**Portfolio Advice:**

Uni’s I Applied to and their requirements

* University of Nottingham (K230)- 16 image maximum pdf, less than 10MB
* Sheffield (K100)– 10 page pdf, less that 6MB
* Cardiff (K100)– 8 A4 pages pdf, less than 5MB
* Bath (K100) - no portfolio
* Cambridge (K100)- no set requirement but the ‘typical’ is to bring 15-20 A1 pages plus any sketchbooks

Out of the universities I applied to only Sheffield had a specific requirement of an image they wanted to see, the subject matter/ material etc are all otherwise up to you to choose. Sheffield asked for a representation of ‘My Street’ as one image on the pdf with a max of 200 words explaining your art.

Also, it is definitely worth noting the MB restrictions as while you want to use high quality images, they set restrictions on the size of pdf file. I had to compress lots of images which was fairly time consuming so take this into account in terms of time-management.

NOTE: With early application it meant my first portfolio was due 24th October with only 2 weeks notice to create it (Nottingham), therefore start early and be prepared for a potentially quite sudden deadline.

**Page layout recommendations for portfolios**

This is your own display of artwork so most importantly make it individual to you but some general preferences in terms of format are:

* White page/ paper background colour
* Range of images on a page, with size of images showing their hierarchy of importance (initial sketches are worth including but as smaller images, and then the final product that you built up towards to be a bigger image)
* A mixture of numbers of images on a page, also vary layouts between pages.
* Good quality photos or photocopies of artwork when you are unable to include originals (e.g. for pdf / they are too big to transport for a portfolio)
* Centered, straight and aligned in aesthetic arrangements
* Include some key words on a page, e.g. an architects/ artist’s name or a theme you explored e.g. nature, neutral colours etc.
* A suggestion is to try and theme your images on a page, by style/ colour/ technique/ subject matter (chronological I felt was less important but obviously this is unique to your own work)

NOTE: subject matter does not have to be architectural but it is important (for interviews) to think about how the skills you have shown / subject matter relates to architecture (e.g. given you the ability to better understand the creation of depth in a 2d drawing). Or just what you have learnt from your art in general, just have reasonings for your choices.

**Wider research**

* Have a wider awareness of general architecture
* Epq on something architecture related if possible
* The main movements:
  + Greek, Roman, gothic, renaissance, baroque,
* Specific areas of interest to you, e.g. sustainability, role of art in architecture (function vs form)
* Work experience if possible

Good sources of information are magazines Dezeen and Architecture Review, also talks run by RIBA / the RA (usually have a cost as they are in London, whereas magazines can be free if you follow on Instagram)

This isn’t an exhaustive list but equally not everything on here necessarily has to be done, it’s more just an overview of what I did. If you’re not applying to an interviewing university then the wider reading is potentially less important, having said this it would still help you write your personal statement, so is still of value.

I would recommend starting the research / talks as early as possible. It doesn’t have to be extensive research just a general awareness. In my case I did most of my research on train journeys/ waiting times between trains, doesn’t have to be official ‘research’ just being somewhat informed. The portfolio is most likely ok to start in Year 13 if you take art a level, if not it’s probably recommendable to start in summer.

I would also recommend, if you have the chance, chatting to any architects about your portfolio, there was a really great advice session run by New London Architecture which was also very helpful, just in terms of orderings of pages and layout etc.

In terms of receiving support from the college art department for completing the portfolio, they are significantly more focused on art foundation applications / art at university. Art portfolios are due later than architecture ones, so is less pressured in the first term of upper sixth, architecture portfolios are generally due in before Christmas (certainly Cambridge interviews). Hence you need to take ownership and start the process yourself as art department won’t be prepared to be advising/ focusing on portfolios when you will be wanting to.

I personally did not receive much support or guidance for the architectural portfolio from the art department, particularly as it differs to an art one - this wasn’t really known by the art department. I personally prioritized advice I received from architects about how to construct portfolios as I felt this suited what I wanted to create better, however depending on your angle of approach to architecture this isn’t necessarily the case for everyone. Having said this the college technicians and photography department were very helpful and had much more time available for support.

On the whole I would just aim to be as informed as possible and use all support offered to you as if you look for advice it is there.