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www.aaschool.ac.uk/foundation
At the core of the AA is our five-year ARB/RIBA-accredited Undergraduate School, leading to the AA Intermediate Examination (ARB/RIBA Part 1) and AA Final Examination (ARB/RIBA Part 2) and the awarding of the AA Diploma. The Undergraduate School also includes a one-year full-time Foundation course for those contemplating studies in architecture or associated creative fields. The focus of our undergraduates’ academic lives is our famed ‘unit system’ of study, in which students pursue year-long design projects in intensive and agenda-driven design units while also attending complementary courses in History & Theory, Media and Technical Studies.

The AA Foundation Course allows young and mature students with minimal experience in the creative fields to explore the possibility of a future career in architecture or the arts. This full-time, one-year, studio-based course offers hands-on instruction in creative design and thinking and gives students the means to develop skills in a variety of media, from drawing to digital video, photography to installation. Students learn how to translate their thoughts into material form, gain confidence and experience, and prepare a comprehensive design portfolio to apply to the AA Undergraduate School, or other schools of architecture, art or creative fields in the UK or abroad.

Students engage in weekly tutorials, discussions and presentations with our faculty, visiting practitioners and their peers. The studio provides an intimate learning environment in which to develop and experiment with new ideas, skills and techniques. Creative teamwork is encouraged, with intensive discussion, collaboration and peer assessment playing an essential part in helping students to develop a sense of constructive critique in relation to their own and each other’s work. Students learn how to assemble a portfolio that clearly represents their individual interests, experiences and intellectual ambitions, illustrating not only their final work but also the creative processes behind it, the investigations undertaken throughout the year, successes as well as failures.
The first term provides an introduction to observation, analysis, inspiration and representation. The second term follows with a series of three-week-long projects allowing students to work in groups, digest the art of constructive critique and develop an understanding of content and context. Projects focus on specific areas of art and design and are complemented by workshops that help students gain the confidence to articulate their work. The conceptual development of each student is supported by the acquisition of specific skills that are immediately applied and practised in context. During the final term, the faculty supports students as they write their own briefs and produce a series of explorations and experiments using knowledge accumulated throughout the year, galvanising their own identity and manifesting this in their portfolio.

Knowledge and skills developed in the course encompass a broad range that includes:

**Observation**
The Foundation course begins with developing an understanding of how careful observation, analysis and representation are essential components for contextualising and articulating work.

**Technical Drawing**
Learn to appreciate the language of orthogonal drawing: plans, sections, elevations, perspectives and axonometrics. Different drawings operate at different scales: cities (1:2,500), neighbourhoods (1:500), buildings (1:100 and 1:50), rooms (1:20) and familiar hand-held objects (1:1). All of these scales will be explored during weekly workshops that build up an understanding of drawn architectural language.

**Painting**
Learn about colour theory and how to use different types of paint to achieve a desired result.

**Model-making**
Explore three-dimensional form by casting and remoulding objects in different materials or by using flat sheets of card and cutting, folding, scoring and slotting.

**Photography**
Learn how to use aperture, focus, composition and lighting to document work and create narrative effects. Use these techniques to record your explorations and record final pieces for exhibition.
Critique
Develop a sense of quality through critique and critical thinking to understand how to improve work. Students will be encouraged to take risks and enjoy the design process rather than aim towards safe and predictable outcomes.

History and Theory
Understand historical context with reference to an intellectual lineage of ideas and how they inform contemporary practice.

Portfolio Development
Learn how to build a portfolio that illustrates the analysis, testing and development of work throughout the year. Structure the narrative of your experiences and design projects in order to develop a visual and verbal confidence for future discussions and interviews.

Life Drawing
Examine and draw from naked figures by looking at proportion, weight, skeletal structure, muscle, joints and flesh. Explore the movement and dynamics of the human body.

Pattern Cutting
Deconstruct a garment to see how it has been created. Learn about the materiality, structure and weight of fabric and how it can be used to clothe the human form.

Millinery
Learn about creating extraordinary structures for the head: stitch and pleat, use plastics and wire, and steam and stretch felt.

