

BAS Application Process

Bachelor of Architectural Studies, 2024 for 2025

Getting Started

The Bachelor of Architectural Studies Application Process

Because the Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS) degree has a limited number of spaces, the School of Architecture and Planning (SoAP) has an additional, competitive selection process, which is outlined in this document. First, applicants must apply to Wits through the general undergraduate application process (an online application) by June 30th. To be considered for the BAS degree, applicants must meet the specified minimum academic requirements. Information on the degree, the requirements and how to apply can be found here:

www.wits.ac.za/course-finder/undergraduate/ebe/architectural-studies

Following the online application, the School evaluates spatial imagination, creative problem-solving and communication abilities in **Exercises 1 and 2**, which are detailed on pages 3 and 6. Next, applicants may job shadow or interview an architect as part of an optional **Exercise 3**, detailed on page 9. Only those applicants who perform well on Exercises 1 and 2 will be invited for an **admissions interview**. The Exercises, interview and academic performance all count equally towards admission into the BAS degree programme.

Please double-check the **Dos and Don'ts** for Submission on page 7 and the How to Submit Your Exercises section on pages 7-8 before submitting your Exercises online, using the website we have specified. Exercises submitted by email will not be accepted. Exercises not submitted in the specified manner or by the deadline will not be considered. There will be no extensions for connectivity problems, load shedding, or other issues. Making a plan to submit on time, regardless of circumstances, can be considered part of the exercise.

Inquiries

For inquiries related to the BAS degree application process, check our frequently asked questions on the same website you used to download this document: <https://www.wits.ac.za/archplan/architecture/bas-application-exercise/>
If you don't find what you're looking for, you may contact:

@ applications.bas@wits.ac.za

☎ 011 717 7623

Wits person numbers must accompany all inquiries. Email is the first point of contact.

Additional Information

General information about the School: www.wits.ac.za/soap

Online applications to Wits: www.wits.ac.za/undergraduate/apply-to-wits/

Online submission of application Exercises: www.wits.ac.za/soap/architecture/bas-application-exercise

Fees and funding: www.wits.ac.za/study-at-wits/student-fees/



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



SCHOOL
OF ARCHITECTURE
& PLANNING

Steps to Apply

- ▶ **1** **30 Jun**
2024 Complete the general undergraduate application to Wits, including submission of school grades. If you have not already done so, you may complete the **Online Application here:**
<https://www.wits.ac.za/applications/>
- ▶ **2** **31 Jul**
2024, by
23h59 Upload high-quality scans or photographs of BAS Exercises 1 and 2, according to the upload guidelines on our Exercise Submission website:
www.wits.ac.za/archplan/architecture/bas-application-exercise

All submissions must be made by the date and time listed at left. **It is highly recommended to make your submission long before that deadline**, in case you have trouble uploading files the first time you try. Finding a way to submit the document on time is the applicant's responsibility, and may require planning ahead well in advance. We will not consider late submissions.

