

reach these levels as only 24% were in year 1 or 2 of their Part 1 – full-time students who started their Part 1 course before September 2012 are generally treated as continuing students.

47% of respondents said that they are graduating from Part 1 with more than £15,000 debt. This is up from 37% in 2011.

17% described it as being unable to afford essential course

Widening participation

In order to widen participation to the profession, the following issues raised (which recur from 2011) need to be addressed:

Means testing

Students with parents on higher incomes receive less through loans, and are limited in terms of grants – many students struggle with this, with or without additional parental support.

Parental dependence

48% of respondents receive over £500 an academic year from their family, with 28% receiving over £1,500. This is an increase from 2011 when only 19% received over £1,500. 24% of respondents answered that their parents funded their study trips. Some students find it problematic relying so heavily on their parents, and indeed parents can find it difficult to sustain the same level of support. While 29% of Part 1 respondents received no financial support from their family, this rises to 42% at Part 2 level.

Course costs

Throughout both surveys, the course-related costs are consistently raised as an issue that are unique to an architecture degree.

One student suggests:

The influence of the recession on the sector may also be having an impact on students:

Many of the students felt that they should be being paid more for their Stage 1 and Stage 2 experience. If a student is already struggling financially at Part 1, and is then unable to identify

Conclusions:

The work of the RIBA Education Department can continue to support students to minimise some of the financial pressures they face so that they can make the most of the opportunities an architectural education can provide.

The results show very little change from 2011, and consequently the objectives of the Education Department must remain the same. It is important that this work is sustained and developed in order to combat the financial difficulties faced when studying architecture.

We will maintain the following areas of work:

We can work to increase the funds available for the RIBA Student Hardship Funds, which supports students in financial hardship with grants ranging from about £500-£1,000.

We can work to create funding specifically available for materials and field trips and can create more generous bursaries to help contribute more substantially towards living costs (such as the RIBA Aedas Stephen Williams Scholarship and RIBA Wren Insurance Association Scholarships).

We will work with the RIBA student representatives on Council, to discuss ways in which we can liaise more directly with students across the UK and aim to support student led initiatives.

We can provide guidance to students on the costs of studying architecture, on how to secure additional funding, and direct them to resources on how to budget accordingly.

We can encourage good practice in schools of architecture specifically providing information on how the costs of field trips, materials and equipment impact financially on students.

The Education Department will repeat this survey in 2015 and every two years thereafter to provide a statistical backing to ongoing research on the impact of the increased tuition fees and general student experience, and to help the ETFC to evaluate the impact of the grants and bursaries programme.

Currently the RIBA Student Hardship Funds are performing an important role, but without increased funding, the ability of this scheme to make a real difference to students of architecture will be compromised. If you are interested in supporting the Fund, please contact Elena Smith on elena.smith@riba.org or +44 (0)20 7307 3810.