



ONTARIO AGRICULTURE COLLEGE
School of Environmental Design and Rural Development
Capacity Development and Extension • Landscape Architecture • Rural Planning and Development

Dear BLA Applicant:

Thank you for inquiring about our undergraduate Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) program at the University of Guelph.

Landscape Architecture requires an understanding of people, land and the fit between them. Using creativity and innovation, landscape architects aim to meet the needs of people while improving the environment. They design memorable places that are attractive, functional and sustainable and that affect the way our cities, suburbs, rural and wilderness areas are planned, designed and managed. Landscape Architecture at Guelph is a unique and exciting community. It is a place where creative, concerned and involved students and faculty work, learn and play together. Everyone brings a unique set of life skills, life experiences and points of view to Guelph's academic environment and to the landscape architecture profession's goal of improving the fit between humans and their physical environment. If you have creative abilities and are interested in problem-solving, communication, and creative solutions then consider studying landscape architecture at the University of Guelph.

The fully accredited four-year Bachelor of Landscape Architecture program (BLA) and the Master of Landscape Architecture program (MLA) at Guelph leads to a professional degree in landscape architecture. The BLA and MLA degrees meet the educational requirements for entry into the professional associations of landscape architects across Canada, North America and abroad.

To aid the BLA Admissions Committee in evaluating your potential as a design student, two criteria are used: previous academic performance, and the required Background Information Form (BIF). Deadlines for application to the BLA program can be found on the University of Guelph, Undergraduate Admissions Web Site.

Ontario Course Requirements for Entry to the BLA Program are: English (ENG4U) and five additional 4U or 4M credits. Students from other provinces and international students should check the Admissions Web site for specific subject requirements. Those with university-level courses or college diplomas will be assessed on an individual basis during the offer of admission period.

Academic Performance: Previous academic performance, evaluated through secondary school and/or post-secondary transcripts is used as an indicator of academic accomplishment.

Background Information Form (BIF): The required BIF form helps us to understand your knowledge of, and motivation for, choosing landscape architecture. The BIF asks you to share your university and career goals with us so that we may have a better sense of who you are.

Application, document deadlines and additional admission information can be obtained at the following links:

[University of Guelph - Undergraduate Admissions](#)

[School of Environmental Design and Rural Development
Landscape Architecture Programs](#)



Landscape Architecture Program Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

The BLA Major

Would you like to work towards improving the environment? Can you see yourself designing memorable places that are attractive and liveable? Do you want to be part of a profession that affects the way cities, suburbs, rural and wilderness areas are planned, designed and managed? ... If so then consider Landscape Architecture. Landscape Architecture is an environmental design profession that addresses the challenge of sensitively fitting human needs to the land in an ecologically responsible way. Landscape Architects apply artistic and scientific principles to the research, planning, design and management of natural and cultural landscapes.

The program has a recognized and dedicated faculty and is centrally located in its own building. There are strong ties to other departments at the University which provide expertise in the agricultural and environmental sciences and fine arts. We are located on a beautiful campus designed by members of the profession. The old and new architecture blend together to create a welcoming atmosphere, while the latest technological advancements allow faculty and students to work in a stimulating environment.

Learning Approach

Your education in Landscape Architecture will be unlike any you are accustomed to and is unique within the University. Within the four year program you will take lecture, seminar, field trip and studio courses. The intensive studio courses, taken every term, allow you to practice and master what you have learned. You will work on your own unique solution alone or in teams with the constant assistance from faculty. It is a very intense and enjoyable learning environment. Through frequent presentations you will develop abilities in verbal and graphic presentations to communicate your design ideas.

More than half of the required credits are given in the Landscape Architecture Program. Other required courses are taken from departments throughout the University. You are also able to freely choose electives, allowing you to take courses in a number of disciplines or concentrate on one or two areas of interest. The program of studies addresses the learning objectives of the University and the needs of the profession.