Filmmaking/Editing
Learn how to structure a narrative through storyboarding, use a camera, edit and apply soundtracks to create short films.

Design and Construction
Learn about the materiality of timber, its grain and seasoning, and how to joint different components to create tensile and compressed structures. Design and fabricate projects that accommodate the human form with respect to mass, weight and function.

Exhibition
Learn how to curate, design and construct an exhibition. Survey a space, frame and mount two-dimensional work, build carcasses to house three-dimensional work and screens for filmic projections.

Printmaking
Learn about the rich graphic history of printmaking, monoprints, linocuts and lithographs and develop skills to articulate and reproduce images and text.
Foundation

Institution/School Validation
The AA School achieved the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Review for Educational Oversight with full confidence in 2012, plus successful QAA Annual Reports in 2013 and 2014, and maintains Highly Trusted Sponsor status with the Home Office / UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).

The five year full-time course in architecture is officially recognised and also meets the professional criteria set out by the Architects Registration Board (ARB) and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) for the professional qualifications of AA Intermediate Examination (ARB/RIBA Part 1) and the AA Final Examination (ARB/RIBA Part 2).

Open Days
Prospective students are encouraged to visit the AA. Undergraduate Open Days are an opportunity to meet current students and staff, tour the AA’s facilities, view presentations of student work and get advice on the application process. These events will be held on:

Friday 31 October 2014: Foundation and First Year
Friday 7 November 2014: Undergraduate Open Evening
Friday 23 January 2015: Undergraduate Open Evening

The Foundation and First Year event will provide key information and guidance for current AS / A Level students and others who are considering architecture as a career. The Undergraduate School events are open to all prospective architecture students, from Foundation to Fourth Year.

Please see the AA website for full event details and to register your interest in attending the Open Days.

We also invite prospective applicants to attend the Undergraduate Open Jury on Friday 7 November 2014, which is an opportunity for prospective students to see the completed portfolios of current students presented between 10am and 4pm. The Open Evening will follow this event.

Individual or group visits for those interested in applying can also be arranged with advance notice. For further details please contact the Undergraduate Admissions Team on

T +44 (0)20 7887 4051/4094 or undergraduateadmissions@aaschool.ac.uk

Application Procedure
The AA is a private institution and does not belong to UCAS. Anyone interested in applying to the AA must:

• Complete the online application form;
• Pay the relevant application fee; and
• Submit a portfolio of art/design work
• before the deadlines to be considered for
• the 2015/16 academic year

Both school-leavers and mature applicants with previous experience are encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of possibilities offered within the school. Students are admitted into the undergraduate courses at Foundation, First Year, Intermediate (Second and Third Year), and Diploma (Fourth Year) level. We do not accept students at Fifth Year level.

Please note the AA does not have a module or grade assessment procedure and does not partake in a credit system, therefore you cannot transfer credits from another university.

Upon signing the application form applicants certify that the work submitted is entirely their own. Plagiarism is unacceptable in the academic setting. Students are subject to penalties including dismissal from the course if they commit an act of plagiarism.

Application Deadlines
Early applications close: Friday 21 November 2014* (£40 fee)
Late applications close: Friday 30 January 2015 (£60 fee)

Applications made after this date may be accepted at the discretion of the school.

* Applicants wishing to be considered for a bursary must submit by this date.

Please note: All applicants must be 18 years of age or older by Monday 21 September 2015 to be eligible to enter the school for the 2015/16 academic year.

Bursaries
The AA is committed to giving as many talented students as possible the opportunity to study. Approximately one in six AA students receives financial assistance through our Scholarship, Bursary and Assistantship programme. The AA offers bursaries to new students entering Foundation who demonstrate exceptional promise and financial need. An AA Bursary will cover up to one term (33%) of the fees. Applicants are eligible regardless of age, nationality or background.

To apply for a bursary, applicants must complete the main application form and submit a portfolio no later than Friday 21 November 2014 stating their interest in an AA Bursary in the ‘Scholarships and Awards’ section.* Applicants must be available to attend an interview between January and March 2015 in order to be eligible for a bursary.

