

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE**

**MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ADMISSION for 2019**

Applications are invited for admission in September 2019 to read for the degree of Master of Landscape Architecture.

To be eligible for admission to the programme, a candidate shall satisfy both the University Admissions Requirements and the Programme Specific Requirements as listed below:

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to high degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b).

An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

The Division admits up to 36 local and international students to the MLA program each year, and welcomes applications from students with a broad range of academic and cultural backgrounds. The Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) is an advanced, research-based degree in landscape architecture. The program provides students with the fundamental design knowledge and skills for the professional practice in landscape architecture. The MLA program is accredited by the HKILA (which has reciprocal membership arrangements with professional institutions in New Zealand and Australia).

Students engage in a wide range of studies covering the history of the discipline, contemporary theories in landscape architecture, biophysical systems, landscape materials and their technologies, and landscape design. The program is intensive. In addition to project-based design studio projects, technical studies and practical exercises, students are expected to learn advanced skills in visual communication and digital technology, and to read literature relating to the discipline and related fields extensively, and to write to full academic standards.

Topical issues addressed during the program currently include issues such as urbanism, human settlement, community and heritage, public space, green infrastructure, impacts of climate change, environmental remediation, conservation, and sustainable development.

Students are exposed to diverse approaches to a broad range of environmental, contextual and problem solving challenges. Innovation and quality in design are strongly promoted. Students are required to carry out research projects and participate in field trips, overseas study tours, joint studios and practical construction exercises.

The MLA program extends over two years of full-time study. There is no part-time mode. The curriculum and syllabuses can be found at the Faculty of Architecture website (<http://www.arch.hku.hk/>).

Students without existing training in design may be eligible for the Postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture program. This distinct, one-year curriculum is structured to provide an introductory education in the discipline of landscape architecture and prepare students for continuing studies at a master's level.

All students who are accepted into the MLA program (irrespective of background) are required to participate in the MLA Prerequisite Course. This is a two-week intensive course (starting in the middle of August) that introduces students to the Division and its pedagogical approach. Students need to ensure that they can attend and participate in the whole course, as successful completion of it is a pre-requisite to entering the main MLA program.

The composition fee for the 2019-2020 academic year is HK\$156,000* (excluding expenses for overseas field trips and joint studios). (*Subject to approval).

Applications for a taught postgraduate programme can be submitted via HKU Taught Postgraduate Admission online application system at www.hku.hk/tpg/ by **12:00 noon (HKT), January 31, 2019.**

Soft-copy Submission Requirements

After you complete your HKU online application, you should submit the following soft-copy via the "Submission System for MLA Applicants" available at the following link:

<https://extranet.ad.arch.hku.hk/Admission/MLA>

- 1) Fully completed online application form can be submitted via HKU Taught Postgraduate Admission online application system at <http://www.hku.hk/tpg/>.
- 2) Application fee is non-refundable and non-transferrable.
- 3) Official transcripts of academic record and graduation certificate from all post-secondary school institutions that you have attended. If official transcripts are not available at the time of application, progress transcript must be submitted.
- 4) Official scores from TOEFL or IELTS etc (if applicable)
- 5) Two letters of reference by previous teachers or professional employers submitted by the referees directly to the University of Hong Kong. Referee should use and submit the designated form via an online system: <https://extranet.ad.arch.hku.hk/Referee/MLA/>.

- 6) Portfolio of your own creative work: no larger than A4 size, and ideally, having no more than 20 pages (double sided), should be submitted via an online system: <https://extranet.ad.arch.hku.hk/Admission/MLA>. The maximum file size is **30 MB**.

The content of your portfolio is a visual essay of your creative work. It should reflect your interests, skills, and development over time. The projects included should express your visual, spatial, and analytical abilities, regardless of your background in landscape architecture, architecture, or other disciplines. Your portfolio will be evaluated less on competence in landscape architectural design, but more for a demonstration of visual and spatial thinking through material constructions, drawings, or other media and your ability for problem solving through design thinking. You might consider including images from sketchbooks or journals that illustrate your process of thinking, research, investigation, creation and representation. Labels and writing should be kept to a minimum but sufficient to explain the work.

Proper credit and context must be given on all work shown including clear indication of the author, collaborators, and professional office in which the work was completed or academic course and instructor for which the work was completed, where relevant. Failure to properly credit work may result in the portfolio being discounted.

- 7) Personal essay: you should submit an essay that addresses your background as it relates to your professional and academic interests and your motivations in applying to the Master of Landscape Architecture program. The essay must be entirely your own work, written in English, and no more than 500 words.
- 8) Brief Curriculum Vitae (1 Page)

Admission is both rigorous and competitive. Candidates should show that they:

- Have an understanding of Landscape (i.e. both the biophysical and built environment) and the Landscape Architectural discipline;
- Have a strong interest in issues relating to the Environment and Community;
- Can think critically, and have an aptitude for design and its representation; and
- Can be collaborative and are willing to learn.

The MLA Admissions Panel selects candidates for interview on the basis of their academic background, working experience, letters of recommendation, personal essay, and portfolio of original creative works. Admission is offered on the basis of both interview performance and their submissions.

*** Detailed soft-copy submission guidelines and login details will be sent to the applicants and referees respectively via email within one day upon completion of online application. It is crucial that the applicants input accurate information on their online application form.**

Any inaccurate information may cause email delivery failures and unavailable access to online submission systems.