

BAS

BERGEN SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Bergen School of Architecture (BAS) is the only private and academically independent educational institution within Norway that offers a 5-year program of study, qualifying the candidates for Master in Architecture. The school was established in 1986 and approved by the Ministry of Education in 1990 as an educational alternative to the two public architecture schools in the country. Emphasizing on ideas on 'Open Form' as grounding premise for agency and situating in space, the school continues to derive its' approach on inquiring democratic aspects of place-making. The teaching is anchored in a Nordic west coast climate with emphasise on learning from tradition both in regard to material knowledge and contextualization in landscape and situation.

The school promotes an open, plural and diverse approach to architecture and urbanism that is strongly influenced by art, activism, social anthropology and ecology - an approach that is often applied through direct, hands-on and on-the-ground engagements within real situations. This approach is traditionally nurtured by way of collaborations with educational institutions and public/private partners at the local, national and international level. These collaborations are of particular importance to BAS which, as a small school, depends on its students and staff being exposed to situations negotiated and inquired and new ideas developed outside the confines of the institution in order to strengthen our professional, social and intercultural skills and employability. Through this type of engagement BAS contributes in creating discussion and reflection around the profession and exposes the school to new networks and approaches to the field of study capable of furthering our development. Furthermore this approach provides an immediacy and awareness of the realities in our urban and rural environments and contributes to an impactful engagement within society and public discourse.

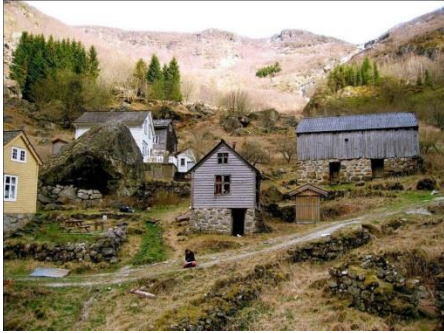
The Bergen School of Architecture has a history of, and current interest in, being an active actor within the society. As part of this role, we have carried out multiple collaborations taking form as a series of courses consisting of on-site research, participatory design, workshops, constructions, events, exhibitions and publications within Norway and abroad.

Faculty and students:

Among both teachers and students we recruit from a wide range of educational and professional backgrounds and several different nationalities are represented in the teaching scheme. The staffs consist of approximately 45 practicing architects, artists, building engineers and instructors in different fields. Each year 30 new students are admitted to the first year, taught in Norwegian. The fourth and fifth year/ graduate level/ master are taught entirely in English. We accept exchange students for one and two semesters at this level, as well as students with an intention to complete their degree in two years. We look for motivated students with experience in practice, arts and various interests. For the time being, BAS has enrolled about 170 students from more than 20 countries.

The location:

The school is located in an old industrial mill by the sea, in walking distance from the city centre of Bergen. The building itself is used as a spatial laboratory, both when adapting to the existing spatial qualities and when transforming the building fabric in courses where the students themselves upgrade the site from a raw industrial building to rooms that facilitate the teaching. Each class is provided studio facilities with individual desks. In addition we have varied outdoor and indoor spaces; lecture halls, student kitchen, exhibition spaces, workshop areas and a big scale mock-up hall.



Lemstove, Hjølmo,



Solund, west coast Norway



Mountain Hut "Tubakuba", Bergen



The BAS-building is situated in Sandviken, just 15-20 minutes walk from town centre

FACT SHEET

FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

About the school:

Bergen Arkitekthøgskole (BAS), a private higher education institution which has undergone external quality assurance by The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT) in 2010 with satisfactory result. The school was opened in 1986 as the third school of Architecture in Norway, as a private school at university level. BAS was fully recognized in 1990 and entitled to give the final exam qualifying the candidates after 5 years professional study with the academic degree Master in Architecture.

Name of qualification: Master in Architecture

Main field(s) of study for the qualification: Architecture, planning and design

Level of qualification:

Second Cycle / Level 7, Norwegian Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.

Official length of programme: 5 years (one-tier) in full-time mode (300 ECTS credits)

Mode of study: Full-time

Additional information:

Master in Architecture is awarded in relation to the Norwegian Royal Decree number 1574 of 16 December 2005. After 5 years of completed studies one will be awarded a Master's Degree in Architecture and is then eligible for membership in the NAL - The Norwegian Architects Association. A master in architecture can engage in independent creative work as an architect in practice in offices or one's own business. College education / membership NAL and experience in construction projects are requirements for approval within one or more classes according to Planning and Building Act.

Language of instruction/examination:

Norwegian and English. The first three years at BAS are taught in Norwegian, the final two years have English as language of instruction.

Curriculum goals, content and organization:

The program is for 5 years and is organized into two parts, 3 years + 2 years, which is the very foundation program. Academically the program is divided into four main areas that require integration. APP: Architecture, Design and Planning. TTA: Technology, Engineering and Management. DAV (the other world) - exercises to train and develop the individual personality, her/his personal skills and her/his sensitivity. KTF: academic subjects.

Architecture, planning and design is the most comprehensive field of study. There will be design exercises, with introductory engineering and indirect implementation tasks. The work is performed partially in groups, in part individually. An integrated academic course is a prerequisite at BAS. Personal development and understanding of the academics must be comprehensive and uniform. Compulsory subjects: 180 ECTS credits. Elective subjects 90 ECTS credits. Master thesis/final diploma thesis : 30 ECTS credits.

