

SAUL School of Architecture at the University of Limerick

Portfolio and Statement Guidelines

Admission to the architecture course in UL requires that all prospective students demonstrate their CREATIVE ABILITY through a portfolio and in a written statement.

Portfolio

(a) Content of Portfolio

WE WANT TO SEE CREATIVE WORK OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY. Applicants are required to include a range of items using a variety of media in order to demonstrate the scope of their creativity. Applicants can choose from diverse media such as, but not exclusive to: drawing and painting, graphics, printmaking and photography, woodworking and ceramics, sketchbooks and design journals (illustrating the design process followed in a project), textiles and dress or clothes making, sculpture and joinery, computer game design, or any other visual media. You must demonstrate your ability to draw in pencil.

THE CHOICE IS UP TO YOU. In all cases, the work submitted must demonstrate your interest, experience as well as aptitude in creative and graphic areas.

(b) Format of Portfolio

SUBMIT WORK IN A PROTECTIVE FOLDER. Portfolios shall be no larger than A1 in size. We will neither accept DVDs or CDs of work nor submissions by e-mail or online.

SHOW YOUR WORK CLEARLY. A clear and straightforward presentation of your work will serve you best. The presentation quality of the portfolio is part of the evaluation. Be graphically clear - do not embellish the design of the portfolio!

BE SELECTIVE. Show only your best work. Demonstrate a diversity of work. Portfolios should contain not less than 15 and not more than 20 single sided pages.

ALL WORK MUST BE PRESENTED TWO-DIMENSIONALLY. We will only accept high quality photographs of sculptures, woodworking projects or other three-dimensional objects.

PORTFOLIOS MAY BE COMPOSED OF REPRODUCED WORK. If your work is to be reproduced, please ensure that the reproductions are of high quality: digital scans or photographs, printed using a high-quality printer, or photographic prints.

INCLUDE SKETCHES. You are encouraged to submit complete, unedited sketchbooks along with your portfolio. You may choose to annotate your sketches relating them to some of your other works or to add written comments to put them in context. Please identify all sketchbooks with your name, address and CAO number, if applicable.

DO NOT INCLUDE TECHNICAL DRAWINGS. They do not demonstrate creative ability.

Written Statement

Architecture thrives on sensitive responses to all aspects of the environment: *In your locale, what are some of the particular characteristics of that environment, both built and unbuilt?*

Rather than preparing an historical outline or an account of facts, share personal observations and consider your own response to, and understanding of, your surroundings. Please pay particular attention to the guide limit of 500 words.

Submission of Portfolio and Statement

SUBMISSION DATE – Submissions are only accepted between Monday, 11th April 2011 and Friday, 15th April 2011 during normal office hours (8.30am–1pm and 2pm–4pm).

Friday, 15th April 2011 is the last day to submit your portfolio and statement. There will be no portfolios accepted after this date – NO EXCEPTIONS.

All submissions should be clearly labelled with your name, address and CAO number where applicable. Portfolio and Statement should be submitted together either by mail or in person to:

Sylvia Carroll
SAUL School of Architecture
Room ER3-015
Engineering Research Building
University of Limerick
Limerick, Ireland

COLLECTION DATE – Portfolios must be collected between Tuesday, 3rd May 2011 and Friday, 6th May 2011 during normal office hours (8.30am–1pm and 2pm–4pm). Outside of these dates, please contact Sylvia.Carroll@ul.ie or call 061 213438 in advance to arrange a suitable time and date for collection. Please be prepared to provide some form of identification when collecting your portfolio.

AUTHORISE COLLECTION – In case a portfolio is collected by someone other than the owner of the portfolio, authorisation and identification are required. Please send a note or e-mail to Sylvia.Carroll@ul.ie quoting your name, address and CAO number, if applicable, as well as the name of the person collecting the portfolio on your behalf.

Please note that the University has no facility to store portfolios and will not keep any portfolios still in its possession after 1st September 2011. Whilst considerable care will be taken in the handling of all portfolios, submission remains at owner's risk.

Assessment of Portfolio and Statement

Portfolios and statements will be assessed by faculty of the School of Architecture on a *Pass or Fail* basis. – No points will be awarded for passing the Portfolio and Statement review. For candidates who pass, applications will then be assessed and ranked in order of merit on the basis of their Leaving Certificate points score.

In a portfolio we look for creative sensibility, and your ability to observe and record. We seek to detect a visual awareness that reaches beyond taught coursework or technical drawing. Your work should demonstrate personal creativity and inquisitiveness through a range of subjects and a variety of media. We expect to see a fair command of a number of media – demonstrating good skills in pencil drawing is essential. Include sketchbooks or other suitable material that evidence the sensitivity of your observations. You are expected to be selective and to show your work clearly.

In your statement we look for an original response to the initial question. We value personal and sensitive observations over general information. The statement should be well written, preferably typed and carefully formatted.

Interview

CAO applicants are not required to attend in person for an interview.

Mature applicants need to pass the portfolio review as outlined above and may subsequently be invited for an interview. – Each mature application is considered on an individual basis.