build your professional network	Connect with a powerful network of alumni, industry leaders and professionals across architecture, design, planning and the broader built environment sector. Through dedicated placement courses, industry-aligned projects and community initiatives, you'll gain valuable exposure to professional practice throughout your degree.		
Top university for employability	Study at a university recognised as one of Australia's leading institutions for graduate employability. <i>(Australian Financial Review Best Universities Ranking, 2025)</i>		

Bachelor of Architectural Design

Duration: 3 years full-time

Entry requirements: QLD Year 12 (or equivalent) English

Bachelor of Design

Duration: 3 years full-time

Entry requirements: QLD Year 12 (or equivalent) English

Dual degrees: Business Management, Engineering (Honours), Information Technology

Professional recognition: Design Institute of Australia

Bachelor of Urban Planning

Duration: 3 years full-time

Entry requirements: QLD Year 12 (or equivalent) English

Accreditation: Planning Institute of Australia

Want to know more?

Visit study.uq.edu.au



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