

UCT BAS(Hons)

ADJUSTMENT OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR 2021 APPLICATION IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

28 July 2020

The global context of the Covid-19 pandemic requires that we review the BAS(Hons) application requirements for work and study travel experience which have been difficult to achieve under lockdown regulations.

Under normal conditions of practice this requirement is a minimum of six months uninterrupted practical experience in the office of the same registered architect, and an independently defined project of study and travel (see this requirement at

http://www.apg.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/255/BAS%28Hons%29%202021%20entry%20requirements.pdf).

Taken together with the undergraduate academic record, the purpose of this entry requirement is to ensure success in graduate studies through evidence of the consolidation of undergraduate knowledge and skills in the context of the practice of designing and implementing built works collaboratively, and independence of scholarship demonstrated through a self-defined project of visiting and studying good works of architecture, and reporting on this study through text and image.

While the purpose of these requirements of application remain indicators of successful progression, we have received numerous submissions from applicants that they are difficult to meet under conditions of the global pandemic, and therefore make the following adjustment to the balance of work and study travel experience:

- minimum three months of work experience in the office of a registered architect (which may have been interrupted by lockdown);
- any balance required for the six-month condition to be accounted for by the independently defined project of study and travel (noting that good works of architecture worthy of study are to be found locally);

We emphasise that the application portfolio, in addition to demonstrating fulfilment of these minimum requirements, is a curation and presentation of your 'fourth year' experience, substantiating the initiative you have taken to pursue your interests in the practice and study of architecture. In the context of Covid-19 lockdown this might include other activities such as volunteering for NGOs, completing online open source courses, practical building experience on site or in fabrication workshops, freelance architectural work, other creative or scholarly work, etc.

You may also be able to establish other kinds of professional mentoring outside of direct employment (e.g. through regional Institutes of Architecture such as the Cape Institute for Architects <https://cifa.org.za>)

However you will need to make your own thoughtful decision on whether these adjusted requirements meet your need for consolidation of undergraduate design knowledge through experience of the professional practice of architecture, sufficient to benefit the investment you will make in graduate studies, or whether you should extend your 'fourth year' (as students sometimes do in non-pandemic times).

Dates for 2021 application remain unchanged, i.e. submission of the UCT online application form and portfolio of work: 31 August 2020 for international applicants, 30 September for South African and SA Resident applicants.

Late submission of the work experience and study travel requirement only (if these have not been met and submitted by date for submission of the application portfolio) will be considered until 31 October for international applicants, and 31 December for South African and SA Resident applicants.

The format of 2021 learning, whether it be contact learning or blended with online learning, is unknown at this stage, dependent on the risk adjustment of lockdown levels in response to rates of Covid-19 infection or vaccination. We have recently successfully concluded our first semester of 'emergency remote' (online) teaching and learning in the BAS(Honours) year, both for design and the theory courses; the examiners agreed that the work achieved was of a high standard.

We look forward to receiving your applications for 2021.

Postgraduate Architecture Programme Convenor Group