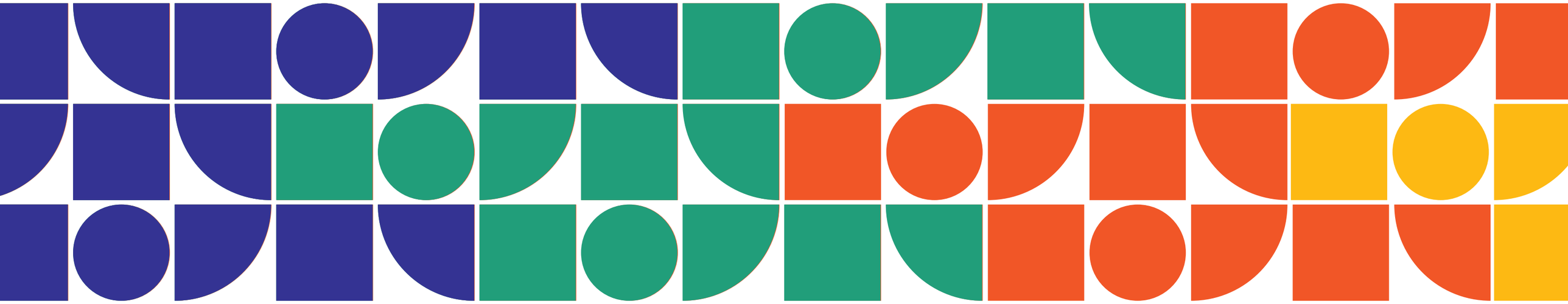
EDITURA UNIVERSITARĂ ION MINCU



UNIVERSITY OF
ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM
ION MINCU – BUCHAREST

UAUIM International Student Guide



