

# SALA Virtual Open House

## *Bachelor of Design Q&A Report*

**Q: Will there be anything about early admissions + scholarships**

A: Given that we are a small highly competitive program we don't offer early admissions for the BDES program. I don't believe there will be scholarship information covered, but you can find further information on scholarships available at UBC here <https://you.ubc.ca/financial-planning/>

**Q: What is the range of job opportunities with a Bachelor of Design? What would a typical salary look like?**

A: You can see further information on what you can do with the Bachelor of Design degree here <https://sala.ubc.ca/academics/undergraduate-degrees/bachelor-design>

**Q: Is the BDes program accepted in universities worldwide when applying for graduate studies?**

A: The BDES is an accredited program that is recognized worldwide as an undergraduate program. For some institutions you may receive advanced placement in a graduate program, but this will vary by school.

**Q: How are grades considered along with the creative test during the application assessment process?**

A: We assess every aspect of your application and we have a rubric that give weight to every component that you submit.

**Q: Do many of the graduate students have alternate bachelor's degrees (such as engineering)? Are there advantages to have an undergraduate degree from a different discipline?**

A: About half of our graduate students come from non-design backgrounds. Many that do design as an undergraduate degree receive advanced credit in our graduate program allowing them to complete the graduate degree faster, so that is an advantage to having a design undergraduate. On the flip side, those students that come from non-design degrees may have a greater breadth of experience.

**Q: How many applicants are accepted into the program each year?**

A: We accept 50 into year one and 10 transfer students in the second year, for a total of 60 students in each year level.

**Q: Do you have an early admission?**

A: We do not.

**Q: Is it possible to transfer from an engineering program to the BDes program as a second year undergraduate?**

A: It is possible but you will need to have completed the BDES first year requirements to be considered for year two. You can find those requirements here <https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=12,196,1003,1618>

**Q: Will applying by early admission admit us into scholarship considerations?**

A: If you wish to be considered for a UBC entrance award you do need to apply by December 1st. UBC admissions adjudicates those awards. You can find further information about those awards here <https://you.ubc.ca/financial-planning/scholarships-awards-canadian-students/entrance-award/>

**Q: How STEM related is the BDES program? Are classes more STEM heavy or more design based?**

A: I would say that our most STEM class is the Structural Design class that Chris mentioned. There is a balance of classes that engage and don't really engage stem.

**Q: Is there an average grade cut off?**

A: We don't have a grade cut off per se as we are looking at your application as a whole and consider your supplemental along with grades. Given the competitive nature of the program though you would want your admissions average to be at least 80% to remain competitive.

**Q: Is it possible to minor in a different degree as well?**

A: We offer a minor in Arts or Science. You can see further information here <https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=12,196,1003,1622> While we only have the

minor in arts listed in the calendar (science was recently approved) the rules are the same for both Arts and Science.

**Q: What is SALA's perspective on International Baccalaureate students?**

A: We view IB applicants on par with other applicants. You can find further information on IB admissions here <https://you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/requirements/international-baccalaureate/>

**Q: How much flexibility for electives is there throughout the program?**

A: There is a lot of flexibility in electives throughout the program. You can see the degree requirements here <https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=12,196,1003,1618> We allow you to take a wide range of electives, but 12 credits of electives will need to be in 300/400 courses.

**Q: If there is no early admission, how do you apply so that you are considered for the entrance scholarship?**

A: The entrance awards are adjudicated by the UBC undergraduate admissions office. They determine who has the grades high enough to be considered and then wait to find out our admissions results before informing students. We don't offer early admission as we have to review the supplemental applications before making a decision, which can only happen after the February 15th deadline.

**Q: Can you get into masters in architecture with a bachelors of applied science (engineering) degree?**

A: Absolutely! We have lots of students that come into the MARCH from an APSC background.

**Q: How are creative tests being evaluated?**

A: I think I put the main criteria we use in our rubric. We have a team that assesses all applications using the same rubric. You are given a mark on your creative tests that gets weighted against the other components in your application. In general 4 people review each file.