Applicants whose work is considered to be of bursary standard will be asked, after an entry interview, to complete a bursary application form, provide financial information and submit a portfolio for the bursary committee.

* Applications received after this date will be assessed for a bursary at the discretion of the school
Minimum Academic Requirements:
The AA Foundation course is recognised by the RIBA as the equivalent of an Art A level upon successful completion. The minimum entry requirements for the Foundation Course are:

- One A level pass (grade C or above) in a non art/design subject, plus
- Five GCSEs (grade C or above) including maths, a science subject and English language.

Foundations in art and design must be accompanied by one A level (or equivalent) in a non art/design subject.

Overseas applicants are required to have the recognised equivalent to the above examinations, such as the International Baccalaureate, Abitur, etc, plus the required English language qualifications outlined below.

Successful completion of the AA Foundation course does not automatically guarantee entry into the First Year of the AA’s five-year ARB/RIBA recognised course in architecture.

Submission Portfolio Requirements
All applicants are expected to submit a bound portfolio of art/design work that emphasises their skills, interests, creativity and personality. There is no single way of preparing a portfolio and every portfolio we see will be different.

Please include a selection of highlights that will show the admissions panel an overview of your work and the processes behind it, including sketches or development drawings/models in addition to final images.

Foundation applicants should include a summary of current interests and sketches, models, photographs, paintings, sketchbooks and essays all help to build up a picture of your particular interests and skills.

Sample portfolios should be no larger than A3, and 20–30 pages. Applicants who submit a portfolio larger than A3 will be asked to resubmit before their application can be processed. Please do not submit original artwork with your initial application; successful applicants will be asked to bring original work to the interview.

Further suggestions on preparing your portfolio can be found online at: www.aaschool.ac.uk/apply/admissions/undergradportfolio

English Language Requirements
To meet both the AA and the Home Office/UKVI English language requirements you will need to have one of the acceptable language qualifications listed below, unless you are from one of the following groups:

- You are a national of a majority English-speaking country as defined per the list on the UKVI website; or
- You have successfully completed an academic qualification of at least three years’ duration, equivalent to a UK bachelor’s degree or above, which was taught in a majority English-speaking country as defined by the UKVI; or
- You successfully completed a course in the UK as a Tier 4 (Child) student visa holder.
- The course must have lasted for at least six months, and must have ended no more than two years prior to your visa application.

If your place is conditional on providing English language qualification the following qualifications satisfy both the requirements of the Home Office/UKVI and the entry requirements of the AA:

- IELTS (Academic) 6.5 overall with at least 6.0 in each category – two-year validity period: must be within the two years at time of CAS visa application
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English at grade C1 or C2
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English at grade C2
- Pearson Test of English (PTE) (Academic) overall minimum of 63 with a score of at least 59 in each category – two-year validity period: must be within the two years at time of CAS visa application
- Trinity College (Integrated Skills in English – ISE III / ISE IV) at grade C1 or C2

Applicants are required to meet the scores in each category and overall – we cannot accept lower scores. Applicants must submit their English language examination results by Friday 29 May 2015, prior to entry in Term 1. The AA reserves the right to make a place in the school conditional on gaining a further English language qualification if deemed necessary.

Please note the English language qualification requirements are subject to frequent change in line with Home Office/UKVI regulations. It is the student’s responsibility to remain up to date with all changes, which can be accessed on the Home Office/UKVI website www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-applying-for-uk-visa-approved-english-language-tests

Assessment
Applications and portfolios will be assessed by an admissions panel and applicants will be informed if they are invited to an interview at which a full portfolio can be presented.
Interview Procedure
Successful applicants will be invited to attend an interview at the AA School in London. The AA does not undertake Skype or telephone interviews. The interview is a two-way process. The panel is interested to see what skills and interests the applicant has, so it is important to spend time preparing a portfolio. The applicant, in turn, has the opportunity to ask questions about the school and have a look at its working spaces and facilities. The purpose of the interview is to try and assess each applicant’s potential, ability and suitability to benefit from the course.