UNIVERSITY OF
ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM
ION MINCU – BUCHAREST

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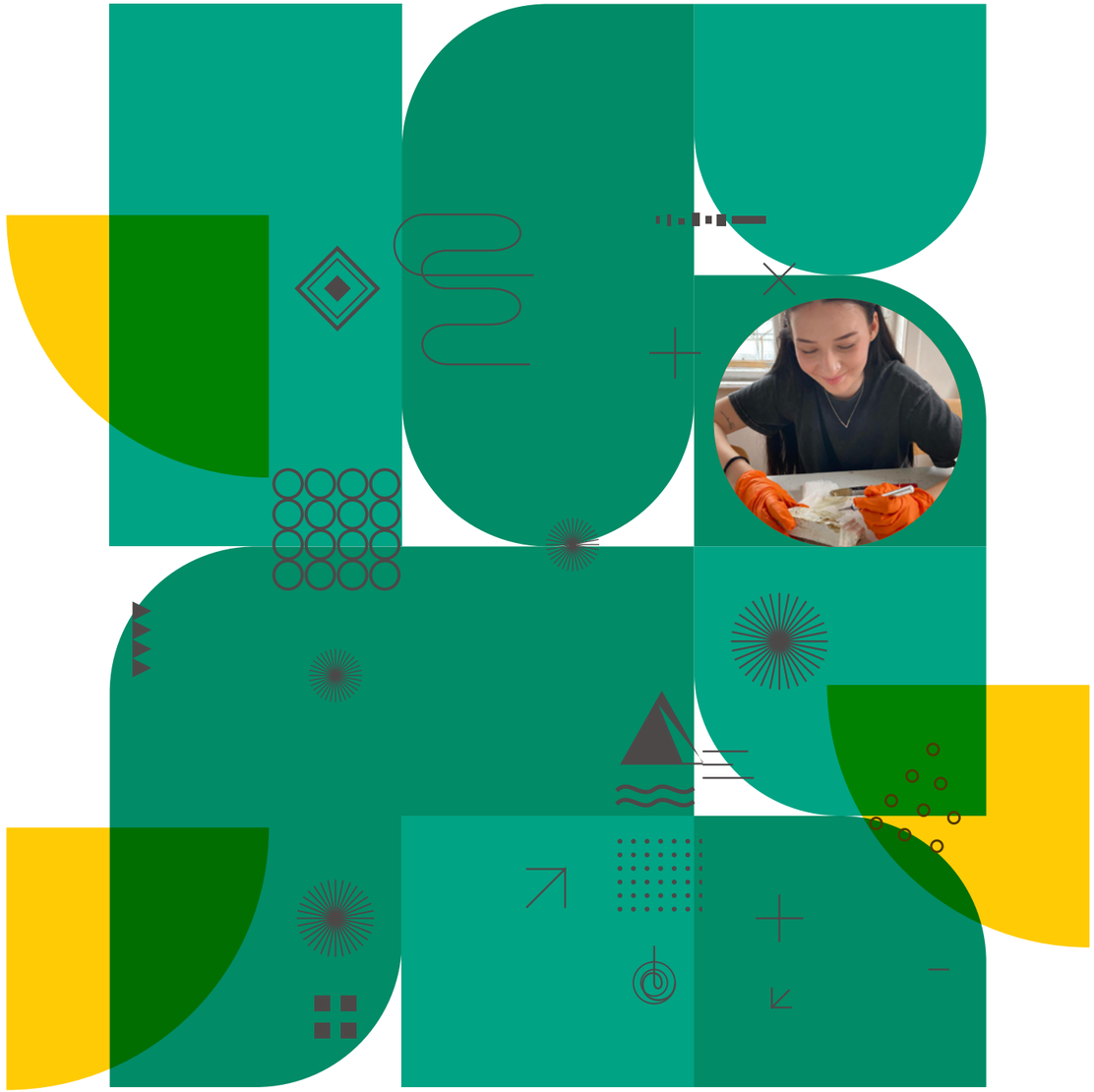


