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'Harrow College helped me be a step ahead of my peers at university'



A student who is graduating from her BA Architecture degree this summer has looked back on how support from Harrow College set her up for success.

Pragna Navinkumar moved to the UK from India in 2015. She attended Claremont High School in Harrow and Preston Manor School in Wembley, before enrolling in three different courses back-to-back at Harrow College from 2017 to 2021.

Pragna first studied Vocational Studies Entry 3 alongside GCSE Maths. With an enthusiasm for the arts, she explained how this course became her pathway into her passion.

She said: “After this, I completed a UAL Level 2 Diploma in Art and Design, followed by a UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Architecture, Interior, and Product Design at the Harrow Weald campus.

“At the end of Level 2, I had two pathways open to me: architecture or fashion design. I chose architecture because of my interest in building design. From a very young age, I noticed how certain spaces and environments make us feel, which made me want to learn more about these human-made physical spaces.”

After graduating college, Pragna studied BA Architecture at De Montfort University in Leicester.

Explaining how her studies at Harrow College prepared her for this course, Pragna said: “Because I had already studied architecture, I possessed the basic skills required for my first year at university, which meant I was a step ahead of my peers. It also helped me better understand the subject from day one, as I was already familiar with the industry terminology and the work of well-known architects.

“The Harrow College staff were always supportive and guided me to create quality work. All of the workshops, teaching sessions, technical support, one-to-one tutorials, and constant feedback helped me broaden my knowledge and encouraged me to pursue a career in architecture. They also helped me immensely with my UCAS application and personal statement.”

At the time of writing, Pragna is currently applying for job opportunities in the architecture field to gain a year of experience before starting her master’s degree.

When asked what advice she would give to a student considering a career in architecture, Pragna said: “I would advise them to do their own research about the industry and talk to people who are already working in the field. The qualifications are currently in the process of changing, so it is important to keep yourself updated with the news.

“It is a long journey to become a qualified architect and it can get frustrating at times, so maintaining a good work-life balance is essential. Otherwise, the subject itself is incredibly creative and fascinating.”

To find out more about how Harrow College can help you fulfil your ambitions, please visit [Home | Harrow College](#)

Note to editors: Following a merger in 2023, HRUC (Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges) has rapidly evolved into a thriving educational hub with three colleges and a strong apprenticeship provision.

The diverse and aspiring college group now serves nearly 15,000 learners across west and south London, offering a range of courses, including A-Levels vocational programmes, T-Levels, and apprenticeships. The College group also proudly supports over 850 learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), providing tailored programmes and internships to help them thrive.