In addition to your portfolio, it is essential that you bring all original documents with you to the interview for verification. Failure to present these documents may delay your chances of obtaining an offer of a place at the AA.

Portfolios For AA Interviews
The AA is looking for students with a creative imagination and plenty of motivation. It is important to read the AA Website and the Foundation micro-site, which will give you an idea of the wide range of work carried out in the school. There is no single way of preparing a portfolio and every portfolio we see will be different.

Foundation applicants are not necessarily expected to submit an ‘architectural’ portfolio. The panel particularly likes to see evidence of current interests. Sketches, models, photographs, paintings, sketchbooks and essays all help to build up a picture of your particular interests and skills. Many applicants will have artwork from school, but the AA is interested in any kind of project that is self-motivated and it is best not to bring a portfolio based solely on school artwork. Portfolios should include some recent work; models or sculptures can be photographed and live performances recorded in a variety of ways.

It is important that any drawings should be from life or drawn on site. The interview panel likes to see original images wherever possible but understands if reproductions have to be shown due to size or weight constraints. It is better to bring more work rather than less so that you have a range of examples to demonstrate your skills. However, please take into account how much you can carry, and the finite amount of time available for the interview – you may not be able to show every piece of work. Portfolios brought to an interview can be taken away directly after the interview.

Further suggestions on preparing your portfolio can be found online at: www.aaschool.ac.uk/apply/admissions/undergradportfolio

Offers
Successful applicants will receive an offer letter within two weeks of the interview. Applicants who receive a conditional offer letter must meet all of the specified conditions prior to entering the school. In order to secure a place at the AA the Admissions Team must receive a completed signed admission form and a one-term non-refundable deposit by the due date stated on the admissions form.

Upon securing your place a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) can be issued for students who require a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa to study in the UK for the one-year Foundation Course. This confirmation, together with other documentation, can be used by overseas students to apply for a visa. Please refer to the Home Office/UKVI website for further information: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration

All undergraduate students commence the course in September and conclude in June. Students cannot commence the course mid-year.

Fees
Fees for 2014/15 academic year Foundation course are £17,640* plus a £95 AA Membership and Student Forum fee. Applicants are required to pay a deposit of £5,880* to secure their place at the AA. The deposit will then count towards the cost of the tuition fees for the final term (3rd term) of the Foundation course.

Fees are payable in advance or on an annual or termly basis. A three per cent* discount is deducted if a full year’s fees are paid by 10 July 2015.

Before the registration process can be undertaken during Introduction Week, applicants must have paid Term 1 (September – December) tuition fee inclusive of AA Membership and Student Forum membership fee, in addition to the deposit already paid.

Please be aware that the Foundation Course is not recognised for student loan status. Therefore, applicants cannot apply for a student loan from the SLC.

*Fees and discounts are subject to review annually.

Accommodation
The AA does not have halls of residence. However, an accommodation and London living expenses guideline can be found on the AA website. We do offer an accommodation advice service, which is organised by students three weeks before the beginning of the academic year to provide information to help students find housing.

Contact
More detailed Admissions information can be found on the AA website www.aaschool.ac.uk

