

CAREER OF THE WEEK: Architect

What does an architect do?

An architect designs new buildings or alterations/extensions to existing buildings. They work on a range of developments, from individual buildings to large scale redevelopment schemes. They also work on the restoration and conservation of older properties. They may even be involved in the design of the surrounding landscapes and spaces.



Architects usually control a project from start to finish and work with several different construction professionals, including surveyors, project managers and engineers. They also work closely with clients and users, making sure that their designs match the requirements, are functional, safe and economical, and increasingly, are environmentally friendly.

What can I expect to earn as an architect?

According to the [RIBA Jobs Salary Report 2024](#) the average salary for an architectural assistant, whilst they are studying, is between £23,400 and £36,775. Upon qualification this rises to an average of £36,000 and with 5+ years of experience this increases to £44,982. A salaried partner or director in an architectural practice can expect to earn on average £66,500. In the largest practices some earn over £200,000!

What subjects should I study to become an architect?

You will generally require qualifications in arts or humanities and math or science to become an architect. Useful subjects include maths, physics, art and design.

How can I start my career as an architect?

The typical route to becoming an architect involves five years studying a recognised course at university and completion of a minimum of two years' practical experience. You can also study part-time, study whilst working in an architectural practice through [RIBA Studio](#) or through the new [apprenticeship](#) route.

The title 'architect' is protected by law. Once you have completed your qualification and practical experience you will need to apply to register as an architect with the [Architects Registration Board](#).

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as an architect, visit our partner website www.logonmoveon.co.uk

Other useful websites to find out more about a career as an architect:

The Royal Institute of British Architects <https://www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/how-to-become-an-architect>

Architecture apprenticeships <https://www.architecture.com/education-cpd-and-careers/apprenticeships>

UCAS: Architect <https://www.ucas.com/explore/career-page/5.1/2431>

National Careers Service: Architect <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/architect>

Prospects: Architect <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/architect>