Welcome

Choosing a school of architecture means choosing more than a curriculum - it means choosing a city, a working pace, and an intellectual climate. Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism, in Bucharest, trains architects, urban planners, interior architects, designers and researchers of the built environment, and is one of Romania's leading institutions in the field.

UAUIM is situated at the very heart of Bucharest, on a campus where teaching, studio work, research, exhibitions and student life all reach into the everyday life of the city. The location is far from incidental: for students of architecture, design and urban planning, Bucharest itself becomes a site of investigation, a living archive, and a repository of real questions about heritage, housing, public space, infrastructure and urban change.

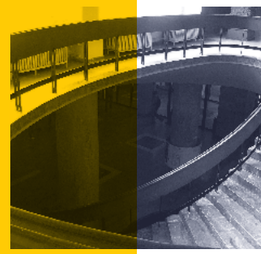
This guide walks you through the university - its programmes, its studio culture, and what student life here actually looks like.



UAUIM at a glance

UAUIM has a history of more than 160 years of architectural education and a long tradition of training architects, urban planners and designers.





» 3 faculties: Architecture, Urban Planning, and Interior Architecture

» doctoral studies in architecture and urban planning

» a full Architecture programme taught in English

» a central campus in Bucharest

» studios, laboratories, exhibition spaces and student facilities

» a specialist library founded in 1912, holding around 200,000 volumes

» academic partnerships with more than 80 institutions across Europe and beyond

» mobility, professional placement and exchange opportunities

» a professional qualification recognised within the European framework

» periodic RIBA validation of the Architecture programme



Founded in 1864, with an unbroken academic tradition dating back to 1892

Over 1,800 students from Romania and numerous other countries

Architectural qualification recognised in all EU Member States

3 faculties: Architecture, Urban Planning, Interior Design

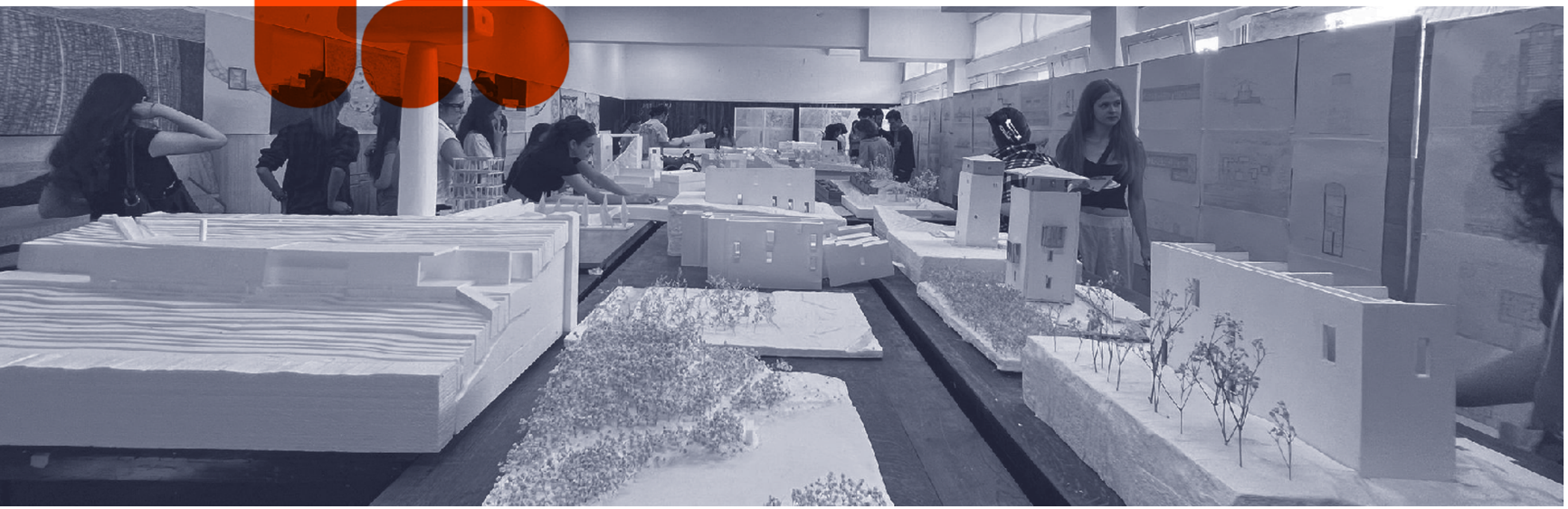
Qualification validated periodically by the RIBA since 1998

A specialist library established in 1912, with a collection of around 200,000 volumes

Academic partnerships with over 80 universities across four continents

An institution steeped in tradition, lying in the historic centre of Bucharest

A full Architecture programme taught in English



Why UAUIM

The design studio lies at the heart of everything we do. Students learn by observing, drawing, building models, analysing, discussing, revising, and presenting their work in public.

Studio work takes time and discipline. Students learn to frame a problem, develop an idea, test it and defend it - and a strong project rarely starts with a striking image. It comes out of a process, usually one you revisit more than once.

The school stays close to professional practice: design briefs, public reviews, workshops, competitions, placements, conferences and diploma juries all connect academic work to wider debates in architecture.

For international students, three things stand out: a full Architecture programme taught in English, a professional framework recognised across Europe, and daily access to Bucharest as a working urban laboratory.



Why Bucharest

Bucharest is one of the strongest reasons to study at UAUIM.