There are a number of unique learning opportunities provided in the program. The program gives academic credit for work in professional offices, has a very active international exchange program that allows students to study in many foreign countries, and coordinates a number of important field trips. All students are assigned studio work space and have 24 hour access to the building.

Admissions Requirements

Ontario Course Requirements for Entry to the BLA Program: English (ENG4U) and five additional 4U or 4M credits. Students from other provinces and international students should check with the Admissions Web site for specific subject requirements. A breadth of courses in the social, physical and biological sciences as well as the arts and languages is encouraged for all applicants.

Those with university-level courses or college diplomas will be assessed on an individual basis during the admission period.

Applicants are considered on the basis of academic performance and a review of a Background Information Form (BIF). The BIF is a written response to a series of questions which will be available to you on-line during the admission period.

In addition to these requirements you may use the [Student Profile Form](#) to tell us about your leadership and citizenship qualities and factors that affected your academic performance. This may result in special consideration for applicants on the waiting list for admission. We encourage and accommodate mature applicants.

By the Numbers

Minimum admission average - this fluctuates as marks are not the only criteria for admission and we attempt to accept the best applicants in the pool.

Number of students accepted each year: 65-70 students

Number of students in the undergraduate BLA program: 270; MLA graduate program: 50

Number of LA faculty: 7 full time faculty; ~10 sessional instructors

Courses in Your First Semester

History of Cultural Form - A foundation history course which deals with the designed environment in its cultural and biophysical context, from ancient times to the present. This course shows the legacy of the profession and develops and appreciation of the lessons we can learn from history.

Design and Communications Studio – An introduction to the physical design professions and the role of landscape architects. Emphasis on development of design awareness, process, communication skills and creativity.

Humans in the Natural World - This course will examine past and present human interactions with Nature from an ecological perspective. It investigates current global issues that require multi-disciplinary environmental analysis.

One of Sociology, Anthropology, Philosophy or Psychology - This will give you the foundation course allowing you to take more advanced courses in the Liberal Arts.

Career Opportunities

The BLA program is accredited by the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects. Graduates typically become licensed professionals when they have earned their professional degree, and satisfied professional development requirements, e.g., examinations and a defined period of work experience; these being prescribed by provincial and state professional associations throughout North America.

Graduates from the programs are in high demand nationally and around the world as the program enjoys a very good national and international reputation. About fifty percent of each year's graduates enter private practice and consulting with design and planning firms that create plans, designs and construction documents for a wide range of projects. These include developing sites for residential, recreational, institutional, commercial and industrial projects. They could range from designing communities and historic restoration to creating an eco-resort or ski slope. Recent graduates are working in Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, China, Iceland, and throughout the US, most countries in Europe and of course throughout Canada. Alumni also choose to work in municipal, provincial or national agencies such as City of Toronto urban design department, Mississauga Parks department, B.C. Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of Transportation, the National Capital Commission, and Transport Canada. Still others become involved in design/build firms and enjoy direct involvement in designing and constructing large and small projects.

Many alumni have gone on to graduate work in the profession and in related disciplines. The excellent international reputation this program enjoys puts graduates in a very good position to find fulfilling employment.

Faculty Watch

While all faculty have degrees in the profession, they have very diverse, yet complementary, scholarly interests. Faculty have active research projects and are involved in leading edge professional studies, which bridge these two areas. Associated professionals and faculty from other university programs contribute as well to the education of students in Landscape Architecture.

Research and Practice Interests

Robert D. Brown, Professor. BSc (Saskatchewan), MLA, PhD (Guelph). Areas of interest: microclimatic design, urban heat island mitigation, animal and human thermal comfort design, landscape analysis.

Robert Corry, Associate Professor. BLA (Guelph), MLA (Minnesota), PhD (Michigan). Areas of interest: landscape ecology, landscape pattern indices, design scenarios, habitat quality.

Larry B. Harder, Associate Professor. BES (Manitoba), MLA (Harvard). Areas of interest: urban ecology, landscape restoration and rehabilitation, naturalization, community planning, aboriginal community development.

