

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

*These regulations will apply to candidates admitted in the 2014-15 academic year 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.

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## **Admission requirements to the Degree of Master of Landscape Architecture**

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

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations; and
  - (b) shall possess a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Studies or a degree with honours of this University; or another equivalent qualification from a comparable institution; 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 may 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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## **Period of study**

**Ar253**

The curriculum shall extend over two academic years of full-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three academic years.

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## **Curriculum requirements**

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To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall

- (a) enrol for courses of a total of 108 credits;
- (b) follow instruction in the courses prescribed, and complete satisfactorily all coursework set either as assessment tasks or practical work to be undertaken as an integral part of the MLA curriculum;
- (c) satisfy the examiners in all assessment tasks; and
- (d) a candidate may, subject to approval by the Programme Director/ Head of the Department, take other course(s) in the Faculty of Architecture to fulfil the elective course requirements.

## **Assessment**

### **Ar255**

A candidate must pass in all core courses, and sufficient elective courses to achieve the total credits required.

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## **Failure in Assessment**

### **Ar256**

The following clauses apply to candidates of all years:

- (a) Candidates who have passed in Landscape design studio in any semester;
    - (i) but who fail at the first attempt in not more than one other core course in that semester may be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment in the same course before the commencement of the next academic year. Those who fail at the second attempt shall be permitted to proceed to the subsequent semester of the curriculum and to present themselves for re-assessment in the same course only once more in the following academic year.
    - (ii) but failed in more than one other core courses in any semester at the first attempt shall not be permitted to proceed to the subsequent semester and shall be required to repeat all or part of that year's curriculum and to present themselves for re-assessment in the following academic year. If they fail again at the second attempt, they may be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment only once more before the commencement of the following academic year.
  - (b) Candidates who have failed Landscape design studio in any semester shall not be permitted to continue to the next semester, and must repeat the course.
  - (c) Candidates who have failed in one or more electives in their first attempt may be required to enrol in the same or an alternate elective in the following year. Candidates failing in elective courses will not normally be offered an opportunity for re-assessment without re-enrolment in the same or an alternate elective
  - (d) Candidates who have failed in any core course at the third attempt shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulations G 12.
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## **Award of Degree**

### **Ar257**

The degree of Master of Landscape Architecture may be awarded with Distinction, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

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

*These syllabuses will apply to candidates admitted in the 2014-15 academic year and thereafter.*

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**MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAMME  
CURRICULUM BY SEMESTER OF STUDY**

First Year of Study

- ARCH7501	MLA Pre-requisite	(3 credits)
- ARCH7111	Landscape design studio I	(15 credits)
- ARCH7112	Landscape design studio II	(15 credits)
- ARCH7103	Landscape planting I	(3 credits)
- ARCH7104	Landscape technology I	(3 credits)
- ARCH7105	Landscape technology II	(3 credits)
- ARCH7106	History and theory of landscape architecture I	(3 credits)
- ARCH7107	History and theory of landscape architecture II	(3 credits)
- ARCH7113	Biophysical systems	(3 credits)
- ARCH7203	Landscape planting II	(3 credits)
- ARCH7110	Fabrication and representation I	(3 credits)
	Total	(57 credits)

Second Year of Study

- ARCH7211	Landscape design studio III	(15 credits)
- ARCH7212	Landscape design studio IV	(15 credits)
- ARCH7221	Fabrication and representation II	(3 credits)
- ARCH7206	Landscape architectural practice I	(3 credits)
- ARCH7207	Landscape architectural practice II	(3 credits)
- ARCH7213	Materials technology	(3 credits)
-	Electives	(9 credits)
	Total	(51 credits)

## **MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAMME COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

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

### **FIRST YEAR: CORE COURSES**

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#### **ARCH7501    MLA pre-requisite (3 credits)**

Intensive introductory course in landscape systems, the principles of design, and basic skills in two- and three-dimensional landscape design representation. The course will include site visits and field trips. Coursework may include studies of selected topics, drawing assignments, critical analysis and site reports. Successful completion of the course is a requirement for entering subsequent design studios.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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#### **ARCH7111    Landscape design studio I (15 credits)**

The foundation studio course introduces students to the principles of design and both traditional and contemporary techniques in Landscape Architecture. It grounds students in the language of the discipline and introduces them to the contemporary landscape theories and discourses. Teaching is conducted in the studio and includes exercises, design problems, and individual and group projects. Coursework is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions. Required field trips allow students to experience and analyse landscape design designs first hand. Studio exercises explore the conventions of landscape architectural representation. Students learn the use of measured analytical drawings, physical modelling, and diagrams as design tools in the creative process. Design problems investigate the spatial, material, experiential and temporal aspects of landscape and introduce students to techniques in the manipulation of space, landscape form and tectonics. They develop student's ability to conceive and express design propositions with reason, imagination and sensitivity, under time constraints. Projects focus on the exploration of landscape through its design, and are closely related to concurrent course work.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

(Pre-requisite: ARCH7501 MLA pre-requisite)

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#### **ARCH7112    Landscape design studio II (15 credits)**

The second studio course continues the exploration of landscape design through a broad range of learning activities including studio exercises, design problems, and individual and group projects. The studio helps students improve their use of landscape design language, to develop design rationales, and broaden their understanding of the discipline and its discourses. Teaching is conducted in both group and individual formats, and coursework is regularly presented and critically reviewed. Regular field trips are required, including a ten day (self-funded) research-based overseas study tour.

