

## ARCH 490, 590, 790 DIRECTED RESEARCH GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

### Guidelines

- Directed Research was created to address the specific situation of a student being interested in deeply investigating an issue that falls outside of his/her course work. The student is allowed to find a faculty member willing to monitor and contribute to this targeted investigation within the time frame of one particular semester.
- They must submit the request for registration in a timely way so that if the proposal does get returned by either the Associate Dean, the Program Director or the Faculty member, there is time to correct before the registration deadline.
- Every student must personally fill out the paper forms (no last minute email requests from either faculty or student, even if abroad).
- Unless there is an approved exception granted by the Associate Dean, the units earned are not to exceed 2 units.
- Typically, faculty members are encouraged not to accept more than 1-2 unit or 2-1 unit Directed Research proposals per student per semester.
- Both the accepted faculty member, Program Director and Associate Dean must sign the form. If the 590 or 790 intended for credit towards a certificate, that program director's signature is also required.
- If student is traveling, or not yet on campus, the Student Services office will put a PDF of the form on the Architecture D-Clearance site so that students may fill out the proper forms. It is the student's responsibility to obtain signatures and delivery of this form within the time frame of registration.

### Procedures

- The narrative included in the proposal has to outline the key pedagogical values of this exploration (no credits for working for others, vague topic to be covered, etc.). There must be a point to be explored.
- The faculty and student must determine a set of deliverables to be produced that are equivalent to the proposed unit count. These deliverables are to register that deep and impactful learning has taken place equal to the amount of units granted. A list of deliverables must be attached to the proper forms.
- There must be a calendar of work outlined – along with the narrative and deliverables list.
- The faculty member is expected to meet with the student on a regular, once a week basis.
- *An electronic copy of the final deliverables/paper/report must be provided to the Associate Dean, which will be included in the school archives.*

### 2020-2021 Academic Year Administration Program Directors and Advisors

Bachelor of Architecture and B.S. in Architectural Studies: Doris Sung (dorissun@usc.edu)  
Master of Architecture: Selwyn Ting (sting@usc.edu)  
Master of Building Science: Douglas Noble (dnoble@usc.edu)  
Master of Heritage Conservation: Trudi Sandmeier (sandmeie@usc.edu)  
Master of Landscape Architecture: Alison Hirsch (alisonh@usc.edu)  
Ph.D. in Architecture: Douglas Noble (dnoble@usc.edu)

**Associate Dean:** Douglas Noble (dnoble@usc.edu)



# USC Architecture

## DIRECTED RESEARCH

## ARCH 490

FALL SPRING SUMMER \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle one Year

Section# \_\_\_\_\_  
To be assigned by Student Services

Units \_\_\_\_\_  
Each unit represents 45 hours of work during the semester

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ USC# \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTOR \_\_\_\_\_

---

Directed Research consists of individual research and readings that apply toward the degree. Directed Research requires personal one-to-one interaction between faculty and student according to a mutually agreed-to format and research plan. Students are responsible for finding a faculty member to work with you on your proposed topic of research.

ARCH-490 is letter-graded with a maximum of 12 units that may be applied toward the degree as professional Architecture elective. This research opportunity is available to upper division undergraduate students with superior academic standing.

Once all the signatures have been obtained, submit this form to Architecture Student Services. You will be contacted via email with the section number and will be given D-Clearance for the course. It will be your responsibility to register for the course.

- 
- Itemize the critical research topic/question
  - Include a schedule and set of deliverables for both mid-term and final presentations/reviews.
  - Make clear the value of this research project relative to your degree level. Oversimplified or underwhelming proposals will be rejected.
  - Deliverables must be in both hardcopy and PDF format. These should be scaled to the number of units requested.
    - The faculty member and student are expected to meet regularly once a week.
    - As with all course work, the supervising faculty should provide feedback to you at mid-term so you both can assess your progress.
    - Attach your research description and schedule to this form.

---

Student Signature

Date

*I approve of the proposed project and agree to supervise the student's work.*

---

Instructor

Date

---

Doris Sung  
Director of Undergraduate Architecture

Date

---

Douglas Noble  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Date