

EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 12PM

The London School of Architecture

PRESS RELEASE:
24 February 2022

LSA launches new bursary programme for students from low-income backgrounds



Photography credit: Chater Paul Jordan

The London School of Architecture is excited to announce a new bursary programme made possible by a generous donation from the Zaha Hadid Foundation, which offers funding to students from low-income households. These bursaries – life-changing for their recipients – are part of the school’s renewed commitment to widening access to and participation in architectural education. They also fulfil the ambition of the LSA’s fundraising campaign, [Open Up! New Ways Through Architecture](#).

The new programme will offer **3 x full fees and maintenance bursaries for the LSA’s M.Arch (Part 2)** in Designing Architecture. The value of these awards amounts to **£36,000** per student across the two-year programme, on top of the **£12,000** (minimum) salary students are guaranteed to earn through its Practice Placement in the first year of study.

The bursaries are aimed at **talented prospective Part 2 students from low-income backgrounds** (household income of £25,000 or lower) and **refugees** who would otherwise be unable to pursue

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their architectural studies. Students must be eligible for 'home' fees and will need to qualify as one of the following:

- **Independent** - i.e over 25 and not financially dependent on parents;
- **Young Independent** - i.e. under 25 and not financially dependent on parents; or a
- **Refugee** or a Person Granted Humanitarian Protection - possibly dependent financially on parents/relatives

Recognising the additional barriers to progressing in architecture that may be experienced by people with particular intersecting identities, we strongly encourage applications from those who identify as having protected characteristics under the Equalities Act (2010), especially those from **Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic** communities in line with our Access and Participation Plan, those from **LGBTQ+** communities, **women** and **disabled/neurodivergent** applicants.

The LSA is hugely proud to partner with the Zaha Hadid Foundation on this bursary programme which will carve out vital space for students to develop their practice at the school. Dame Zaha Hadid was a pioneering architect whose practice and teaching paved the way for future generations of architects. The LSA wants these bursaries to respect this spirit by allowing recipients to be whoever they want to be as an architect, removing financial worry for their duration, allowing them to focus on their placement, their studies, and cultivating their professional network.

Dr Neal Shasore, Chief Executive and Head of School, LSA said:

'It is a privilege to work with the Zaha Hadid Foundation in launching their first bursary programme. With their help we can reach students who would otherwise struggle to further their architectural education. This donation fulfils the ambitions of our 'Open Up!' fundraising campaign, and we look forward to announcing details of its next phase in due course.'

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Notes to editor

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Press images available [here](#).

For more press information and interview requests please contact:

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About the London School of Architecture

The London School of Architecture (LSA) is an independent higher education provider based in London. It is England's first independent school of architecture since 1847 and was conceived in 2011 as a school for the 21st century, where students combine practice-based work experience with academic study. In academic year 2021-22 the LSA welcomed its largest ever cohort of 73 students into its new premises on 6 Orsman Road.

One of the School's foundational purposes is to broaden access to architectural education by removing barriers as well as support wider diversity and access for students from under-represented backgrounds. In our ambitious Access and Participation Plan 2021/21- 2024/25 agreed with the Office for Students, one of our two prime targets is to increase the proportion of BAME (black, Asian and minority ethnic) students to form a baseline of 20% to 30% by the academic year 2024-25. Moreover, we acknowledge the significant structural barriers to attainment and progression within architectural education and practice. As a school that prides itself on its close alignment with practice, we look forward to working with our Practice Network to facilitate progression by BAME architects in their professional contexts.

the-lsa.org

About the Zaha Hadid Foundation

The Zaha Hadid Foundation (ZHF) is a charitable organisation founded in 2013 by the globally renowned architect, designer and artist Zaha Hadid (1950-2016). The founding purpose of ZHF is to preserve and make publicly available the full range of Zaha's extraordinary output, and more broadly to advance research, learning, and the enjoyment of related areas of modern architecture, art and design. Zaha Hadid's rise to global prominence was by no means an easy one. In this spirit, ZHF will actively support young people and students from diverse and complex backgrounds in their quest to become architects, designers and scholars.

zhfoundation.com