Once submitted, you will get an email confirming submission. Save it as your proof of submission. If you do not see the email within 10 minutes of submitting, **check your junk/spam mail folder.**
- ▶ **SAP** **25 Aug**
2024 *Applicants who submit the Exercises on time, meet minimum requirements, and show potential in the Exercises will be invited to an online interview using Microsoft Teams. In exceptional circumstances only, interviews may be arranged by other methods, with permission. Applicants not invited for interviews will also be informed at this time. **Applicants who have not heard from the School by this date and do not see a decline notice on their online portal must, check their junk/spam folder, or email to inquire in order to maintain eligibility.***
- ▶ **3** **01 Sep**
2024 Applicants invited for an interview must **book an interview appointment** by this date using our interview invitation website, which will be communicated to applicants who are invited. Applicants who do not respond to the interview invitations may be excluded from further consideration. Make sure that you give your correct contact details when submitting the Exercises, and check your email daily so you can reply to the interview invitation if it arrives.
- ▶ **4** **04 Sep**
2024 **Complete optional BAS Exercise 3.** This is not compulsory, but we advise that you either interview an architect, take the Wits EdX MOOC (or both) as detailed on page 8, or both, before this date, prior to the interview. You may also browse architecture books, magazines or blogs to find out if you are going to enjoy this highly demanding course and profession.
- ▶ **5** **05 Sep**
2024 Last chance to submit academic results if they were not submitted upon application. Grade 12 complete results should be submitted if available, or grade 11 results if grade 12 results are not yet available. No application can be considered without academic results.
- ▶ **6** **05-15**
Sep Online interviews will be held with invited applicants via Microsoft Teams. If invited, you will be given a link to book a time slot, and will be asked to upload any additional portfolio materials to our interview website, which will be communicated to you upon invitation.
- ▶ **SAP** **30 Sep**
2024 *We check the academic results of suitable applicants after the interviews. The total selection score consists of scores for the Exercises, the interview and an academic score based on APS points, which are explained here: www.wits.ac.za/undergraduate/entry-requirements/*
- ▶ **7** **06 Oct**
2024 *We will have reviewed all applications based on total scores by this date, which may include offers, provisional offer defers, rejections and so on. Please check your updated application status on the portal before querying your application status.*
- ▶ **8** **06 Nov**
2024 *Applicants who receive provisional offers must accept them within four weeks of receipt or the place may be offered to other applicants.*
- ▶ **early**
2025 *This date is dependent on the publication of matric results by the Department of Education. Following the release of matric results, provisional offers are confirmed and some new offers made to waitlisted applicants, which must be accepted within three days to reserve a place. If offers are declined or not responded to, these places are offered to the next in line; this process continues until all places are filled. If you accept an offer elsewhere, please notify the School.*

Exercise 1: Selosathuto

The Scenario

In the following exercise, we would like you to engage your creativity and skills of imagination. The more imaginative you are, the better.

You are to create, visually describe, and develop a narrative about a selosathuto, a unique artifact of your own imagination. Follow the steps below to understand what this is, and what needs to be done.

▶ 1



Narrating. You will be required to discuss your current school and assess it, clearly articulating the limitations, problems and omissions in the school and why you think these problems are there. This should be done in a maximum 100 words.

Imagining. You are then required to narrate an alternative school that is a place of your imagining in which the problems you have identified have been resolved, for example, what kind of school is this, how does it look, what type of learners attend it, what is its values and who are the educators. This is where you are required to use your imagination. This should be done in a maximum of 200 words.

Finally, you are required to **imagine an artefact** that represents the aspirations of this new school, an object well designed and meaningful that embodies the values, aesthetics, and meaning of this new ideal place that you have imagined. Describe this artefact, your selosathuto, and when it is used in your new school, and how it is used in this new context. **You are being asked to design an imaginary object, not a building or building solution.**

This should be done in a maximum 100 words.

▶ 2



Making. Your selosathuto is borne out of your story and represents the new school you have imagined. In this next part, you are required to design and make a representation of your artifact. Remember that it needs to reflect the essence of your alternative school. You will be making a representation of this artifact from only 2 materials: cardboard (you can use re-used packaging cardboard from cereal boxes, crackers, or something similar), and one other material, which could be any inexpensive material that can be easily found, but you may not use glue or tape.

▶ 3



Storyboarding. Draw a step-by-step instruction manual that clearly shows how you made the selosathuto on one or two A4 sheets of paper, using the Storyboard Layout Guide on page 4 as a guide. This must be made up of drawn images using black ink and a maximum of one other colour, not with a pencil, and not through photos. Communicate in a way that someone who does not speak much of your language could produce a similar artefact using your manual; keep in mind the steps and dimensions you needed to make your object as you construct it.

▶ 4



Photo. Photo. Take one good photo of your selosathuto in the best way possible. The photo should allow someone to see what the artifact you've created looks like. Save the photo as a .jpg file so it can be uploaded to the online submission.

Things to Consider

There are a number of decisions you need to make in the process, including:

- How can you use the limited materials to create a wonderful *selosathuto*?
- How you are going to put the various pieces of the *selosathuto* together without glue or tape?
- How you explain to someone else what your *selosathuto* is, or what it does?

