

## Applicant Credentials

Alex MacLaren began teaching undergraduate design students in 2006. She is a part-time employee of the University of Edinburgh, where she has taught since 2009. She currently teaches in the year-wide Design Studio at second-year level (ages 19-20, appx 120 students) and is Unit Leader for a design unit at fourth-year level (ages 21-22, 29 students) on the MA undergraduate course. Prior to that she had taught in the Design Studio and Professional Practice courses at the University of Brighton.

Alex's design teaching incorporates seminars, lectures, group- and one-to-one desktop tutorials. Alex has accompanied student groups on study trips to Barcelona, Rome, Manchester and Glasgow.

Alex also examines for the ARB (Architects' Registration Board of the UK) in awarding RIBA Part I / II exemption to applicants who have studied overseas at courses validated by different authorities. She is a Trustee of an educational Charity, 'Teambuild Association', which runs an [annual competition](#) for construction industry graduates, promoting interdisciplinary working in the built environment. Alex has written academic papers on the pedagogy of multidisciplinary competitions based on 'Live' projects, most recently giving a [paper](#) at the 2012 [ACSA International Conference in Barcelona](#).

Alex studied at the University of Cambridge and London Metropolitan University, receiving a Distinction in her postgraduate graduation. She completed her Professional Practice exams (RIBA III) at the Architectural Association. Since then she has worked with practices in London and Edinburgh. In 2009 she was awarded a national prize, the 'G4C [Collaboration Champion]' by [Constructing Excellence UK](#).

Alex is also a practicing Architect, leading residential and community projects with values of up to £1.0m. She is partner in two companies, [Wyatt MacLaren LLP](#) (architect of the [Bromley-by-Bow Centre](#), a national pathfinder of social enterprise and inclusivity, and adjacent to the 2012 Olympics site), and [engineroom LLP](#), a research-led multidisciplinary partnership.

Alex is interested in forging stronger links between practice, policy and education, and between built environment disciplines. She is motivated, dedicated, and enthusiastic to work with students in delivering insightful, propositional and useful project-based research.

### **An example from 2012-2013 teaching year:**

Alex is keen to engage students with real concerns and invite external input to the design studio, working with collaborators towards shared research aims where possible. Her 2012-2013 fourth year unit, set in Glasgow, included input from a large Private Development conglomerate, local architects/community activists, the Scottish Parliament, and Architecture & Design Scotland (a Non-departmental public body, the Scottish design excellence champion). *The inspiration for the courses proposed as part of this application arise from conversations with members of A+DS, and out of publications from other Scottish Government initiatives into health, inclusivity and regeneration.* The early work of the unit has been published in a short volume, [available online](#), and further work is planned to be disseminated similarly. The unit's final presentations next week will take place at the offices of international structural engineers Buro Happold, and architects LDN. These connections, publications and events have been organised by Alex in addition to the basic curriculum. The active engagement and open participation is typical of Alex's teaching ethos.