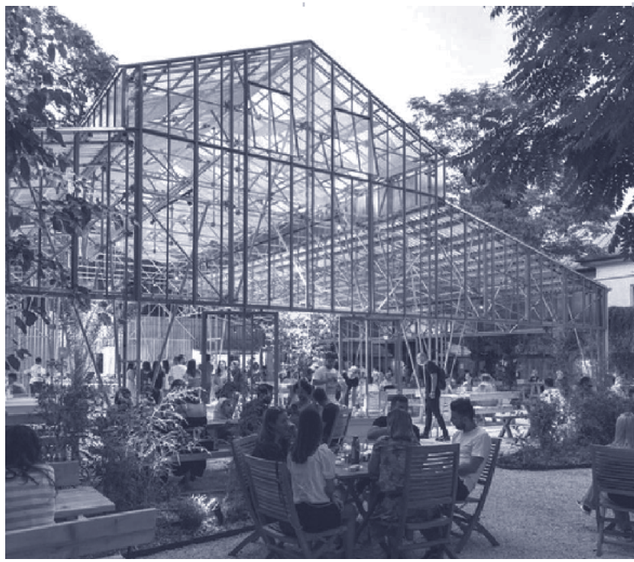
For an architecture student, the city is an eclectic and layered field of exploration: historic fabric, interwar modernism, socialist housing estates, post-industrial fragments, vulnerable heritage, dense neighbourhoods, large infrastructure, public space in transition, and fast-moving contemporary development.

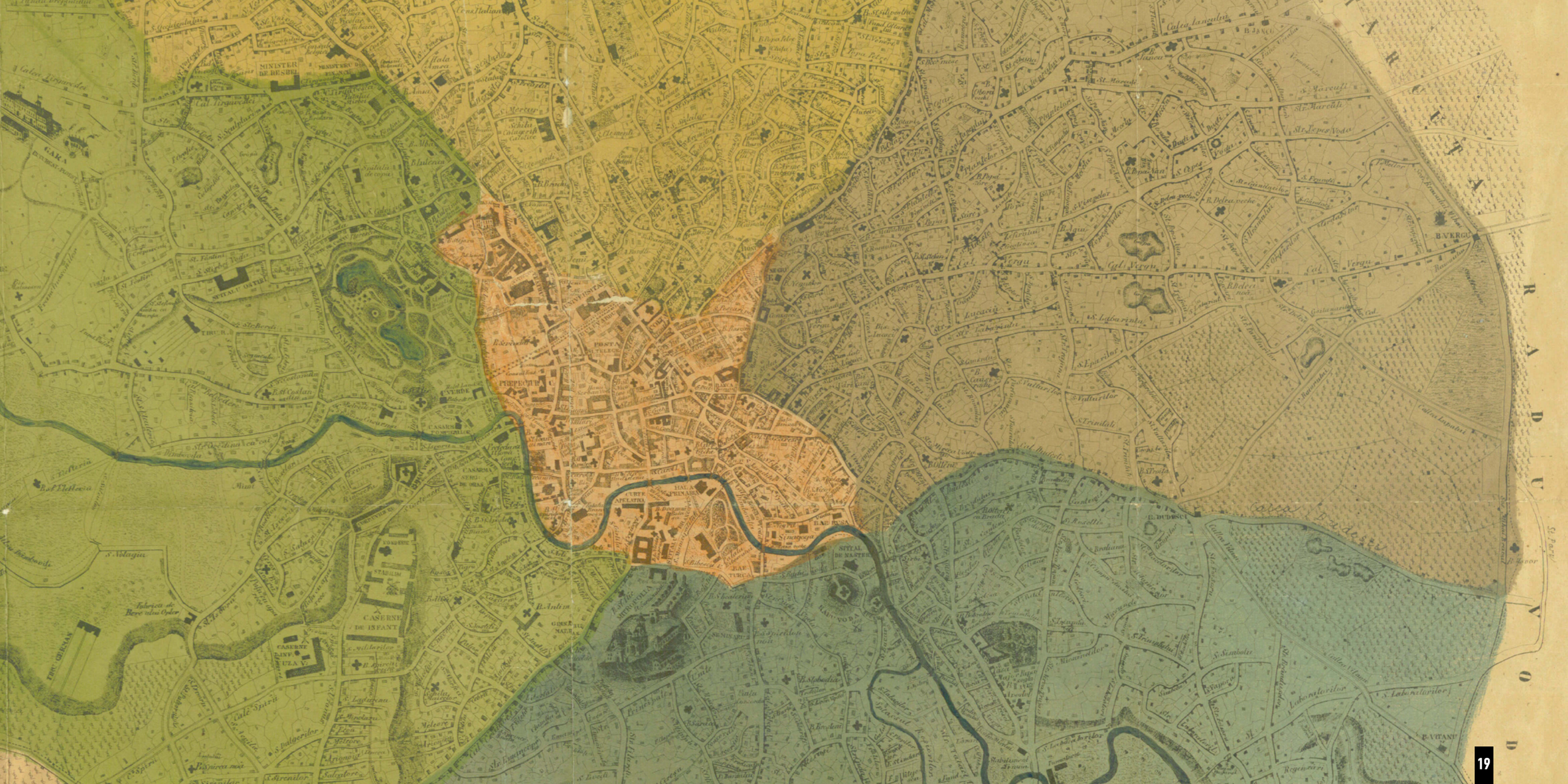
Much of this can be read straight off the street. Students can observe how heritage endures, how public space changes, how housing functions in everyday life, how infrastructure connects or cuts through a neighbourhood, how older buildings are adapted, and how a capital city grows under pressure.

