# *BA (Hons) Architecture (RIBA Part 1 Exemption) Birmingham School of Architecture and Design* **Additional costs for this course**

We have provided you with a breakdown of the essential costs and also the optional costs which are dependent on your budget.

Please note that your marks are not a reflection of how much you spend, so a student who spends less than the estimated costs won’t be marked down, compared to a student who spends more.  
  
**Materials for technical modules**

For presentation models, most students spend between £50-180 on materials for technical models across each year, depending on the year of study:

**Breakdown of material costs:  
  
Level 4**: £20 (1:50 group structural model in term 2). For final presentation models (of which there are 4) you will spend approximately £30-40 **Level 5:** £20 (1:100 group structural model in term 1). For final presentation models (of which there are 3-4), you will spend around £50-60  
  
**Level 6:** £100 (Individual model in term 2 – 1:20 material/1:100 structural/1:50 daylight). There are a number of presentation models through the year. You will spend approximately £100.  
  
***Optional:*** You may need additional materials depending on the requirements for your individual final project such as cardboard, foamboard, and plastic. A budget of about £50 is typical. You may also want to budget about £100 for 3D printing. Please note though that laser cutting is currently free at BCU.  
  
**Books**Books are a necessary part of your studies. We do offer an extensive reading list, the vast majority of which is available for free from our university library and digital library. You may want to purchase some of your own books, especially as you develop your own approach. A budget of between £100 and £150 for books should be sufficient.  
  
**Laptops and software**

On the course we use blogs for design studio to cut down on printing during the design development process. It’s faster and cost-effective, meaning you can store your work online and collate it for tutorials and design presentations.

Therefore, having your own laptop is highly desirable. However, it is not essential for you to purchase your own laptop (PC or Mac), as you can also hire a laptop from the university or use one of our shared computer rooms. Laptops may be hired out for free for up to six hours and may be found at the following buildings: Curzon, Millennium Point, Parkside, School of Jewellery and School of Art. Most students prefer to have their own laptops, so we suggest you budget around £300 to £1200 for this dependent on your preferences and budget.

We recommend [a student subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud for these applications](http://www.adobe.com/uk/creativecloud/buy/students.html#close), along with [Google Earth](https://www.google.co.uk/intl/en_uk/earth/) (free), [SketchUp](http://www.sketchup.com/education) (discounted for students) and [AutoCAD for students](http://www.autodesk.com/education/free-software/autocad) (free for students). The above are also available on campus in computer suites.

You’ll also be provided with a free account for [Lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com/) worth £227.40. You’ll also get free Vectorworks software.

Microsoft Office 365 and 1TB of OneDrive cloud storage space is provided free to all students.

Apple also offer a discount on laptops for UK students: [go to Apple for Education for more details](http://www.apple.com/uk_edu_5000618/shop).

### **Printing**

The use of blogs, as well as the use of the numerous freestanding LCD screens we have in our studios, throughout the course, you will spend on average £700 on plotting and printing costs when it is necessary to pin up hard copies of your work for presentation purposes.

Our industry-standard, on-campus print shop and [Digital Print Services](http://dps.bcu.ac.uk/) can produce large, high-quality prints for your projects and assignments on an at-cost basis.

The budget for printing over the duration of the course has been included within the figure outlined above.  
  
For everyday printing, such as notes and reading, most students spend about £100 during the course. However, some students may spend more dependent on their assignments or projects.

### **Optional – Field trips**

You will get the chance to participate in field trips organised by the school. For level 4 students, you’ll get the experience to visit somewhere within the UK and the trip is organised by the staff and the students.

Once you move into level 5, past trips have included Berlin, Venice or Barcelona and the same optional trip to a European city takes place in your final year.

The school does offer an optional UK trip in levels 5 and 6 for those who don’t wish to or can’t travel to the EU.

### To cover flights, travel, accommodation we recommend an average budget of £600 over the three years of study. **Optional – Subscriptions**

You may benefit from subscribing to: [Architectural Review](http://info.architectural-review.com/ar-for-students/student-offers/), [Architect Journal](http://info.architectsjournal.co.uk/subscription-options/student-subscription-offers/) or [Wallpaper](https://www.magazinesdirect.com) with a budget of between £30-50 per year.