Grading scheme:

The Norwegian grading system consists of two grading scales: one scale with the grades pass or fail and one graded scale from A to E for pass and F for fail. The graded scale has the following qualitative descriptions: A - Excellent; B - Very good; C - Good; D – Satisfactory; E – Sufficient; F – Fail. The scale is used absolutely (criterion referenced assessment) Bergen School of Architecture uses the scale with the grades Pass or Fail.

For exchange and visiting students, the school will if requested convert the grade *Pass* into the local grading scheme from their home institution.

Access to further study:

The master`s degree is at an academic level that is sufficient for application to relevant third cycle studies (Ph.D)

Student body:

the school has normally a 50/50 representation between male and female, representing approximately 20 different nationalities, and approx. at total of 170 students.

Academic dates:

Our semesters in the academic year will be from around mid august until 20. December. Sprint term starts around 4.January until end of May/beginning of June. Exact dates will be confirmed before each academic year starts.

We are always closed in the Easter week after Palm Sunday.

Admission:

Each year, 30 new students are admitted for the 1st year of study. They make a class, and keep together for the first three years. After the 2nd and 3rd year they have an exam, qualifying them to continue to the next year. After two more years they will have their final exam, the Diploma work. (Thesis – self programmed project) Average age of admission for the 1st year is approx. 22 years, since the school is looking for other qualifications than formal skills and grades. We value cultural diversity, it is required that our students have personal experiences from travels and encounters with other cultures on a deeper level. Therefore we have many students with backgrounds from other parts of the world. In addition we look for working experience, especially building/construction practice, interests and practice of art in public. A final selection among the candidates for the 1st year admission is done by an individual interview. We do accept students with a minimum of Bachelor degree in architecture from another school for admission to the 4th year at BAS. The number we admit will vary every year, depending on total student numbers. But normally we have around 10 positions available.

BAS also welcomes exchange students and visiting students to study at our school for one or two semesters (graduate/master level)



The Bas building

The heart of the school is the large hall, where students can build in full scale and experiment with different materials and techniques. The administration and the library are situated close to the hall.



Hall



From the Library



Reviews at BAS



Master class studio in Mozambique, "design and build"

Admission as exchange student:

The home institution must nominate the exchange student, and the applicant will then be provided with the application form from BAS.

Application deadline 15. April for studies in the autumn / 1. October for studies in the spring.

The applicant should also send a letter of Motivation with the application form, and very important to send a portfolio. The applicant will receive an answer shortly after the deadline if we are able to offer them a student position at BAS. We only accept students who have completed minimum 3 years of architectural training.

Students will be placed in a semester course for the 4th year, one semester will give credit of 30 ECTS, for one full year 60 ECTS. The student will have 2-3 different studio courses to choose between. The student then follows one topic, one course, one teacher the whole semester. In this course one will have integrated architecture, design, art, theory, construction etc. It all comes as one "package", not split up into minor credits/units.

The teaching will be in English, so it is not required to speak and understand Norwegian in order to study at BAS. We do NOT ask for a language certificate for exchange student, but trust that the sending institution advice and choose students that can manage with English as main language.



Welcoming of new students



From the quayside

Accommodation:

For international students we can assist in applying for a single room in Student Housing through the Student Welfare Organization in Bergen. International students will have a housing guarantee if the final deadlines are respected, which will be 15. May/ 1. November. For students that receive an offer, we will give all required information about application process for housing.

Tuition fee:

BAS is a private school of Architecture, and the students here pay tuition fee. (exchange students are exempt) The amount for the academic year 2023/24 is NOK 19.386,- per semester. This fee will be index regulated every year. The Norwegian government has decided to introduce tuition fees for students from countries outside the EU/EEA/EFTA, effective autumn semester 2023. BAS is currently working to calculate what the exact tuition fee will be. Until further notice, applicants from countries outside the EU/EEA/EFTA, applying for a degree at BAS starting August 2023, must be prepared to pay higher tuition fees. More information will be provided once available. For students in an Exchange program there will be no tuition fee. However, the students themselves must pay for subsistence, material, equipment, study trips etc. That is not covered by BAS. Also it is very important and mandatory for the students to have valid travel insurance.

Exchange students are automatically members of the Students Welfare Organisation in Bergen, which offers a lot of welfare services. Have a look at www.sammen.no

Cost of living:

When you are a Non-EU citizen, there are certain requirements in order to obtain a residence permit. One of them, is that you must have enough money to live on, at least p.t NOK 128.887,- per year. (per 2023/24) This amount reflect the amount that you need to cover the cost of living in Norway,

About Bergen

Bergen was founded in 1070 and is the second largest city in Norway, with a total of approx. 275.000 inhabitants. Commerce, seafaring and crafts-man ship have always been important in Bergen. In the 13th century the Hansas – the German medieval guild of merchants, settled in Bergen on Bryggen. Bryggen is today on the UNESCO`s World Heritage List. The historic traditions are strong in Bergen, but it also has a vibrant cultural life. For more information, see www.visitbergen.com

(Photos from visitbergen.com)

