

## Your Architecture Degree...What Next?

A degree in Architecture explores new ways of living, investigates new technologies and materials, and strives to ensure that new buildings, towns and landscapes are environmentally sustainable. Architecture combines art, science and technology in the design and construction of buildings and their surroundings within a socio-cultural context.

The study of architecture provides opportunities to develop a wide range of transferable skills. Graduates of this course will have had rich experience of working in teams, working to deadlines, developing abilities in verbal and graphic communication and, most importantly, skills in creativity, design and innovation — the essential ingredients of success in the contemporary economy.

### Core Skills from an Architecture Degree include:

<b>Judgment and Decision Making</b>	Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
<b>Operations Analysis</b>	Analysing needs and product requirements to create a design.
<b>Active Learning</b>	Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.
<b>Complex Problem Solving</b>	Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.
<b>Monitoring</b>	Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action

### What can I do with my degree?

Architecture itself provides exciting and widely varied career opportunities. You may specialise in certain types of buildings, or concentrate on a particular area such as architectural design, urban design, technology, architectural conservation, and computer-based modelling.

You may work individually or as part of team, in private practice, or in the architectural section of a commercial organisation, a government department or local authority.

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## **After your degree**

### **Practical Training**

Once you have your degree you will need to get some practical training in an architect's office. To be recognised by the RIAI as 'Approved Experience' your work has to be done under the supervision of a Member of the RIAI, someone on the Register for Architects, or equivalent.

During your first two years you will want to get direct experience of as many aspects of the job as possible, to prepare yourself for your professional practice examination.

The quality of a graduate's practical experience is the single most important factor contributing to successful completion of the final stage of professional formation. The [RIAI Policy on Post-Graduate Professional Training](#) is intended to provide information and guidance on a graduate's practical experience to students and graduates, RIAI members and practices, Schools of Architecture and of Architectural Technology, and State agencies with roles in education, training and employment.

### **Professional Practice Examination**

Once you have a minimum of two years of approved experience you can take your Examination in Professional Practice. These examinations cover subjects such as professional ethics, planning and building legislation, contract law, project management, practice management, etc., and prepare you for the situation where you want to set up your own architectural practice. Once you have passed your examination in professional practice you are eligible to apply for admission to the Membership of the RIAI and the Register for Architects.

### **Continuing Professional Development**

Once fully qualified, it is the responsibility of any professional to ensure that his or her professional skills are kept up to date. Scientific knowledge, technology and the law, for example, keep changing. So you will be expected to have a continuing involvement in courses and personal study throughout your working life. In addition, some architects choose to expand the range of skills they can offer to clients by getting additional qualifications in disciplines such as landscape design, urban planning, interior design, furniture design, architectural conservation, project management or law.

## **Employment**

Once you qualify as a professional architect the variety of work open to you is wide. You can work for yourself, or as part of a team in a small or large private practice, or in the architectural section of a Government Department, Local Authority, Semi-State or commercial organisation. You can specialise in certain types of building, or concentrate a particular aspect of the job, such as design, technology, architectural conservation or project management, depending on your own interests, abilities and opportunities. Some architects choose instead an academic career, involving themselves in teaching and research.

Career possibilities are very much dependent on the state of the economy, and the employment picture can change very quickly. When things are bad the building industry is disproportionately affected. During the 1980s a high percentage of architectural graduates had to find jobs abroad, which they did without difficulty. In the 1990s the position reversed and until 2007 there was a shortage of architectural graduates. In 2008 the position reversed again, and this time jobs abroad are also scarce. But it takes at least seven to eight years to become fully qualified, so it is impossible to tell when you start what the jobs position will be when you finish.

Typical employers:

- Architectural practices
- Building contractors
- Higher education institutes
- Large retailers
- Public service, such as Office of Public Works

## **Salary Levels**

The RIAI has no current information on salaries in the private sector. They vary with experience, responsibility, market demand and location. The websites of employment agencies often contain information on current salary levels in private practice.

Salary levels in the public sector are fixed according to rank; variations within any rank depend on years of experience at that level.

### **Civil Service (Government Department) Salary Scales 2010**

**(Salary level within each range depends on qualifications and length of service)**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Salary</b>
Principal Architect	€160,000

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Assistant Principal Architect	€82,000 – 103,000
Senior Architect	€62,000 – 84,000
Architect	€37,000 – 67,000

### Local Authority Salary Scales 2010

(Salary level within each range depends on qualifications and length of service)

