

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

AR52/112

*(These regulations and syllabuses will apply to candidates admitted in the 2011-12 academic year and thereafter)*

*(See also General Regulations)*

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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**

**Ar254**

To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall

- (a) enrol for courses of a total of 108 credits (the normal load per semester being 27 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.

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### **Assessment**

#### **Ar255**

A candidate must pass in all core courses, and five elective courses.

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### **Failure in Assessment**

#### **Ar256**

The following clauses apply to candidates of all years:

- (a) Candidates who have passed in Landscape Planning and Design 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 Planning and Design 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.

## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**

AR93/112

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

### **SUMMER PREREQUISITE COURSE**

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#### **ARCH7100. Basic design and graphics**

Intensive introductory course in landscape design, aesthetics, and basic skills in two and three dimensional landscape architectural representation. Holders of a recognized architectural or landscape architectural degree are exempted from this course.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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

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#### **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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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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 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.

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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**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.

Assessment: 75% continuous coursework assessment and 25% examination

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**SECOND YEAR: CORE COURSES**

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**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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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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 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**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 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: 60% continuous coursework assessment and 40% examination

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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

(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.)

**FIRST AND SECOND YEAR: ELECTIVE COURSES**

There are four categories of elective courses offered by the Division of Landscape Architecture. 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 Faculty of Architecture, and opened as electives to MLA students (subject to agreement of the Department 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.

**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

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**ARCH7039. Indexing landscapes: urban delta regions of China (3 credits)**

River deltas present a challenge to the disciplines of architectural practices due to a shifting relationship between land and water. Urban development in China has historically been tied to the specific hydrology and ecologies that are present in these regions, straddling a delicate balance between wet and dry, development and production. This research seminar, the first in several future courses, will investigate and document the dynamic nature of urban delta regions through established landscape representation and urban research methodologies. It will begin with a mandatory one-week workshop in Shanghai, documenting environmental conditions of the Yangtze River Delta. Students will work in collaboration with colleagues from the Landscape Urbanism Program at the Architectural Association (AA), and the results would be part of an exhibit at the Shanghai Study Centre. Upon their return to Hong Kong, students will engage in further explorations of alternate representational methodologies and apply it to another major river delta region in China.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**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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**ARCH7041. Research seminar in landscape architecture (3 credits)**

This research seminar provides students the opportunity to explore specific issues and topics in landscape architecture through research.

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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**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 modelling, 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**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.

(Not offered this year)

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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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**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.

(not offered this year)

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**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.

(not offered this year)

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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

CATEGORY III : INDEPENDENT STUDIES

**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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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