Bucharest is also a culturally active European capital, and more affordable than many university cities in Western Europe. For an international student, this means studying architecture in a place where the very substance of the discipline is visible every day - often just a short walk from the school.








MINISTERE DE RESBEL
GARA
SPITALUL OSTIRI
CASERNE DE INFANT
CASERNE DE CAVALERIE
POSTA
PREFECTURA
CURTEA APELATIVA
BAR PUSA
BAR TURCA
SPITAL DE MASTEI
B. DUDESCI
B. VERGU
B. VITANU
Calea Dudesci

What you can study

UAUIM offers several routes into the built environment:

Architecture Building, site, structure, material, representation, history, theory, urban context, professional **practice - the Architecture programme covers it all, with the design studio at its core.**

Architecture in English A full architecture degree taught entirely in English, open to both Romanian and international students, in the same studio-based environment as the Romanian-language programme.

Urban Planning and Landscape Cities, territories, mobility, public space, landscape, governance, urban change - students here work across every scale, from the street and neighbourhood up to the metropolitan and regional level.

Interior Architecture and Design This pathway focuses on the spaces closest to everyday life: interiors, objects, furniture, materials, light, atmosphere, ergonomics, use. Students move from concept to detail, from sketch to prototype.

Heritage, Landscape and Territory in Sibiu Conservation, restoration, vernacular architecture, landscape, territorial planning - study pathway that connect design education to memory, ecology, material culture, and the long-term care of the built environment.

The Faculty of Architecture

Since: 1892

Degree Programmes

Architecture (Romanian taught) – 6 years of full-time study, 360 ECTS / EQF 7 (Master)

Architecture (English taught) – 6 years of full-time study, 360 ECTS / EQF 7 (Master)

Architectural Conservation and Restoration (Romanian taught) – 3 years of full-time study, 180 ECTS / EQF 6 (Bachelor)

