

APPROVED
at RISEBA Senate meeting 30.08.2000.
30.10.2017., minutes No. 17/1.1-07/08
with amendments made on 12.06.2024. minutes. No. 24/1.1-7/4
with technical clarifications made on May 10, 2025, in sections 2.2.3 and 2.6

DRAWING AND COMPOSITION ENTRANCE EXAMINATION REGULATIONS for the Bachelor's Study Programme “Architecture”

PURPOSE

The regulations have been developed to define the procedure, requirements, and evaluation criteria for the drawing entrance examination of the Bachelor's study programme “Architecture”.

SCOPE

Applicants to the Bachelor's study programme “Architecture” and the RISEBA staff involved in the process.

1. General Provisions

1.1. Admission to the Bachelor's study programme “Architecture” involves assessment based on RISEBA University's selection criteria as well as applicants' eligibility in accordance with the regulated profession requirements for “Architect” in the Republic of Latvia. The field of architecture traditionally involves building design and the creation of spatial environments; therefore, in order to evaluate the applicant's potential and abilities, an entrance examination in “Drawing and Composition” must be taken.

1.2. The aim of the “Drawing and Composition” entrance examination is to assess the applicant's ability to depict a three-dimensional object on a two-dimensional plane using freehand pencil drawing. The examination evaluates the applicant's understanding of perspective, composition, the proportions and structure of the object being represented. By constructing a spatial object according to the given assignment, the applicant demonstrates the ability to create a composition based on a defined concept.

2. Content and Duration of the Entrance Examination Task

2.1. The Admissions Committee sets the date and time for the “Drawing and Composition” entrance examination, as well as the portfolio submission deadline for international applicants.

2.2. For **Latvian citizens** and **permanent residents**, the “Drawing and Composition” entrance examination consists of **three** tasks:

2.2.1. Group of geometric forms.

Duration: 2 clock hours.

Format: Drawing paper sheet, size A2.

Mandatory technique: graphite pencil.

The formal objective of the task is to assess the applicant's ability to visually evaluate and depict:

- Principles of linear perspective.
- Construction principles and proportions of geometric forms.
- Visual interaction of flat, concave, and convex forms.

2.2.2. Composition of a spatial object according to the assignment.. Based on either the applicant's own proposed concept or a theme assigned by the Admissions Committee, the applicant must develop a spatial object interpreting the requirements specified in the assignment. Execution: cardboard, paper, foam board, and glue technique.

Duration: 2 clock hours.

Additionally, a written description of the work in English (no longer than one A4 page) must be submitted.

2.2.3 Digital portfolio. The portfolio consists of documentation of previous works reflecting the applicant's individuality, creativity, and skills — 12 horizontally oriented A3 pages, in PDF format.

The portfolio must include the following categories: drawing, sketching, composition, painting or sculpture, photography, and a free choice/creative work.

The portfolio must be submitted electronically by the day of the entrance examination (via a web link or PDF up to 5 MB) to architecture@riseba.lv.

Photographing or scanning can be used to digitize drawings and compositions.

At the applicant's discretion, the portfolio may also include other creative works, experience, and skills in various techniques, such as painting, photography, graphic design, video, environmental or interior design, architectural projects, etc.

2.3. The total duration of the entrance examination task, excluding the break, is 4 (four) clock hours.

2.4. Drawings and spatial object compositions must be executed on sealed A2 drawing paper sheets and 30 x 30 cm cardboard bases provided by the examination committee.

2.5. Applicants occupy their workstations in the order of their registration numbers.

2.6. Applicants who are unable to attend the entrance examination in person due to a justified reason must submit a **digital portfolio** electronically (via a web link or PDF up to 5 MB) to architecture@riseba.lv. The portfolio should meet the general requirements of the "Drawing and Composition" entrance examination and allow for the evaluation of the applicant's potential and skills — the ability to depict a three-dimensional object on a two-dimensional plane using freehand pencil technique, demonstrating understanding of perspective, composition, proportions, and structure, as well as the ability to create a composition in accordance with the assigned concept.

3. Criteria for Assessment of the Work

3.1. The drawing test "**Group of Geometric Forms**" is evaluated based on five criteria categories (the overall score is the sum of the scores for all five criteria):

1. **Composition:** Understanding of the proportional placement of objects on the sheet.
2. **Structure:** Understanding and ability to visualize objects as a set of geometric forms and depict their internal structure.
3. **Perspective:** Knowledge of the basic principles of linear perspective and the ability to apply them in depicting geometric forms.
4. **Proportions:** Ability to visually assess the proportions of individual objects and the overall proportions of the object group, representing objects according to the assignment's scale.
5. **Drawing technique:** Individual skills and proficiency in using pencil techniques. The application of specific drawing methods is not required.

3.2. The test "**Composition of a Spatial Object**" is evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. **Concept:** The object's compliance with the assignment and the applicant's proposed concept (accompanied by a written description in English, no longer than one A4 page).
2. **Space:** Understanding of the fundamental principles of spatial formation.

3. **Structure:** Understanding of the construction features and interrelations of the individual parts of the created object, including constructive logic and stability.
4. **Artistic Quality:** The quality of execution and creativity in the use of materials and techniques.

3.3. The **digital portfolio** assessment is based on the fundamental criteria outlined in sections 3.1 and 3.2.

4. Examination Committee and Work Evaluation Procedure

- 4.1. The entrance examination works are evaluated by the Examination Committee.
- 4.2. The Examination Committee consists of two experts appointed by the Chairperson of the Admissions Committee upon the recommendation of the Programme Director.
- 4.3. The Examination Committee evaluates the works using a ten-point grading system in accordance with the RISEBA assessment system (from 10 – excellent to 1 – very poor). The Committee finalizes the overall evaluation of the works on the last day of the examination, after reviewing all submitted works collectively.
- 4.4. The Committee compiles the examination results in a protocol.

5. Appeal of the Entrance Examination Work Evaluation

- 5.1. If an applicant has justified objections to the final grade of the drawing entrance examination, they must submit a written appeal to the RISEBA Admissions Committee in accordance with the established procedure.
- 5.2. The Admissions Committee informs the Examination Committee and schedules the time and place for the appeal review.
- 5.3. The appellant and representatives of the Examination Committee are invited to attend the appeal review session.
- 5.4. The decision made at the appeal session is final.