



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

ESALA

Edinburgh School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture

### **The Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture**

**Please prepare your portfolio using the guidance below and submit to [futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk) by the stated deadline.**

#### **Preparing a Portfolio**

IFP applicants who wish to progress to the BA/MA Architecture (K100) and the MA Landscape Architecture (4J22) at the University of Edinburgh are required to submit a portfolio of recent work in addition to the academic and personal information as set out in the UCAS application form. The portfolio is an important component of the application and these notes are intended to offer some guidance in preparing one.

We have a core commitment to creative experimentation and research rigour in relation to architectural design. A very important aspect of what we are looking for is evidence of spatial thinking - how you manipulate and represent space across a range of media. Likewise, we look for evidence of intelligence in how you choose to express what you are including for us to view. For example, what you are drawing and its relevance to your thoughts. Members of the admissions panel for our programmes are looking for applicants with the motivation and skill to make the most of these qualities. They want to know how you, as an applicant, might benefit from and thrive within our programmes. The portfolio is one of the best devices we have to help make those judgements. It allows us to build up a picture of capacities to draw, paint, make things, think creatively, manipulate form, organize and edit information, and handle ideas. Therefore, it is important to consider carefully how you assemble your digital portfolio.

#### **FORMAT**

Portfolios are as diverse in style, content and format as the authors who assemble them. We value this diversity but require you to submit your portfolio digitally, although we try not to prescribe too heavily the format of the portfolio. The following are the basic parameters:

- The digital portfolio should be contained within a single digital file in PDF format and maximum file size of 20Mb.  
Three-dimensional models, video, performance, or installation work should be represented in good quality photographs ideally incorporated into the digital portfolio. As we understand that many kinds of work are not easily represented within the portfolio format, you will need to translate as best you can three-dimensional and temporal work into the page.
- Date all work and present it in a consistent way – thematically, by project and/or chronologically.
- Include your name on the front of the portfolio.
- You must confirm, in writing that all of the work in the portfolio is your own work. If you include any images that are not yours you must identify and credit them clearly.
- Aim for 25 pages as the maximum number although these may include more than one image.

## FOCUS

- Keep in mind that the portfolio is an important tool used to assess the potential you have to benefit from and thrive within our programmes. The focus of the portfolio should be on your best and most recent work. It should include representative examples of work undertaken as part of a formal programme of study, and any work carried out while in practice, and/ or self-initiated projects undertaken outside formal studies. Include as wide a variety of media and subject matter as you can:

**Subjects** - still life, furniture, portraits, landscape, plants, texture, building/city sketches, design exercises, research, studies from your travel, light and shadow. Subjects can include almost anything and we encourage you to be very open in your choice.

**Media** – pencil, ink, watercolour, paint, collage, photography, freehand drawings, technical drawings, models, sculptures, live performances, installations, video. Media choice is not restricted to this list – we would encourage you to experiment.

It is important that your portfolio contains your best work, but do not limit this to presentation images alone and include sketches, studies and working drawings. If possible, include examples from your design sketchbooks and notebooks.