The Faculty of Interior Architecture

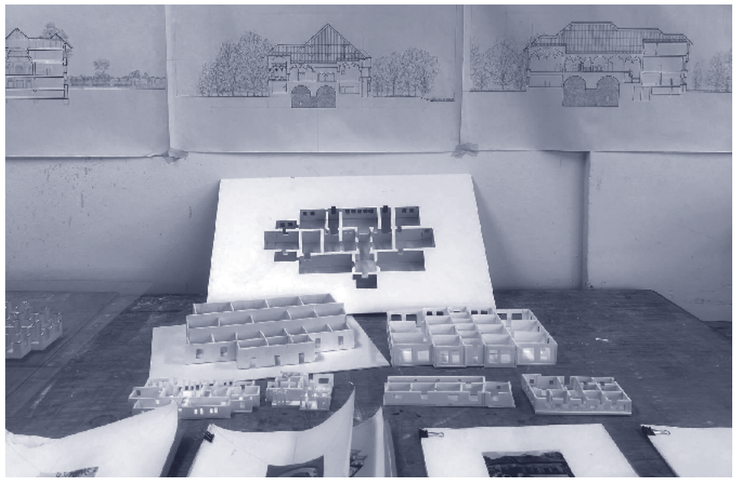
Since: 2003

Degree Programmes

Interior Architecture (Romanian taught) – 5 years of full-time study, 300 ECTS / EQF 7 (Master)

Product Design (Romanian taught) – 5 years of full-time study, 300 ECTS / EQF 7 (Master)

Furniture and Interior Design (Romanian taught) – 3 years of full-time study, 180 ECTS / EQF 6 (Bachelor)



The Faculty of Urban Planning

Since: 1997

Degree Programmes

Urban Design and Planning (Romanian taught) – 4 years of full-time study, 240 ECTS / EQF 6 (Bachelor)

Landscape Design and Planning (Romanian taught) – 4 years of full-time study, 240 ECTS / EQF 6 (Bachelor)

Urbanism and Territorial Management (Romanian taught) – 3 years of full-time study, 180 ECTS / EQF 6 (Bachelor)

Urban Design (Romanian taught) – 2 years of full-time study, 120 ECTS / EQF 7 (Master)

Urban Management for Competitive Cities (Romanian taught) – 2 years of full-time study, 120 ECTS / EQF 7 (Master)

Landscape and Territory (Romanian taught) – 2 years of full-time study, 120 ECTS / EQF 7 (Master)

Territorial Planning and Regional Development (Romanian taught) – 2 years of full-time study, 120 ECTS / EQF 7 (Master)

Urban Mobility (Romanian taught) – 2 years of full-time study, 120 ECTS / EQF 7 (Master)

Law of Urban and Territorial Planning (French taught) – 2 years of full-time study, 120 ECTS / EQF 7 (Master) / joint program with the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest

Urban Planning and Public Policies (Romanian taught) – 2 years of full-time study, 120 ECTS / EQF 7 (Master) / joint program with the Faculty of Political Sciences of the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

Study Architecture in English

The English-taught Architecture programme is the main pathway for international students who wish to complete an architecture degree at UAUIM entirely in English. It follows the same six-year, single-cycle structure as the Romanian-taught programme, comprising 360 ECTS credits and leading to a qualification at master's level (EQF Level 7), with the professional qualification of architect. The curriculum covers design studio, architectural theory and history, technology, urban culture, representation, professional practice and research.

Getting in: Admission runs on two tracks: language proficiency and design aptitude.

- English level: You'll need at least B2-level English. UAUIM accepts Cambridge B2 First (FCE), C1 Advanced (CAE), C2 Proficiency (CPE), TOEFL (score of at least 45), IELTS (band score of at least 5), ECL, and FIDES (B2, C1 or C2). Don't have a certificate yet? You can take UAUIM's English test instead. Just keep in mind that it's pass/fail: if you don't pass, you cannot continue your application in that admission session.
- Entrance exam: A test of drawing skills and basic knowledge of the field, held in English. You'll also need to talk about architecture-related images, so a good understanding of visual language is just as important as technical drawing skills.
- Portfolio: Required from every applicant, as specified in UAUIM's own published guidelines. It is worth checking these before putting one together, rather than guessing what they expect.

Exams take place twice a year, in July and September.

Paperwork

EU and non-EU applicants submit slightly different sets of documents, but both need an application form, baccalaureate diploma (validated through CNRED for EU candidates), transcript of records, birth certificate, passport copy, medical certificate, and proof of English proficiency. Non-EU applicants also need a Letter of Acceptance to Study issued by Romania's Ministry of Education, plus proof of stable residence abroad. Documents may be submitted in English, French, Spanish, Italian or Romanian; documents in any other language require a certified Romanian translation.

https://architecture.uauim.ro/

Costs

Subsidised, tuition-free seats are available for Romanian and EU students; non-EU applicants are generally admitted as fee-paying students, though Romanian government scholarships may be available. Tuition fees vary from year to year, so check the current figures on the admissions page rather than relying on information from other sources - including this guide.