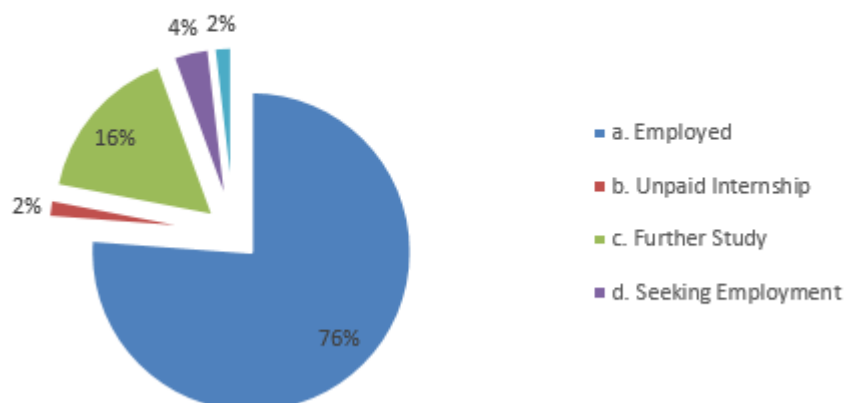
Position	Salary
City/County Architect	€78,000 – 96,000
Senior Architect	€73,000 – 87,000
Senior Executive Architect	€62,000 – 78,000
Executive Architect	€46,000 – 66,000
Assistant Architect	€40,000 – 57,000
Graduate Architect	€31,000 – 38,000

### What are the 2015 graduates doing now

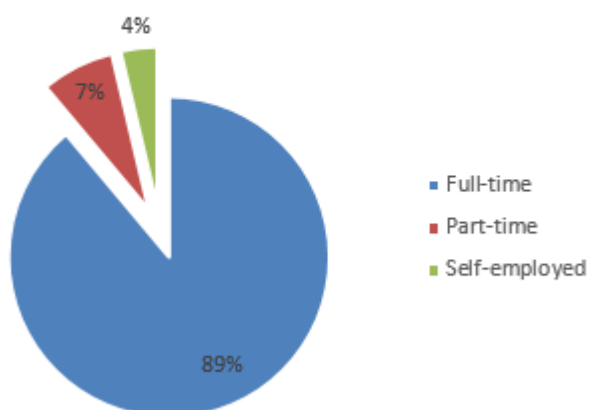
Avanti Architects Ireland	Architectural Technologist
Bryant & Moore Architects	Architectural Assistant
Cook Architects	Architectural Technologist
Danworth	Interior Architect
David H Leahy Architects	Architect
DPS Engineering	Junior Architecture
Enerco Energy	Architecture Assistant
Ensiur Consultants Ltd.	Architectural Technologist
Future Analytics Construction	Part II Architect
FWA	Part II Architect
Healy Cornelius Design Consultancy	Architectural Technologist
Henry J Lyonn Architecture	Graduate Engineer; Interior Architect
Jacobs Engineering	Part I Architect; Construction Manager
Michael Williams Associates	Trainee Architecture
O'Mahoney Pike Architecture	Architectural Technologist
PM Group	Architect; Quantity Surveyor; Graduate Structural Engineer
Reddy Architecture	Part II Architectural Assistant; Interior Architect
Wilson Architecture	Architectural Technologist

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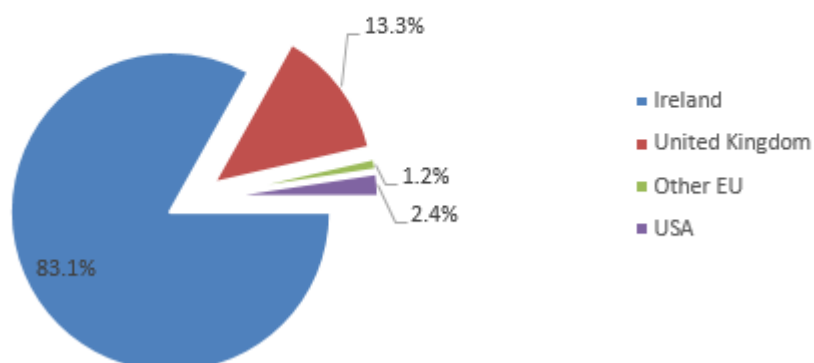
### 2015 Building & Civil Engineering Graduates (major awards): Current Situation



### 2015 Building & Civil Engineering (major awards): Employment Mode



### 2015 Building & Civil Engineering Graduates (major awards): Employment Location



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## **Postgraduate Study**

Gaining a postgraduate qualification brings with it many benefits. It enables you to gain further, more specialized knowledge in your field of study. It can give you a specific technical, vocational or professional qualification and facilitate you in developing a range of key skills including; research, analysis, evaluation and written communication.

For further information, go to the 'Further/Postgraduate Study' link on the Students page of our website;

<http://www.mycit.ie/careers>.

[www.postgradireland.com](http://www.postgradireland.com)

[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)

## **Further Resources**

- [RIAI Jobs](#)
- [RIB Appointments](#)
- [Greenjobs](#)
- [Architecture.co.uk](#)
- [Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland \(RIAI\)](#)
- [Royal Institute of British Architects \(RIBA\)](#)
- [Irish Architecture Foundation](#)
- [Irish architecture](#)
- [Irish architecture awards](#)
- [Europe's Top 100 Schools of Architecture and Design](#)

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