**Q: If you are in third year at UBC and apply into the program would you start as a first year in the BDes program?**

A: If you don't have any of the first year degree requirements for the BDES then yes, you would start the program in YR 1. You can find first year requirements here <https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=12,196,1003,1618>

**Q: Is the test timed?**

A: The creative test is not timed. You receive the prompt a few days after you apply and will have until Feb 15th to complete it. The interview is timed and is 90 seconds.

**Q: Are there any softwares or programs that you would recommend to do the presentation of our creative test?**

A: We don't have specific programs we are looking for you to use. We would recommend you use tools that you are familiar with so that you can perform at your best.

**Q: What specifically does the SALA programs do to encourage and improve the leadership qualities of the studying students? Since Architects, Landscape Architects, and Urban Planners are all leaders at core.**

A: There are many opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. The format of the design studio inherently promotes this development because students have to get up, present, advocate for their projects, speak semi-publicly, etc. Also DESUS and the other clubs offer chances for students to develop their leadership qualities.

**Q: Will the recording of this session be available after it is over?**

A: Yes, it will! We should have it up on SALA's YouTube page early next week.

**Q: Because there is no personal profile, is there a way for us to share any personal notes in the application process?**

A: Your resume is the opportunity to provide us with more of a snapshot of who you are.

**Q: Is there is no personal profile?**

A: For the bachelor of design we do not require nor do we review the personal profile. Typically students have a second choice degree program on their application and may be asked to complete a personal profile for that choice. So if you are being asked to complete one it would be for your second choice.

**Q: Are there any examples of the supplemental applications that have been accepted or what they may look like?**

A: We do not have a policy for this. I would recommend that you focus on making your supplemental look like you and highlight your own skills, capabilities, interests, and way of thinking.

**Q: For the resume, how important is it for extracurriculars to be directly related to architecture and design? What is looked for in a resume?**

A: Your experiences need not be related to the design disciplines. You should think of the resume as an opportunity to tell us a little bit more about who you are.

**Q: May I ask how many people are at this meeting today?**

A: We have around 150 student in the meeting.

**Q: I am a bit confused about the deadline for the supplemental application. Is the due date February 15th or January 15th?**

A: The general application deadline is January 15th. The supplemental application deadline is February 15th.

**Q: What classes are recommended to take during high school for the BDES program? I have seen a geography course is recommended, but anything else?**

A: I think taking visual arts courses would help with your supplemental and a background in history would be useful, but none of those are necessary.

**Q: Is there any structure to the resume we need to submit? What would you suggest we put on it**

A: Your resume should be 1 or 2-page summary of your experiences in education, work, travel, volunteering, and other relevant areas. It is an opportunity for you to tell us a little bit more about who you are.

**Q: Do most 1st year applicants get accepted from university or straight from high school**

A: The majority of our 1st years come from high school.

**Q:** In the application process from high school, if for example you have two applications and one has lower grades but a more enriched supplemental and the other has much higher grades but only a mediocre supplemental, which application would more likely to be accepted?

**A:** It is hard to say on this for sure, but the stronger creative test is the one more likely to be admitted. It would depend on a number of factors though.

**Q:** What average grade is required if applying from another program at UBC

**A:** There is no specific GPA needed. You will need to meet the UBC transfer requirements.

### **Questions Answered Live:**

**Q:** In the application process from high school, if for example you have two applications and one has lower grades but a more enriched supplemental and the other has much higher grades but only a mediocre supplemental, which application would more likely to be accepted?

**Q:** Is there any mascot or school spirit?

**Q:** What grades did you get in high school to get into this program?

**Q:** As an undergraduate student do you feel as though SALA is a tight knit and close community

**Q:** Is the stereotype about arch students pulling all nighters a lot accurate? Or is the work manageable as long as your smart with time

**Q:** How do second year transfer students get integrated into the program socially and academically?