

Bachelor of Architecture (LM099) | Applicant Portfolio

BSc Product Design & Technology (LM076) | Applicant Portfolio

University of Limerick

For Entry in Academic Year 2025/2026

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Applicant Portfolio Description

Applicants to the **LM099 Architecture** and **LM076 Product Design and Technology** programs must submit a portfolio as part of the application process. The same portfolio requirements apply to both courses, and applicants may use the same portfolio for either or both applications.

Your portfolio should demonstrate your creativity, design thinking, and technical/manual skills, reflecting your potential for success in the chosen course of study.

Who Needs to Submit a Portfolio?

LM099 Architecture

- **Only for incoming QQI applicants for September 2025 entry:** Portfolio assessed on a pass/fail basis.
- **All incoming applicants for September 2026 entry:**
 - **QQI applicants:** Pass/fail assessment.
 - **All other applicants:** Graded assessment, with a maximum of **200 CAO points** awarded.

LM076 Product Design & Technology (PDT)

- **All incoming applicants for September 2025 entry:** Portfolio assessed on a pass/fail basis.
- **All incoming applicants for September 2026 entry:**
 - **QQI applicants:** Pass/fail assessment.
 - **All other applicants:** Graded assessment, with a maximum of **200 CAO points** awarded.

General Portfolio Requirements

- **Format:** Digital format (PDF only) with clear, high-quality images.
- **Length:** 12-15 high resolution pages.
- **Content:** All work must be original. Collaborations must be clearly labelled, specifying your contributions. Please include ANY work in ANY medium completed for ANY purpose that you

think is relevant to your design ability. Some specific requirements are listed (signed declaration and written statement) and some general guidance is nested below as to the type of content that we would welcome:

- **Signed Declaration:** A signed declaration confirming that all work is your own must be included.
- **Written Statement of Interest:** A written statement (max. 500 words) explaining why you wish to study Architecture or Product Design & Technology.
- **Drawing Skills:** Include hand-drawn sketches, observational drawings, and technical drawings demonstrating spatial understanding and perspective.
- **Design Creativity:** Show your conceptual and innovative thinking. This may include design concepts, product designs, models, or exploratory work in ANY medium.
- **Visual Communication:** Use diagrams, photography, drawings or mixed media to convey ideas effectively.
- **Problem-Solving Skills:** Include projects that address real-world problems with creative solutions.
- **Prototyping & Making:** Showcase evidence of making, such as prototypes, any type of 3D models/ objects/ furniture/ structure etc , clothing, or functional products. Include scanned or photographed 2D/3D objects.
- **Process Work:** Display your design process, including initial sketches/sketch models, research, brainstorming, and iterations.
- **Interdisciplinary Thinking:** Highlight projects that integrate design with technology, engineering, Art, or any other relevant field.

Additional Tips for Portfolio Preparation

- **Curation:** Select a cohesive set of work that best represents your skills and interests.
- **Clarity:** Ensure all images and text are legible and organized for easy navigation.
- **File Size:** Keep the file size manageable (preferably under 20 MB) for submission.

Submission Instructions

- **Upload:** Submit your portfolio through the designated submission portal provided by UL.
- **Deadline:** Ensure your submission meets the stated deadline.
- **Further Information:** Visit the [School of Architecture and Product Design website](#) for admissions information.

Your portfolio is a key component of your application, offering an opportunity to express your unique perspective and enthusiasm for design. We look forward to reviewing your work!

Appendix 1 – Applicant Portfolio Assessment Criteria

1. Curiosity

- **What is assessed?** The desire to explore, learn, and innovate within design-related fields.
- **Why it matters?** Curiosity fuels the discovery of novel design solutions in architecture and product design.

2. Imagination

- **What is assessed?** The ability to conceptualize new and unconventional ideas, forms, and structures.
- **Why it matters?** Imagination is essential for transforming concepts into tangible designs.

3. Problem Solving

- **What is assessed?** The ability to identify challenges and develop effective solutions within complex design contexts.
- **Why it matters?** Problem-solving ensures that designs are both innovative and practical.

4. Critical Thinking

- **What is assessed?** The ability to evaluate design problems from multiple perspectives and make well-reasoned judgments.
- **Why it matters?** Critical thinking allows designers to assess feasibility, sustainability, and the overall impact of their designs.

5. Practical & Visual Skills

- **What is assessed?** The capability to bring design ideas to life through various visual and hands-on methods, such as sketching and prototyping.
- **Why it matters?** Practical and visual skills help effectively communicate design ideas and turn abstract concepts into functional solutions.