

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (MLA)

These regulations and syllabuses will apply to candidates admitted in the academic year 2008-2009 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

Admission requirements

Ar251 To be eligible for admission to the degree of Master of Landscape Architecture, a candidate

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
 - (ii) a Master of Architecture degree of this University¹; or
 - (iii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

Qualifying examination

Ar252

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's formal academic ability or his ability to follow the prescribed courses. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
- (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he has satisfied the examiners in the examination.

Award of degree

Ar253 To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Landscape Architecture, a candidate

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations; and
- (b) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations and syllabuses set out below.

Curriculum

Ar254

- (a) The curriculum shall extend over not less than two years of full-time study.
- (b) Candidates who are MArch graduates and have registered for the MLA shall gain 12 credits of common MArch/MLA courses and 9 credits of MArch/MLA joint studio course and the curriculum shall extend over not less than 12 months of full-time study. This mode of study is subjected to approval by the Head and Programme Director.

¹ MArch graduates in pursuit of the dual degree programme have up to two years to enroll in the MLA Programme.

- (c) To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall
- (i) enroll for courses of a total of 108 credits² or a total of 87 credits for candidates admitted under Regulation Ar251(b)(ii) (the average load per semester being 27 credits); and
 - (ii) follow instruction in the prescribed courses including prerequisite summer course but excluding courses for which he has been granted exemption on the recommendation of the Head and the Programme Director, and subject to confirmation by the Higher Architecture Degrees Committee, and complete satisfactorily all coursework requirements set either as tests or as parts of any examination; and
 - (iii) satisfy the examiners at the First and Final Examinations in the manner specified with regulations and syllabuses set out below. A candidate may, subject to approval by the Programme Director, take other postgraduate course(s) in the Faculty of Architecture to fulfill the elective course requirements.
- (d) The First Examination shall comprise an examination of the candidate's completed projects and coursework in Landscape planning and design I and II (15 credits each), and may include an oral examination, two elective courses (total 6 credits), and the following six core courses:
- (i) Landscape planting I (3 credits)
 - (ii) Landscape technology I (3 credits)
 - (iii) Landscape technology II (3 credits)
 - (iv) History and theory of landscape architecture I (3 credits)
 - (v) History and theory of landscape architecture II (3 credits)
 - (vi) Ecology and design (3 credits) or Sustainable use and management of soils (3 credits)
- (e) The Final Examination shall comprise an examination of the candidate's completed projects and coursework in Landscape planning and design III and IV (15 credits each), and shall include an oral examination, two elective courses (total 6 credits), and the following six core courses:
- (i) Landscape planting II (3 credits)
 - (ii) Computer-aided design methods for landscape architecture I (3 credits)
 - (iii) Computer-aided design methods for landscape architecture II (3 credits)
 - (iv) Landscape architectural practice I (3 credits)
 - (v) Landscape architectural practice II (3 credits)
 - (vi) Sustainable use and management of soils (3 credits) or Ecology and design (3 credits)
- (f) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses which they have registered for and assessment may be conducted in any one or any combination of the following manners: written examinations or tests, written assignments or exercises, continuous assessment of performance, laboratory work, field work, research or project reports, or any other manner as determined by the examiners.
- (g) At the discretion of the Head of the Department, field work on one or more guided trips outside of Hong Kong may form an integral part of the curriculum for the degree.

Examinations

Ar255 The following clauses apply to candidates of all years:

- (a) Candidates who have passed in Landscape Planning and Design in the first semester or Landscape Planning and Design in the second semester;
 - (i) but failed in not more than three other core courses in the respective year Examination at the first attempt may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the same course or courses before the commencement of the

² 1 credit = 8 teaching/contact hours per semester (or 3-credit course = 2 teaching/contact hours per week)

following semester. Those who have failed in not more than one course in the second attempt may be permitted to proceed to the subsequent semester of the curriculum and to present themselves for re-examination in the same course only once more in the following academic year. Those who have failed in more than one course in the second attempt shall not be permitted to proceed to the subsequent semester and be required to repeat all or part of the respective year curriculum and to present themselves for re-examination only once more in the following academic year.