Sean Kelly, Associate Professor. BLA (Guelph), MSc (Guelph). Areas of interest: resort, destination and amenity landscapes, design implementation and landscape construction, rural community design.

Karen Landman, Professor. BLA (Guelph), MSc (Guelph), PhD (Queen's). Areas of interest: urban greening, urban agriculture, planting design.

Maurice Nelischer, College Professor Emeritus. BSc (Carleton), MLA (Guelph). Areas of interest: land development, visual simulation, urban design service learning, landscape architecture design instruction, community design.

Cecelia Paine, Professor. BLA (Illinois), MLA (Michigan). Areas of interest: contemporary design, heritage and rural landscape conservation, professional practice, urban green systems and community design.

Nathan Perkins, Associate Professor. BLA, MLA (Illinois), PhD (Wisconsin-Madison). Areas of interest: landscape aesthetics, environmental psychology, research methods, computing technology.

James R. Taylor, Professor Emeritus. BSLA (Iowa State), MLA (California-Berkeley). Areas of interest: landscape planning, geographic information systems, eco-tourism, professional practice, community design, renewable energy facility site assessment & planning.

Beyond the Classroom

The warm social atmosphere within the program is valued by faculty and students. There is a lot of out of class interaction with faculty and fellow classmates. The students are represented by a very active student association who organize many social and educational events throughout the year. Here is a list of school events typical to one academic year - new student BBQ and party; LA guest lectures and evening socials for landscape architecture students; field trips to areas such as Toronto, Ottawa, and US destinations; Winterfest - a design and educational event; LABASH - an international student conference of over 600 students – originated by and previously hosted five times at UofG; Community Outreach Design centre; winter semi-formal party; end of year gathering; and various workshops and annual convocation reception.

Most students get the most out of their education by being actively involved in the extra-curricular life of the school. We feel your professional education does not stop at the classroom door and being involved is an enjoyable way to learn.

Additional Information

The Landscape Architecture Program at the University of Guelph is well-known and one of the most respected programs in North America. If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to speak with Landscape Architects in your community to find out more about a career in this exciting and growing area *and* to ask them about us.

[Undergraduate Calendar Description](#) of the BLA Program

Professional Associations and Information

Information on the profession of landscape architecture can be obtained from the following links:

[Ontario Association of Landscape Architects](#) (OALA)

[Canadian Society of Landscape Architects](#) (CSLA)

[American Society of Landscape Architects](#) (ASLA)

[Landscape Architecture Foundation](#) (LAF)

[International Federation of Landscape Architects](#) (IFLA)

[Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture](#) (CELA)

[Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards \(CLARB\) and the Landscape Architect Registration Exam \(LARE\)](#)

Undergraduate Admission Contact Information

Once you have applied to the University of Guelph, you will receive an Acknowledgement Package in the mail from Admission Services. The Acknowledgement Package provides you with additional information about U of G, important dates, and answers to commonly asked questions.

Questions regarding education requirements and offers of admission etc., should be directed to [Admission Services](#).

Admissions Mailing Address:

Admission Services, University of Guelph, 50 Stone Road East, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1 Canada

Applicants Including: Canadian High School Students, Transfer Students, Visiting Students, Post-Degree Students, Mature Students:

Email: admission@registrar.uoguelph.ca; Phone: 519-824-4120, Ext. 58721

American High School Students:

Email: usainfo@registrar.uoguelph.ca; Phone: (+1) 519-824-4120, Ext. 56066

International High School Applicants:

Email: internat@registrar.uoguelph.ca; Phone: (+1) 519-824-4120, Ext. 56302

Campus Tours

Email: tours@registrar.uoguelph.ca; Phone: 519-824-4120, Ext. 58712

BLA Program Contact Information

[Landscape Architecture Program Web Site](#)

[BLA Program Counselling Web Site](#)

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Diana Foolen, Landscape Architecture Programs Assistant

Landscape Architecture, Room 100

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