Getting Help

If you feel stuck, you may look at precedents (examples of other objects) made from cardboard. However, the selosathuto you create should be the product of your own imagination, with your own story. Remember that anything you find online can also be found by the admissions team at the School, so we will know if you are copying! The final artifact must be a product of your own hands.

Checklist for Submission

- Scan/photograph 1 A4 sheet, or create a .pdf file, containing the 400 word narrative.
- Scan/ photograph 1 or 2 A4 sheets with a storyboard using the issued layout (see page 4), and check after saving to make sure the scan or image is high-quality and legible.
- Take 1 good photo of your selosathuto and check to make sure it is of sufficient quality.
- Save all the files for yourself; the School does not return completed exercises to applicants.
- Upload to our website using the criteria given on our submission website and instructions in the How to Submit Your Exercise section (see pages 7-8).

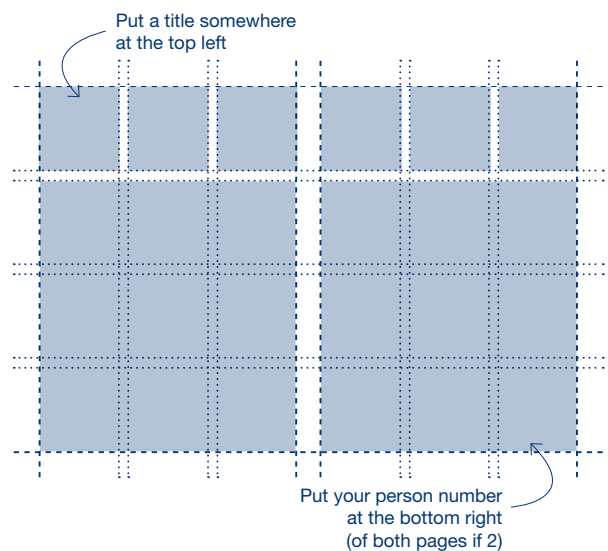
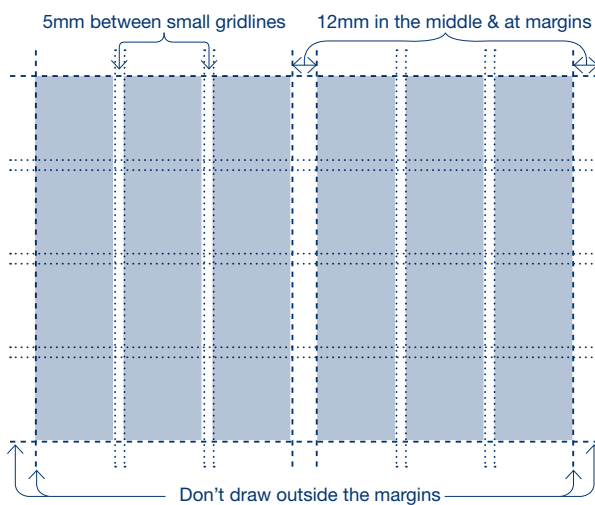
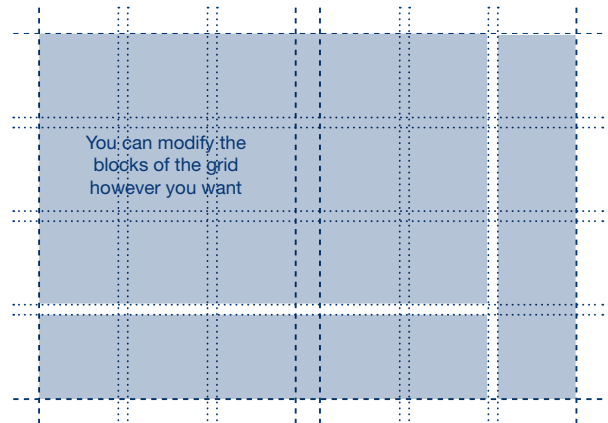
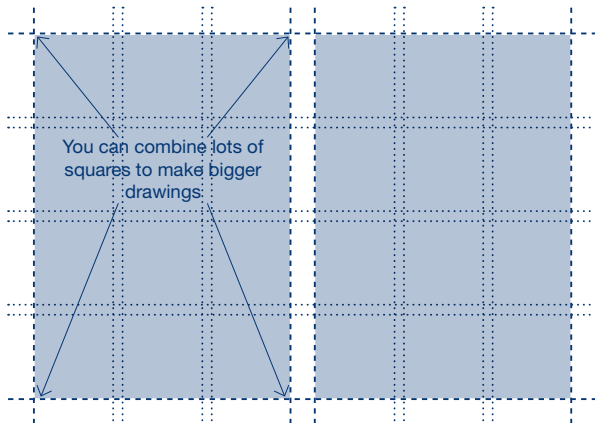
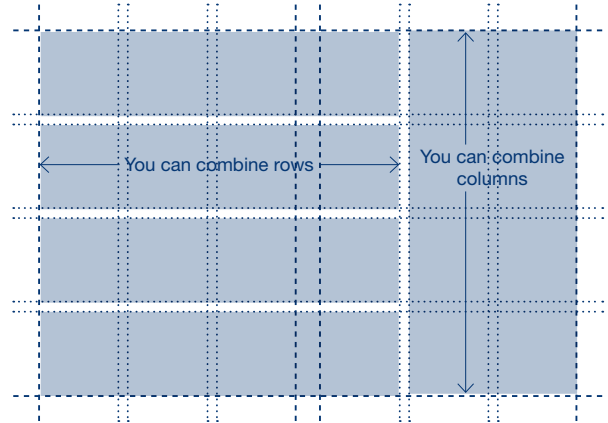
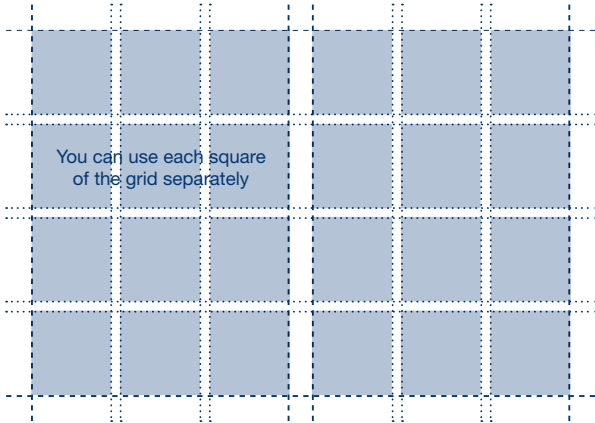
Storyboard Layout Guide

