

# **REGULATIONS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (PDLA)**

AR20/821

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

*These regulations will apply to candidates admitted in the 2021-22 academic year and thereafter.*

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**

### **PDLA1**

To be eligible for admission to the Postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for the Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall possess a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or another equivalent qualification from another university or 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 higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.

---

## **Qualifying examination**

### **PDLA2**

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their 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) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.

---

## **Period of study**

### **PDLA3**

The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year, including a summer semester of full-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

## **Requirements for graduation**

### **PDLA4**

To be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture, candidates

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

## **Curriculum**

### **PDLA5**

To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (c) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (d) shall enrol for courses of a total of 66 credits;
  - (c) shall 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 PDLA curriculum; and
  - (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all assessment tasks.
- 

## **Assessment**

### **PDLA6**

A candidate must pass in all courses to achieve the total credits required.

---

## **Grading system**

### **PDLA7**

Individual courses shall be graded according to letter grades, their standards and the grade points for assessment as follows:

Grade	Standard	Grade Point
A+	Excellent	4.3
A		4.0
A-		3.7
B+	Good	3.3
B		3.0
B-		2.7
C+	Satisfactory	2.3
C		2.0
C-		1.7
D+	Pass	1.3
D		1.0
F	Fail	0

---

### **Failure in assessment**

#### **PDLA8**

The following clauses apply to all candidates:

- (a) Candidates who have passed in Foundation Design Studio in any semester;
  - (i) but who fail at the first attempt in not more than one other 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 present themselves for re-assessment in the same course once more in the following academic year.
  - (ii) but who fail in more than one other course 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 in Foundation 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 any course at the third attempt shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulations G 12.
- (d) Candidates who have exceeded the maximum registration period shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies.

---

### **Assessment results**

#### **PDLA9**

On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

**Subject to approval**

**SYLLABUSES FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA  
IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**

AR16/625

*This syllabus is applicable to candidates who are admitted to the Postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture curriculum in the 2025-26 academic year and thereafter.*

---

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
CURRICULUM OF STUDY**

-	ARCH7191 Landscape Architecture Intensive	(6 credits) *Summer Course
-	ARCH7138 Foundation Design Studio I	(12 credits)
-	ARCH7139 Foundation Design Studio II	(12 credits)
-	ARCH7181 Landscape Media I	(6 credits)
-	ARCH7182 Landscape Media II	(6 credits)
-	ARCH7152 Landscape plants and ecology I	(6 credits)
-	ARCH7151 Landscape technology I	(6 credits)
-	ARCH7148 Histories of Landscape	(6 credits)
-	ARCH7159 Environment and Communities of the City	(6 credits)
	Total	(66 credits)

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

---

### Disciplinary Introduction

---

#### **ARCH7191    Landscape Architecture Intensive (6 credits)**

This intensive course introduces candidates to the culture of the landscape discipline. Through frequent field-trips within Hong Kong and through in-studio workshops, candidates will approach landscape through a series of critical and reflexive exercises dealing with perception, representation, typology, and time. In addition to daily workshops and field trips, guest lectures and seminars conducted by members of the Faculty will contextualize and expand definitions of the discipline and its practice from both local, regional, and international perspectives. Learning activities will be completed in both group and individual formats.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

### Design Studio

---

#### **ARCH7138    Foundation Design Studio I (12 credits)**

The first Design Studio engages candidates in an exploration of two and three-dimensional design under staff guidance and supervision. Candidates will be introduced to core concepts and approaches to design and design-thinking in the context of human environments. Exercises will introduce notions of scale, form, composition, materiality and process. Design will ultimately be introduced as a creative practice that is developed through rigorous, rule-based approach to developing concepts and resolving problems. Projects are closely related to concurrent course work and seek to develop familiarity of introduced landscape theories and techniques.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

(Pre-requisite: ARCH7191 Landscape Architecture Intensive)

---

#### **ARCH7139    Foundation Design Studio II (12 credits)**

The second Design Studio focuses on the natural and social ecologies of landscape in the city. Projects focus on site planning with the integration of multiple factors which shape the physical and social landscape including communities, ecologies, and urban built form and infrastructures. Special attention will be paid to notions of the *public realm* and its role in the contemporary city. Analytical and observational techniques will be developed in conjunction with design methodologies. Projects and design problems further test and develop candidate's ability to create and articulate landscape design solutions under time constraints.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

(Pre-requisite: ARCH7138 Foundation Design Studio I)

---

### Landscape Media

---

#### **ARCH7181    Landscape Media I (6 credits)**

This course introduces candidates to graphic representation in Landscape Architecture. Candidates will focus entirely on non-digital forms of drafting as an essential set of techniques for documenting, analysing, and generating ideas. Exercises will cover orthographic drawing, projection, perspective, collage, and indexical techniques. Candidates will understand representation not only as a task of tracing form and layout, but for its potential to describe time, organization, process, and materiality.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

---

### **ARCH7182    Landscape Media II (6 credits)**

This course introduces candidates to essential digital tools of analysis, design and representation in landscape architecture. Computer Aided Design (CAD) platforms such as AutoCAD, Rhino, Illustrator, and procedural tools will be introduced as key elements in the development of a cross-media approach to digital production. Candidates will further explore techniques in physical model-making and digital fabrication as an iterative part of the digital representation process.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

(Pre-requisite: ARCH7181 Landscape Media I)

---

## **Site Technologies & Plants and Ecologies**

---

### **ARCH7152    Landscape plants and ecology I (6 credits)**

One of the core skills of the Landscape Architect is an understanding of horticulture, and its influence on the design process. This course gives candidates a comprehensive understanding of plant species and plant communities commonly found 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. Candidates 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: 75-100% continuous coursework assessment and up to 25% examination

---

### **ARCH7158    Landscape Technologies and Techniques (6 credits)**

This course combines the two primary means of shaping space and function in the landscape: landform and planting design. Essential techniques for shaping the land will be explored, with particular focus on incorporating grading strategies into the site design process. Candidates will explore a variety of techniques and applications for designing and documenting the grading process. After a focus on design of the ground surface, the course considers key principles of designing with plants in the landscape. Plants will be introduced as both individuals, with important features, and as members of plant communities and components of particular ecologies. The ground, and the plants on it, will be evaluated not as static products, but as temporally rich, evolving aspects of the environment. Regular field trips to the field will supplement learning in the studio.

Assessment: 75%-100% continuous coursework assessment and up to 25% examination

---

## **History and Theory**

---

### **ARCH7151    Landscape technology I (6 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

---

**ARCH7159    Environment and Communities of the City (6 credits)**

Candidates will explore history of and contemporary approaches to reading, analysing, and engaging with cities through the lens of community at a variety of scales. The course explores the social and behavioural aspects of landscapes through the understanding of community identity and self, neighbourhood, common ground and ownership of the public realm, environmental psychology and third place. The course will focus on the development of the design disciplines as they relate to cultural practices, social behaviour, public space and development. Various approaches to community engagement and participation within the design process will also be introduced.

Assessment: 60% continuous coursework assessment and 40% examination

---