

Competition Questions and Answers

Does the campus have any specific campus design standards or pre-existing purchasing agreements for equipment or other items?

Design standards for the campus do not exist, however the University Ergonomist will be consulted during documentation and selection of fitout items.

Does the university have any favored approaches, etc, for building services?

No single approach is preferred for consideration at competition stage. The University will examine how the servicing of the new ABP building will form part of a campus-wide strategy to reduce energy and water use, to be considered at detailed design and documentation phase.

Are there district services linking the architecture building to adjacent buildings?

For the purposes of the competition, services are assumed to be wholly contained within each campus building.

Will the building require its own electric substation?

A substation will not be required.

What type of payback period does the University use as a threshold for their investment in evaluating design choices for first cost investment versus lower future operating costs?

No current methodology exists for calculating pay-back period for infrastructure assets.

Is the fee proposal to be for architectural services only, exclusive of sub consultants, or should we include a total fee for the design team?

The fee proposal to be submitted with the presentation should be for architectural services only.

What is the expected fee basis – lump sum or a percentage of the construction cost?

Fee proposals can be either lump sum or percentage, based on the stated budget of AU\$90 million for construction costs.

Will there be a briefing phase prior to schematic design, and if so, what is the expected scope for this phase?

The appointed architects will be contracted to undertake a full project briefing prior to commencing design stages.

Could you provide us with a project schedule including the expected project milestones?

Current schedule is for briefing, design, documentation and tender to take place between October 2009 and October 2010, with construction scheduled to occur between January 2011 and December 2012. Appropriate milestones will be determined during briefing stage.

What is the resolution of the projector output?

Projector output is 1024x768 pixels.

Can we use our own laptop & software to present?

Laptops (mac/PC) can be connected to the projector via VGA cables, please make sure you have the correct adaptors to convert your laptop output to VGA.

Can we submit a written report along with the multimedia presentation and 8xA2 sheets?

Separate reports will not be accepted, all written material should be incorporated into the required presentation format.

Can we modify our digital presentation between submission to the Competition Coordinator on August 11 and our scheduled presentation time?

Minor changes to sequence or format of text and images are acceptable, however substantive change to the presentation should not be made.

Could you please confirm that undergraduate design studios are intended to meet for scheduled class sessions in the tutorial/seminar rooms?

Undergraduate design studio classes will take place in shared studio spaces, with a 2-3 hour session scheduled for each group throughout the week.

Could you please provide an outline of undergraduate studio teaching in the new Melbourne Model – for example how many students per year for each discipline enrolled in design studios, how many instructors per studio? How big are the review groups and where are the reviews currently held?

A typical undergraduate design class will consist of up to 240 students with up to 15 tutors taking groups of 16 students each. Reviews are currently held in the level 2 and 3 design spaces in the Architecture building.

As discussed in the competition briefing, could you please provide an example of a research program (members, duration, outcomes, methodology, publications, collaborators), preferably one that would use a research studio?

Research programs vary widely, but will often comprise 2-3 academic staff plus 3-6 research assistants and postgraduate students working over a 3-4 year period producing journal articles, published reports, and PhD theses. Groups may have other contributors from academia or industry who would contribute on a regular basis, communicating with other members through meetings or email.

Could you please provide an outline of how many of the graduate students listed on page 7 of the Concept Brief will be enrolled in design studios? Is it intended that each student will have an assigned desk?

The majority of the graduate students referred to in the brief would undertake design-type subjects, with approximately 1 in 5 using an allocated desk within the faculty (total 130).

Is it possible to build below grade, are there any special soil conditions in that area of campus that we should be aware of?

It is possible to build below grade on the Parkville site, there are no soil conditions that would prevent this.

Does the 1856 Bank of NSW façade have to be incorporated into the new faculty building, or is it possible to move it elsewhere on campus?

The Heritage Façade can be left in place, moved to another location within the new architecture building, or moved to another location elsewhere on campus.

Can we have a copy of the presentation recordings?

Video recordings of the presentations from the week of the briefing session have been edited and saved to CD, and will be posted shortly.