Name of Project

Person number

Storyboard Layout Guide

Use the Storyboard Layout Guide on the previous page to help compose the way in which you present your drawings. You may draw directions on that sheet if you want, but you may wish to copy it and recombine it on another paper once you decide how to organise your storyboard. The grid shown is a guideline, but you may combine different squares to make bigger ones if you want. Below are some possible ways to lay out the storyboard but these are only suggestions for possible layouts and you are free to explore alternatives using the Storyboard Layout Guide.



Exercise 2: The Journey

Background

This is an exercise in freehand artistic drawing. Please note that ‘freehand’ means without the use of rulers or straight edges. There is no correct or incorrect interpretation, we want to see your creative interpretation of the requirements listed below.



Drawing. Imagine that an individual from a parallel universe, different from our own, has come to visit you. You wish to show him/her/it/them a memorable journey you have taken as a way of helping them understand you. Consider that your visitor does not have any understanding of what is normal to us. With graphite pencil (not coloured pencil) on an A3 sheet of paper, draw for him/her/it/them your most memorable journey. It could be a place you went with friends or family, a move to a new house or new school, or some other kind of journey. Open your senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste as you think about your journey. Think about all the things and experiences, both familiar and unusual, which happen along the way. Consider your destination and how it feels to arrive. Think of this as a journey through space, time and emotions.



