

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

These regulations and syllabuses apply to students admitted in the academic year 2010-2011 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) 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.
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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.
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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.

* Subject to University's approval.

Curriculum

AR254

- (a) The curriculum shall extend over not less than two years of full-time study.
- (b) To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall
 - (i) enroll for courses of a total of 108 credits¹ (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 Division 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.
- (c) 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)
- (d) 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, three elective courses (total 9 credits), and the following five 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)
- (e) 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.
- (f) At the discretion of the Head of the Division, 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

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

re-examination in the same course or courses before the commencement of the 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.

Subjected to special approval by the Division Head and the relevant teachers, courses offered by other departments of the Faculty may also be approved as electives.

SUMMER PREREQUISITE COURSE

ARCH7100. Basic design and graphics (3 credits)

Intensive introductory course in two- and three-dimensional design, aesthetics, and 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. 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 are set to train and test candidates' ability to produce and express design concepts with reason, imagination and sensitivity under time constraints. Field trips are required.

ARCH7103. Landscape planting I (3 credits)

One of the core skills of the Landscape Architect is an understanding of horticulture and arboriculture, and their influence on the design process. This course gives students a comprehensive understanding of plant species commonly used in Hong Kong & Southern China, together with a knowledge of their characteristics for use in landscape planting, and the underlying fundamentals of botany, plant physiology, and taxonomy.

The course also introduces the basic principles and vocabulary of planting design. It examines the influence on plant physiology and tolerances, plant form, succession and ecological habitat on plant selection. Students are introduced to basic spatial forms and arrangements of plants, and how these impact on environmental experience. Field study trips provide the opportunity to investigate real examples planting designs and analyse their success/shortcomings.

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 are 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, the second part of 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 are given on the historical development of landscape design in its various cultural contexts. Basic theory of design as related to landscape architecture is dealt with as a basis for the studio course in landscape planning and design. Coursework may include studies on selected topics and a sketchbook 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 are dealt with. Coursework may include studies on selected topics and a sketchbook assignment.

ARCH7108. Ecology and design (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the principles of ecology related to natural and built environments, with special emphasis on the impact of construction and land development on natural processes. This practical knowledge will help to set a foundation for their work in the field of landscape architecture.

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)

The course aims to improve student awareness and knowledge of the principles and techniques relating to the retention, protection, transplanting and management of trees in Hong Kong. Students learn how to prepare tree survey reports and felling applications. They will also be introduced to the various types and forms of landscape maintenance contract as tools in landscape management. Through a study of the historical use of plants, the course examines the functional applications of plants including environmental improvement, ornamental, medicinal, cultural and other uses in landscape planting design. Through a critical review of historical developments, fashions, and contemporary approaches to planting, students develop an understanding of the key technical, administrative and management aspects of landscape planting.

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

Methods of Fabrication. By manipulating and controlling information available in the public domain, a model will be constructed to form a landscape out of the pre-existing, mapped urban environment. Developing the information further, a three-dimensional computer model will be constructed to produce objects with a high degree of precision. By manufacturing the model from a series of computer controlled fabrication devices, including the CNC milling machine, the large-format laser cutter, and a three-dimensional resin printer, a highly precise physical model will be the final output.

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

Animation. This course examines techniques associated with forming narratives in architecture and landscape architecture. Beginning with modeling complex spaces, the focus will be on producing a three dimensional model of geometric efficiently in order to control the time required to construct and render a project of substantial size. The final project consists of an animation which will utilize motion as a tool of design and discourse.

ARCH7206. Landscape architectural practice I (3 credits)

Introduction to the basic principles, common concerns and vocabulary of landscape architectural practice, including an understanding of professionalism, codes of professional conduct, the nature and scope of services, consultancy appointments, project team members and their roles, the forms and management of consulting practices, tender documents and types of contract for the implementation of landscape works. The course is conducted as a series of focused lectures on specific topics interspersed with panel discussions with leading landscape professionals to explore the application of landscape practice theory in the contexts of local private practice, public offices and working in China.

ARCH7207. Landscape architectural practice II (3 credits)

Practice II provides an introduction to the liabilities and responsibilities of the practicing landscape architect in relation to key areas of the Law: Tort; Contract; Land; and Environment. The course continues by looking at the role of the landscape architect on site, focusing on the procedures and activities required to manage the construction of a landscape contract and ensure successful realization of the designers vision on site, including aspects on site safety and dispute resolution.

ELECTIVE COURSES¹**ARCH5102. Chinese landscapes (3 credits)**

Beginning with a background survey of the varied landscapes of China - physical, functional, pictorial, cultural aspects - the course proceeds to focus on a 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 are also explored and discussed. Coursework includes studies of selected texts, assignments, field visits and written reports.

¹ Not all of the courses are offered every year.

ARCH6119. Components of sustainable landscape design (3 credits)

The course starts with an exploration of the fundamental components of landscape, systematically examining the nature and characteristics of soils, water, air, and plants, together with the natural forces which influence them, and how they combine and interact to form our natural environment. Students see how the elements and forces can be used in practical application to create new landscapes, but also how they can be degraded through mis-use and contamination. They also see how they can provide the context and inspiration for landscape designs.

ARCH6120. Introduction of computer-aided design for landscape architecture (3 credits)

This course provides a study of current computer techniques which can be used by landscape architects as design aids. Two- and three-dimensional drafting, design, and presentation techniques will be covered. 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.

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.

ARCH7033. Horticulture and design (3 credits)

This course deals with 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 are 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 are 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 are required.

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 green spaces 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.

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.

ARCH7109. Case Studies in contemporary landscape architecture (3 credits)

Landscape architecture has transformed itself into an intriguing discipline over the past decades with the introduction of new theories and interpretations of land and environment, innovative methods in dealing with brownfields and contaminated sites, and many other new approaches that challenge the conventional perception of how public realm should be.

This course will focus on the landscape projects undertaken in the past ten years worldwide, and use them as case studies to further examine these contemporary theories and see how these pioneering concepts are executed.