- (ii) but failed in more than three other core courses in the respective year Examination at the first attempt shall not be permitted to proceed to the subsequent semester and be required to repeat all or part of that year curriculum and to present themselves for re-examination in the following academic year. If they fail again at the second attempt, they may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination only once more before the commencement of the following academic year.
- (b) Candidates who have failed Landscape Planning and Design in the first semester shall not be permitted to continue in Landscape Planning and Design in the second semester. Candidates who have failed in Landscape Planning and Design in the first semester or Landscape Planning and Design in the second semester;
 - (i) and in not more than three other core courses in the respective year Examination at the first attempt may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination before the commencement of the following semester. If they fail again in any core course or in Landscape Planning and Design at the second attempt they shall not be permitted to proceed to the subsequent semester and be required to repeat all or part of that year curriculum and to present themselves for re-examination only once more in the following academic year.
 - (ii) and in more than three other core courses in the respective year Examination at the first attempt shall not be permitted to proceed to the subsequent semester and be required to repeat all or part of that year curriculum and to present themselves for re-examination in the following academic year. If they fail again at the second attempt, they may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination only once more before the commencement of the following academic year.
- (c) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in one or more electives in their first attempt may be permitted under special circumstances to register for alternative courses and be examined at a specified date. If they fail to satisfy the examiners, in any of the substitute courses, they may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination only once more at specified date. If any of the failed courses is not being offered in the particular academic year, this may be construed as a special circumstance for the purpose of this article.
- (d) Candidates who have failed in any core course of the respective year Examination at the third attempt shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulations G 12.

Examination results

Ar256

- (a) At the conclusion of the examination a pass list of candidates awarded the degree of Master of Landscape Architecture shall be published. A candidate who has shown exceptional merit at the whole of the examination may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded on the candidate's degree certificate.
- (b) A candidate who has presented himself more than once for Final Examination in any of the core courses shall not be eligible for distinction unless the Senate directs that he shall be so eligible because of exceptional circumstances.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Notes: For the purpose of these syllabuses, the teaching of each course will be conducted within one semester.

The choice of elective courses by each candidate is subject to prior approval by the teacher(s) of the courses and by the MLA staff.

SUMMER PREREQUISITE COURSE

ARCH7100. Basic design and graphics (3 credits)

This is an intensive introductory course of about 4-6 weeks in duration in two- and three-dimensional design, aesthetics, basic skills in sketching, free-hand and mechanical drawing. Holders of an architectural or landscape architectural degree are exempted from this course.

FIRST YEAR CORE COURSES

ARCH7101 & ARCH7102. Landscape planning and design I and II (15 credits each)

This studio course engages candidates in practical problem-solving exercises in landscape architecture under staff guidance and supervision. Projects will call for design integration of the many factors which shape our physical landscapes including ecology, society, urban design, and architectural parameters, with special attention being paid to local and regional characteristics. Besides a major project, sketch design problems will be set to train and test candidates' ability to produce and express design concepts with reason, imagination and sensitivity under time constraints. Field trips will be required.

ARCH7103. Landscape planting I (3 credits)

This course helps students to acquire basic knowledge and skills commonly called for in landscape planting design and management. After an introductory overview of plant physiology, ecology and taxonomy, the course focuses on plant species used in landscape works in this region. Environmental, functional, amenity, health, ornamental and other purposes and parameters of landscape planting are then dealt with, followed by design applications, conventions and skills in the preparation of documents for landscape planting.

ARCH7104. Landscape technology I (3 credits)

This course covers the basic theory and practice of site engineering for landscape architects including earthworks, grading, drainage, basic surveying and road alignment. Earth materials, soil mechanics, and site investigation will be reviewed as a basis to site engineering operations. Coursework may include regular assignments, site visits, and site study reports.