Studio exercises explore more advanced forms of landscape architectural representation. They allow students to practice their use of analytical drawing, physical and computer modelling, and diagramming, and help to develop research and analytical skills. Design problems continue to develop student's landscape design skills through a variety of increasingly complex and challenging landscape architectural design assignments and develop student's ability to create and articulate landscape design solutions, increasingly under time constraints. Projects introduce a variety of inquiry methods at a scale that require students to consider the specificity of users, programme and context as the basis

for design propositions. The scale of projects increases with a focus on site planning with the integration of multiple factors which shape our physical landscapes including society, urban context, and architectural parameters.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment  
(Pre-requisite: ARCH7111 Landscape design studio I)

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### **ARCH7103 Landscape planting I (3 credits)**

One of the core skills of the Landscape Architect is an understanding of horticulture, and 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **ARCH7113 Biophysical systems (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.

Assessment: 75% continuous coursework assessment and 25% examination

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### **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 planting 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **ARCH7110 Fabrication and representation 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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## **SECOND YEAR: CORE COURSES**

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### **ARCH7211 Landscape design studio III (15 credits)**

The third studio course further develops the student's ability to research, analyse, conceptualise and create meaningful landscape designs and to articulate rigorous, ordered and critical design positions. Teaching is conducted in both group and individual formats, and coursework is regularly presented and critically reviewed. Regular field trips are required.

Students will practice the use of analytical and representational techniques, and will study contemporary research practices in landscape design and adjacent disciplines. Projects introduce a variety of design inquiry methods that require students to critically consider the specificity of users,

programme and context as the basis for their propositions. The increasingly complex and challenging projects focus on the interrelationships of landscape systems and human development and call for integration of multiple factors which shape our physical landscapes including ecology, society, urban parameters.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment  
(Pre-requisite: ARCH7112 Landscape design studio II)

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### **ARCH7212 Landscape design studio IV (15 credits)**

The final studio course develops the student's ability to research, analyse, generate and articulate mature landscape solutions to technically complex, multi-faceted design problems. The studio will operate at multiple scales from a regional perspective to a local intervention in order for students to acquire the ability to manage and relate designs at various scales. Projects call for the designed integration of the many factors which shape our physical landscapes including ecology, society, and urban parameters, with special attention to local and regional characteristics. Teaching is mostly individual and coursework is regularly presented and critically reviewed. Regular field trips are required.

Subject to approval by Division Head, students will be permitted to undertake a self-directed design thesis of a topical issue within the landscape architectural discipline.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment  
(Pre-requisite: ARCH7211 Landscape design studio III and ARCH7513 Thesis prep)

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### **ARCH7221 Fabrication and representation II (3 credits)**

*Animation.* This course examines techniques associated with forming narratives in architecture and landscape architecture. Beginning with modelling 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **ARCH7206 Landscape architectural practice I (3 credits)**

Introduction to the basic principles and approaches to the practice of landscape architecture, 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **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 Laws of Tort; Contract; Land; and Environment. The course investigates 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

### **ARCH7213 Materials technology (3 credits)**

This seminar course explores how modern technology changes the ways people interact, how they experience space, and ultimately their perception and understanding of the built and natural environment. These are very critical developments in contemporary societies that would affect the practice of landscape architecture. Students enrolled in this course will engage in the critical analyses of such phenomena.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **FIRST AND SECOND YEAR: ELECTIVE COURSES**

(Choice of elective courses offered by other units of the Faculty of Architecture is subject to prior approval of the Head of the Department in consultation with the respective Programme Directors.)

There are four categories of elective courses offered. Within each of these there are a number of courses which may be available for selection by candidates in the Master's Programme. No more than three courses are to be chosen from any one of the categories.

- I: Landscape history and theory
- II: Landscape technologies
- III: Independent studies
- IV Courses offered by other units in the University, and opened as electives to MLA students (subject to agreement of the Division Head and relevant Programme Directors)

These courses may be taken in either the First or Second Year, subject to availability. Candidates will be guided in the selection of elective courses. Not all of the courses are offered every year and that new courses may be offered in any year.

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### **CATEGORY I : LANDSCAPE HISTORY AND THEORY**

#### **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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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#### **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 brown fields 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

### **ARCH7040 Special topics in landscape architecture (3 credits)**

This course explores specific issues and topics in landscape architecture such as: Design and Theory, Urbanism, Landscape Planning, Landscape Technology, Landscape Ecology, and other relevant subjects.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **ARCH7502 Research seminar in landscape architecture I (3 credits)**

This topical research seminar I provides students the opportunity to explore specific issues and topics in landscape architecture through a variety research methodologies. An overseas study trip may be required.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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## CATEGORY II : LANDSCAPE TECHNOLOGIES

### **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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **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.

Assessment: 20-30% continuous coursework assessment and 70-80% examination

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### **ARCH7042 Landscape practicum (3 credits)**

This course provides candidates an opportunity for practical experience in landscape architecture in Hong Kong through direct engagement in the design and physical construction of built landscape works under the guidance of a Registered Landscape Architect. Assessment is based on a detailed log-book / journal to be submitted at the end of the practicum.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **ARCH7505 Research seminar in landscape architecture IV (3 credits)**

This topical research seminar IV provides students the opportunity to explore specific issues and topics in landscape architecture through a variety research methodologies. An overseas study trip may be required.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**ARCH7512 Urban Arboriculture (3 credits)**

Arboriculture is a rapidly growing area of practice for landscape architects, and this course investigates the science of arboriculture and its practical application in relation to dense urban environments. It covers woody plant physiology, trees in urban environments, the production, planting and maintenance of street trees, management of the urban forestry, managing special trees, legal aspects of trees in Hong Kong, the work of arborists, and tree work practices and equipment.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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CATEGORY III : INDEPENDENT STUDIES

**ARCH7513 Thesis prep (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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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