Once you're in

The academic year runs from around 1 October to mid-July, split into two semesters, with exam sessions in January-February and June-July, plus a resit window in September. Design internships - in Romania or abroad - are built into the curriculum, and the university's own International Internships Office helps place students.

Diploma projects are presented before international juries, which usually meet in July and March. The programme also benefits from established forms of professional recognition. Since 2008, the UAUIM Diploma of Architect has been recognised under the European Union's framework for the recognition of professional qualifications, subject to the applicable registration requirements in each Member State. UAUIM's Architecture programme has also held RIBA validation since 1998. Graduates seeking professional registration in the United Kingdom should consult the Architects Registration Board (ARB) for the recognition procedures and eligibility requirements applicable to their qualifications.

For information on visas, insurance, housing and more, UAUIM runs a dedicated English-language site for the programme (architecture.uauim.ro) with a full practical-information section.

There's also a Secretary specifically for international students, who handles applications and can answer questions directly: Argentina Uță (+40 21 3077191, argentina_uta@yahoo.com)

Admission requirements, language certificates, portfolio rules, fees and deadlines change from year to year - always check the official UAUIM webpages for the latest information.

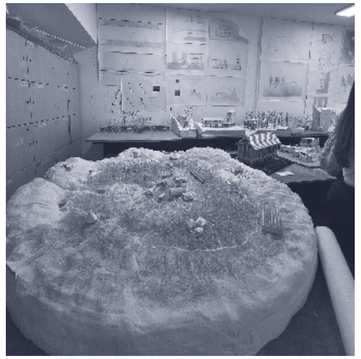


How you learn







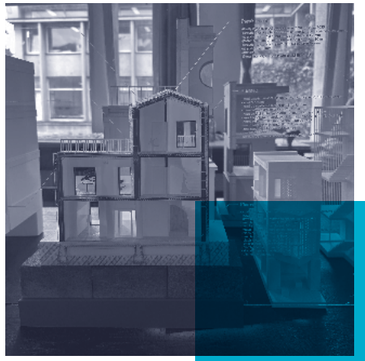


A project usually begins with a place, a building, a street, a fragment of the city, a programme, a material, or a question. From there, you move through sketches, models, drawings, research, tutorials and public reviews.

The studio is where you build a method: asking a precise design question, developing an argument, comparing alternatives, and presenting your decisions clearly.

The work is both individual and collaborative, bringing together drawing, model-making, mapping, writing, digital tools and oral presentation.

Lectures, seminars, technical courses, history and theory, construction, structures, representation, professional practice and research all support this process. The goal is to prepare graduates who can think spatially and work responsibly across every scale of the built environment.











Projects beyond the studio

Student life at UAUIM doesn't stop at classes and studio tutorials.

The university runs exhibitions, workshops, conferences, competitions, summer schools, public lectures, research sessions, book launches and urban initiatives - bringing students into contact with invited architects, researchers, artists, cultural institutions, professional organisations and partner schools.

Recurring themes include heritage, memory, public space, housing, sustainability, landscape, materials, craft, artificial intelligence, scenography, inclusion, architectural education, and the relationship between architecture and the city.

Through these activities, students learn to bring their work into the public eye: to exhibit it, explain it, defend it, and place it within a wider conversation.