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Undergraduate Admissions Team on +44 (0)20 7887 4094/4051 or undergraduateadmissions@aaschool.ac.uk
Ema Kacar (above) – self portrait as an evocation of fear, 2012; (left) Tuan Anh Tran – spatial analysis and manipulation using a studio stacking chair, 2013; (opposite) Projects Review 2014 – Georgia Hablutzel, Julian Bachle and Alix Biehler
Zsuzsa Peter (opposite) – walking through her hometown with a seven-metre-long hemp wig for shelter, 2012; (above) Foundation jury; Ines Tazi (right) – mapping a journey looking up, categorising and documenting the flavour of the street using the colour palette of Rome in November, 2013.
Beatrice Melli (left) – self portrait, looking back, reflecting while simultaneously projecting myself forward 2012; Foundation jury (above); (opposite) Hooke Park site survey, 2014
Georgia Hablützel – timed hourly drawings mapping the shadow path of a chair, 2014 (above) and (right) Alessandro Magliani – clothed in light – a garment made of movement and a long exposure time
Foundation jury, 2012 (above); Lucas Akinkugbe (left) - attempts to map a Miesian grid into the forest at Hooke Park, 2013; (opposite) the Hooke Park workshop, 2013
Projects Review 2014 (opposite); Alma Hawker - the Choreography of Cleaning (above) and paper model of a gas mask by Mikolaj Karczewski, 2013 (right)
(Clockwise from left) Foundation end-of-year reviews; group work – students examine and document the movement of a shadow cast from a wine rack on site at Hooke Park; Ignatio Putra Tenggara – technical drawing of a roller skate, 2014
Zineb Lemseffer and Melisa Turkay (above) – Hooke Park installation counterbalancing a frenzy of frames 2014; movie-time in the lodge at Hooke Park (right); Foundation trip to Paris (overleaf) – Communist Party HQ Debating Chamber
The AA Foundation course is a one-year introduction to an art- and design-based education. It allows students to develop their conceptual ideas through experimenting with a wide range of media and creative disciplines in an intimate studio-based environment. It seeks to develop the intellectual and process-based abilities of each individual while simultaneously introducing each individual to themselves: their own interests, passions, aspirations and inspirations. Once confident and articulate about their particular approach, students can galvanise their own self-critique, drive and skills to more successfully pursue education in various creative disciplines. Drawing on a number of pedagogical practices, experienced tutors and visiting practitioners, the Foundation offers a unique cross-disciplinary education within the context of an architectural school.

Sight to Site
This year concentrates on the qualities made manifest by specific sites – place in detail. Inspired by the wild deconstructions of Gordon Matta-Clark, the archival river specimens of Tania Kovats, the meticulous recreations of Thomas Demand and the surprising influences of Kraftwerk, the year is dedicated to exploring inspiration, observation, scale, site, materiality, archiving, scenario and identity.

In the first term students will develop skills though the forensic examination of micro sites and learn to intellectually delve into research by identifying and compiling a series of influences and progenitors. Workshops will encourage translation from observation to material interpretation, and projects will range in scale from the intimacy of a spatial fragment to a journey through the city.

During the second and third terms students will articulate their work in greater depth. The Foundation encourages haphazard experimentation, thinking through making and the use of a variety of techniques: photography, drawing, painting, model-making, casting, mapping, material studies, form, structure, pattern-cutting, costume, sewing, weaving, textiles, carpentry, performance, lighting and filmmaking. By the end of the year, students will have produced a comprehensive portfolio that illustrates their bespoke journey through the Foundation year.

**Foundation Director**
Saskia Lewis

**Studio Masters**
Umberto Bellardi Ricci
Taneli Mansikkamäki

Saskia Lewis has taught at the AA since 2001. She has practised in New York, Paris and London and has taught at many London schools of art and architecture. She is co-author and photographer of *Architectural Voices: Listening to Old Buildings* (2007).

Umberto Bellardi Ricci studied Social Anthropology and International Relations at the School of Oriental and African Studies. After working in different fields, he completed his diploma at the AA and has worked for various architectural practices. He directs his own studio as well as the AA Visiting School in Las Pozas, Mexico.

Taneli Mansikkamäki worked in the fields of music, media art and new media before relocating from Helsinki to London. He graduated from the AA and after working for Future Systems, Amanda Levete Architects and Cecil Balmond, amongst others, he is currently directing the studio Mansikkamäki+JOY.

Alma Hawker. Drawing with flour – lateral experiments to examine the art of cleaning
Apply today to be a part of the UK’s oldest independent school of architecture.

See the AA for yourself by attending an Open Day or contact the Admissions office. For information about the interview process, applying for a bursary or scholarship and to make your application to one of the world’s most prestigious schools of architecture, see page 6 in this booklet.

www.aaschool.ac.uk/foundation
undergraduateadmissions@aaschool.ac.uk