ARCH7105. Landscape technology II (3 credits)

As a continuation of Landscape technology I, this course covers landscape architectural construction materials and landscape architectural construction design and detailing. Retaining walls, outdoor paving, lighting, fountains, and other landscape construction elements are included. Coursework may include regular assignments, site visits, and site study reports.

ARCH7106. History and theory of landscape architecture I (3 credits)

Illustrated lectures will be given on the historical development of landscape design in its various cultural contexts. Basic theory of design as related to landscape architecture will be dealt with as a basis for the studio course in landscape planning and design. Coursework may include studies on selected topics and a sketch book assignment.

ARCH7107. History and theory of landscape architecture II (3 credits)

As a continuation of History and theory of landscape architecture I, this course continues to examine the historical development of landscape design in its various geographic and cultural contexts, including recent and contemporary designs. The theory and practice of contemporary landscape architecture will be dealt with. Coursework may include studies on selected topics and a sketch book assignment.

SECOND YEAR CORE COURSES

ARCH7201 & ARCH7202. Landscape planning and design III and IV (15 credits each)

This course is a continuation of Landscape planning and design I and II, and concludes with a design thesis where a written report is also required. Candidates are required to demonstrate a mature understanding of their chosen topics during an oral examination. Subject to staff approval, a written dissertation may be undertaken in lieu of the design thesis.

ARCH7203. Landscape planting II (3 credits)

As a continuation of course ARCH 7103 Landscape planting I, this course deals with the more technical, administrative and management aspects of landscape planting. Topics to be focused on include trees in cities and amenity turfgrass. The course concludes with maintenance and management considerations.

ARCH7204. Computer-aided design methods for landscape architecture I (3 credits)

This course provides a study of current computer techniques which can be used by landscape architects as design aids. General computer related knowledge such as internet, word processing, and image processing will be reviewed. Two- and three-dimensional drafting, design, and presentation techniques will be covered.

ARCH7205. Computer-aided design methods for landscape architecture II (3 credits)

As a continuation of Computer-aided design methods for landscape architecture I, this course provides a more specialized study of current computer techniques and related knowledge. Landscape specific techniques such as three-dimensional terrain modeling, site planning and analysis, planting and irrigation, and geographic information systems will be covered. Philosophical and management aspects relating to the technology will also be discussed.

ARCH7206. Landscape architectural practice I (3 credits)

This course deals with the principles of landscape architectural practice. After an introduction to the scope and conduct of landscape architectural practice including contract law and other relevant laws and enactments affecting it, the various parameters of management practice are discussed. The different forms of contract procurement and the sequential stages of conventional projects are explained, from design to tender procedures. Coursework such as study reports and exercises, and office visits may be required.

ARCH7207. Landscape architectural practice II (3 credits)

Continuing from Landscape architectural practice I, this course deals with the roles played by members in the project team in the post-contract stages, focusing especially on the work of landscape consultants in the process from work commencement to final completion. Coursework such as study reports and exercises, and office visits may be required.

FIRST/SECOND YEAR CORE COURSES

The two courses may be offered in alternate years and candidates are required to take these courses in the first/second year:

ARCH7108. Ecology and design (3 credits)

This course covers the basic principles of ecology, with special emphasis on urban environments and the impact of construction and land development on natural processes.

ARCH7209 Sustainable use and management of soils (3 credits)

This course introduces students to soils as an integral component of the environment and a pertinent natural resource. It provides a broad foundation to basic concepts of soil as a natural body by assessing systematically the mineral and organic composition as well as their related properties. The physical organization of soils in the form of structure and its manipulation by humankind in the form of tillage are elucidated. Topics on the ability of soils to supply nutrients for plant growth, the use of different forms of chemical and organic fertilizers, and contamination of soils by pollutants, are covered. The importance of soil moisture and their maintenance at an optimal state are explained in the context of drainage and irrigation. The general degradation of soils due to human-accelerated erosion and other unsustainable activities are evaluated together with the prospects for proper ecological rehabilitation and conservation. The course contents and presentation are designed for students with arts, social sciences or science backgrounds.

