The Associate Degree in Design (Furniture) brings together the essential parts of the Bachelor of Design (Industrial Design) and the Diploma of Furniture Technology to deliver design-focused learning with underpinning production and craft knowledge.

A broad range of topics are covered within the program to enable graduates to design with deep understanding of the many aspects of modern furniture making.

The program enables students to investigate contemporary, cultural and environmental aspects of the professional practice of furniture design.

Career outlook
Manufacturing companies in Australia and overseas employ furniture designers as consultants or employees in their product development teams. Many manufacturers employ furniture technologists/developers to develop and improve product ranges with their production departments. Graduates who have continued on to the Bachelor of Design (Industrial Design) are employed as designers in design studios and design consultancy firms or as entrepreneurs making products or servicing other design-related areas. Research institutions, such as environmental agencies and universities, also employ designers to work on many aspects of products and services.

The Associate Degree in Design (Furniture) combines theoretical content with selected employment-related skills to enable graduates to gain employment in the global furniture industry.
Program structure

Year one
Design Studies 1 (Furniture Design)
Design Principles and Elements
Workshop Methods
Communication 1 (Furniture Design)
Communication 2 (Furniture Design)
Design Studies 2 (Furniture Design)
Develop, Trial and Evaluate Prototypes
Design Process

Year two
Design Studio 3 (Furniture Design)
Design Studies 3 (Furniture Design)
Technology 3 (Furniture Design)
Design Studio 4 (Furniture Design)
Technology 4 (Furniture Design)
Independent Professional Practice for Furniture Designers

The program has four course streams: Design Studies, Technology, Design Studio and Communication.

- **Design Studies**
  
  This course looks at both design and business practice and explores the critical role that design plays in engaging with objects and systems. A significant aspect of this course is concerned with the future and the enrichment of people's furniture experiences.

- **Technology**
  
  This course is based upon the inherent flexibility of technological solutions to design ideas. Students are encouraged to experiment with ideas and solutions and to explore the range of modern technologies open to designers.

- **Design Studio**
  
  The real world practice of furniture design is replicated in the classroom. Exemplars of good practice are studied. The studio context opens up themes—of the way people live and work in this world and how they construct their lives. Students are encouraged to develop designs which meet real world problems in practical and economical terms.

- **Communication**
  
  Students are encouraged to develop a range of means of communicating their design concerns and ideas. Emphasis is given to the use of visual and electronic forms of communication.

Entrance requirements

Academic

Successful completion of Year 12, Foundation Studies program or equivalent.

English

One of the following:

- IELTS (Academic)—6.0+ (no band less than 5.5)
- TOEFL Paper based—550+ (TWE 4.0+)
- TOEFL Computer based—213+ (TWE 4.0+)
- TOEFL Internet based (iBT)—Overall score 79, minimum 19 in all sections
- RMIT English Worldwide (REW)—English for Academic Purposes Advanced 1

Pathways

Graduates of the Associate Degree in Design (Furniture) who have been successful in gaining a place in the Bachelor of Design (Industrial Design) (BP195) program will be eligible to continue their studies into the program’s third year. This enables students to gain two qualifications in four years on a two plus two model.

Graduates of the Diploma of Furnishing Technology (C5153) and Diploma of Arts (Furniture Design) (C5111) who have been successful in gaining a place in the program will be eligible to apply for exemptions.

Teaching methods

The teaching staff are drawn from professional design and production backgrounds and are extremely experienced in furniture for industrial production. The program is particularly suited to students who are genuinely curious, want to be challenged, and are keen to explore professional opportunities whether in a major production company or as independent designers.

Assessment

Assessment is ongoing throughout the semester and may include examinations, reports, oral class presentations, group projects, research projects, lab skill exams, online tests and practical assignments.

Application procedures

Apply via

International Student Application Form

www.rmit.edu.au/international/future

Closing dates

There are no application deadlines. However, due to program popularity, prospective students are encouraged to submit their application as early as possible.

Folio

All applicants are required to submit five to six pieces that best represent the ability, interest and design skills of the applicant including freehand sketches, photographs and digital images.

Fees

For the latest fee information, please refer to our website:

www.rmit.edu.au/international/programfees

Additional costs

A full-time student in the first year and beyond can expect to spend approximately AU$1000 on materials and design presentation work depending on the nature of projects undertaken and materials selected.