Communicating. Your drawing must communicate the following:

- The sequence of events that make up the journey (not just the destination);
- Noteworthy or significant moments during the journey;
- Landmarks or special places that were part of the journey;
- The spatial relationships between these places;
- Feelings, memories and states of mind that accompanied you on your journey;
- Qualities of light and shadow.

You need to find a creative way to represent your ideas graphically for the above. Please note that **one** single scene is not a representation of a journey. A two dimensional map on its own will not be sufficient, and tracing is not permitted.

Checklist for Submission

- Scan/photograph 1 A3 sheet with your original drawing, and check after saving to make sure it is legible.
- Save a copy of the file for yourself; the School does not return completed exercises to applicants;
- Upload to our Exercise upload website using the criteria listed on our submission website and instructions in the How to Submit Your Exercise section (see pages 7-8).

Do and Don'ts for Submission

Do

Do make sure to type your details correctly when prompted on the Exercise submission website.

Do double check the 'checklist for submission' indicated at the bottom of Exercises 1 and 2.

Do put your Wits person number (not ID number or T number) on each page & correctly enter it on the submission form.

Do keep copies of files for yourself before and after submitting.

Do take a screen shot of your confirmation of submission, and save it..

Don't

Don't submit the Exercises by email, post or courier; submit using the online platform described.

Don't submit all 9 pages of this set of instructions; submit only your Exercises.

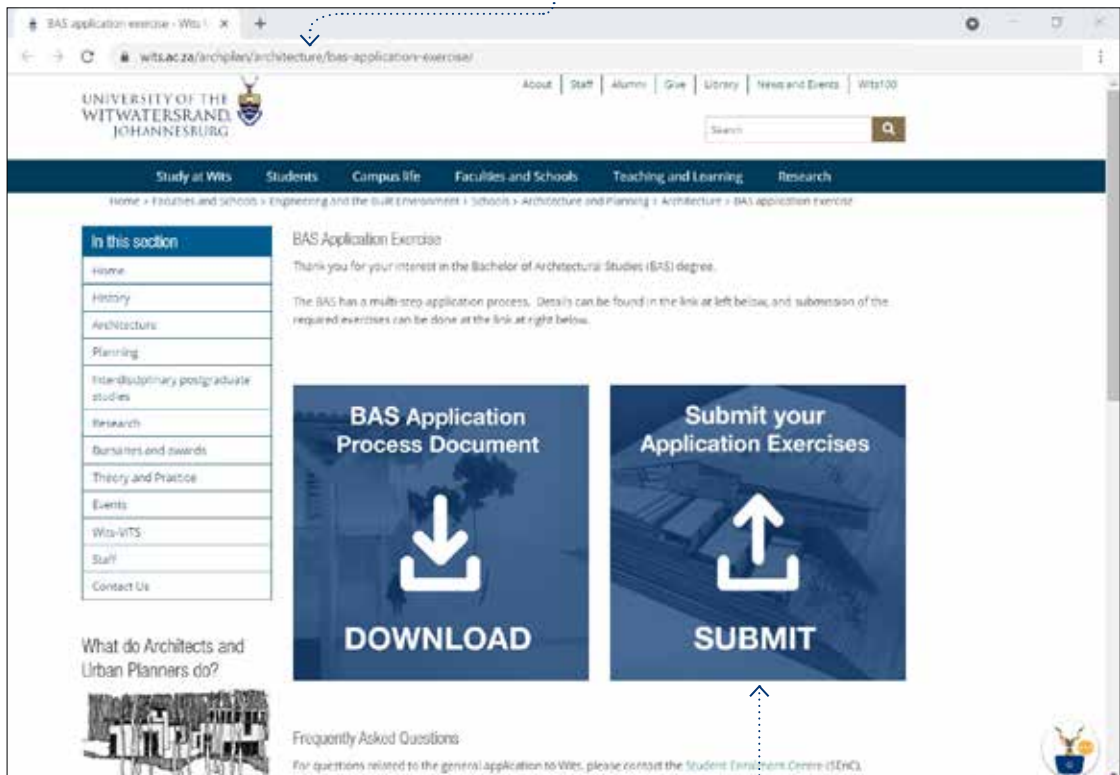
Don't submit the Exercise 3 information; this will only be reviewed if you are invited to an interview.