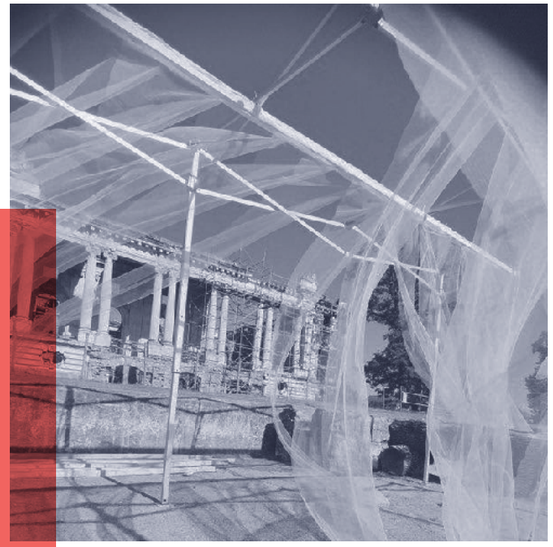
Study, travel, collaborate

UAUIM encourages students to connect what they learn in Bucharest with academic and professional experience elsewhere.

You can take part in Erasmus+ mobility, professional placements, international workshops, guest lectures, joint projects, diploma juries and collaborations with partner institutions - all of which put you in contact with other design cultures and different approaches to architectural practice.

UAUIM is also working to strengthen support for international students through mentoring, clearer information, academic guidance, and better integration into university life.











INTERSTUDIO

INTERSTUDIO is open to international students enrolled at UAUIM, including Erasmus+ students and those arriving through other mobility programmes. The programme offers free tutoring, mentoring and orientation to help students settle into academic life in Bucharest. Participants can receive individual guidance on courses, studio work, university procedures and student life, with support from UAUIM graduates and doctoral students familiar with the school's working culture. For students arriving from another academic system, INTERSTUDIO helps make the first steps clearer: how the studio works, where to ask for help, how to manage academic expectations and how to become part of the university community.

Interested students can register by sending an email to vlad.iosif@ymail.com.





















Facilities and resources

UAUIM offers students access to studios, laboratories, exhibition spaces, library resources and facilities for model-making, digital work, plotting and presentation. These spaces support the everyday rhythm of architectural education: drawing, testing, making, reading, discussing and preparing work for reviews.

The university library, founded in 1912, is one of the school's key resources, with extensive collections in architecture, urban planning, design, art, history and related fields. For international students, these facilities make it easier to navigate the school from the first weeks: where to work, where to read, where to prepare models, where to print, and where student projects are exhibited.


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+
tea
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kombucha
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09.00–20.00
sâmbătă
10.00–20.00
duminică
închis

Before you arrive

Before coming to Bucharest, check the official UAUIM webpages for up-to-date information on applications and admission, language and portfolio requirements, recognition of previous studies, visas and residence permits, health insurance, accommodation, academic calendars, Erasmus+ documents, and useful contacts.



Upon arrival

After arriving in Bucharest, you'll complete enrolment procedures, confirm your academic documents, contact the relevant faculty or office, and take part in orientation activities where available.

The first few weeks are also your first real opportunity to get to know the city. Bucharest needs to be walked, observed, drawn and understood - for an architecture student, arrival is already the start of fieldwork.


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After UAUIM

UAUIM graduates go on to work in architecture, urban planning, landscape, interior architecture, design, conservation, heritage, research, public administration, education, consultancy, exhibition design, scenography, and other creative or interdisciplinary fields.

That professional path starts during your years of study - through projects, portfolios, placements, mobility, competitions, workshops, and the diploma project.

Studying at UAUIM prepares you to work with buildings, interiors, objects, cities, territories and cultural contexts - to think through space, and to treat design as a responsibility toward people, places, and the built environment.

The official UAUIM website



https://www.uauim.ro/en/

Architecture in English



https://architecture.uauim.ro/

Admission



https://architecture.uauim.ro/admission/

Erasmus+



https://www.uauim.ro/en/university/exchanges-cooperation/erasmus/

International Relations



https://www.uauim.ro/en/university/exchanges-cooperation/iro/

Study Programmes



https://www.uauim.ro/en/university/education-offer/



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