ELECTIVE COURSES³

ARCH5102. Chinese landscapes (3 credits)

Beginning with a background survey of the varied landscapes of China - physical, functional, pictorial, cultural - the course proceeds to focus on an unique landscape type: the Chinese garden. Its tangible elements, both natural and man-made, together with its intentions, poetics and symbolisms will be analyzed, leading to an appreciation of integrated compositions as exemplified by well-known gardens from that historical tradition. Theories on their aesthetics and design as well as their relationship with Chinese architecture, philosophy, literature and painting will also be explored and discussed.

ARCH7031. Principles of building for landscape architecture (3 credits)

This course introduces practical design and construction process, with emphasis upon the principles, basic elements, materials and form within traditional construction. This course is an extension of ARCH 1005 Principles of building. Additional coursework may be required.

ARCH7032. Contemporary Japanese architecture (3 credits)

This course intends to signify the differences and similarities of spatial conceptions between Western and Japanese architecture. This course is an extension of ARCH 3003 History and theory of architecture V. Additional coursework may be required.

ARCH7033. Horticulture and design (3 credits)

This course deals with botanical and horticultural principles and practices in relation to design. It covers the hierarchical nature of the plant kingdom, the physiological relationships between structure and function of plant organs, responses of plants to environmental factors, techniques for plant multiplication, selection of plants suitable for use particularly in urban areas, species interactions and management of landscaped sites in terms of nutritional requirements and control of pests and diseases. Field trips will be required.

ARCH7034. Independent study in landscape architecture I (3 credits)

This course incorporates supervised studies on special approved topics in landscape architecture by individuals or small groups. Oral presentations and special study reports/paper will be required.

ARCH7035. Independent study in landscape architecture II (3 credits)

This course incorporates supervised studies on special approved topics in landscape architecture by individuals or small groups. Oral presentations and special study reports/paper will be required.

³ Not all of the courses are offered every year.

ARCH7038. Trees for green and liveable cities (3 credits)

This course introduces students to trees as the most dominant element of the natural-green compartment of an urban ecosystem. As prominent landscape features and ecological contributors to biodiversities in human settlements, trees are surveyed with respect to composition and structure, environmental conditions for their existence, multiple benefits and functions that they can bring to city inhabitants, and general pattern of greenspaces in cities. Various stress factors dampening tree vigour in the trying urban environment in the above- and below-ground realms, and the resulting arboricultural problems, are considered. The practical management of trees in the urban landscape is elaborated with reference to species composition and selection to match different site conditions, tree planting techniques and subsequent care, tree preservation and transplanting, and the assessment and valuation of urban trees. By adopting a non-technical approach, students with arts, social sciences or science background with an interest in the natural aspects of cities are targeted.

Elective Courses Offered by MArch, MUD or ACP :

ARCH5101	Art in Architecture
ARCH5103	Housing in urban development
ARCH5105	The design of Chinese cities
ARCH5107	Vernacular architecture of Asia
ARCH5302	Computer graphics for architects
ARCH5304	The computer in architecture
ARCH5403	Design and management
ARCH6104	Physical environment & site planning
ARCH6108	Introduction to urban planning principles
ARCH8102	Cultural heritage & the built environment
ARCH8103	Cultural heritage: charters & legislation
ARCH8105	Materials & techniques of conservation
ARCH8109	Cultural landscapes
ENVM8006	Environmental impact assessment

Choice of the above courses is subject to prior approval by the Head of Department/Programme Director concerned. Priority will be given to students of the relevant programmes. Please refer to the respective programme syllabuses for the course descriptions.