How to Submit Your Exercises

Submission of the Exercises will be entirely online. Carefully follow the instructions below to submit your Exercise.

▶ 1 Save your .jpg or .pdf file(s) and keep a copy of the files for yourself. Keep these until you get a final decision on your application; they are a backup in case anything goes wrong.

▶ 2 Go to our Exercise submission website:
www.wits.ac.za/soap/architecture/bas-application-exercise/



▶ 3 Click on the SUBMIT image link

continued on
next page

continued from previous page

You will get redirected to the submission form webpage

4 Enter your Wits person number

5 Enter your first name

6 Enter your surname

7 Enter your phone number

8 Enter your email address

9 Upload your file(s)

(refer to the guidelines in small text under the 'Browse Files' button)

10 Initial in the box to confirm the work is your own

11 Submit your Exercise.



You will be redirected to a submission confirmation page, and will receive an email. Check your junk mail.

Exercise 3: (Optional) What Architects Do

Background



Although Exercise 3 is optional, having some exposure to the profession of architecture before the interview is strongly recommended, as it allows you to explore and better understand the profession of architecture and will serve to eliminate any misconceptions of what a future in architecture holds. You may complete one or both options.

Option 1: Interview an Architect

- ▶ 1  Interviewing. Since job shadowing in-person is not necessarily advisable during the COVID-19 pandemic, do your best to interview a practicing architect, or multiple people in an architectural practice. This involves asking about the day to day roles and responsibilities of an architect, and getting a sense of how they go about their practice. If you cannot find an architectural practice, consider a substitute interview of either a registered draughtsperson or architectural technician.
- ▶ 2  Documenting. During your interview, make sketches of any projects they show you and take notes about the conversation and their manner of practice, as well as your own observations.

Option 2: Wits EdX MOOC

Wits, in conjunction with other universities, has developed a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled *What Do Architects & Urban Planners Do?* It is intended as an overview and preparatory course for people interested in pursuing architecture and other spatial design professions.

- ▶ 1  Take the MOOC. Set aside some time to go through the entire MOOC, which is available online at: <https://www.edx.org/course/what-do-architects-and-urban-planners-do>, and complete the assignments. This is a 3-week course, with 2-3 hours of engagement per week. You can do the free version; we do not require the certificate. All you need is a computer or smart phone and internet access. Please note that you have to register for this MOOC by 30 March 2020 to do the first course. It will be open for future registrations later in 2020, but this may be after the interviews.
- ▶ 2  Documenting. As you complete the assignments, assemble the creative work that you do into an organised portfolio, and write a few notes reflecting on how your views about the creative process and architecture have been shaped by it.

Finding an Architect

For the job shadowing, you will need to find an architect. For a list of registered architects and architectural firms, see:

- The South African Council for the Architectural Profession: www.sacapsa.com
- The South African Institute of Architects: <https://saia.org.za>
- The Gauteng Institute for Architecture: www.gifa.org.za

Checklist for Your Own Record

You do not need to submit this information to SoAP, but you may want to submit it for your interview. Record:

- A timeline of your progress on either or each of the options above;
- Your impressions of the role of the architect;
- Sketches of what you discussed with the architect, or in the MOOC;
- Compile a portfolio of sketches and/or creative work from your experience. If you are invited to an interview, you submit this for it.

The Interview

Once we have evaluated the BAS Exercises, approximately the top half of the applicants will be invited for interviews, which is the last step in the application. These will take place online using Microsoft Teams; if you are invited to one, you will receive more information at that time. If you are invited, you will be expected to show your selosadilotsatiro and a portfolio of creative work. **The interview is a required component of the application.**

Please note that not all applicants are invited for interviews. Check the email you used for your online application regularly around the date indicated on page 2 when invitees will be notified. Applicants will only be notified by email; if you do not respond to confirm your interview invitation, the School may remove you from consideration. Remember to check you Spam/Junk folders. Contact the school via email if there is no update by the date indicated on page 2.