



MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MLA.LARC:L

MLA HANDBOOK 2026/2027



School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SED RD)
Ontario Agricultural College

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1. Landscape Architecture at Guelph

1.1 The Landscape Architecture Community

Landscape Architecture at Guelph is a unique and exciting community. It is a place where creative, concerned, and intensely 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 people and their physical environment. The Landscape Architecture community provides the ingredients for lively debates, discussions, and creative solutions. We encourage all students to be active members of our community.

Design is central to everything we do in Landscape Architecture. The objectives of the MLA Program are: (1) the professional and academic development of individual students, (2) the generation and dissemination of knowledge, and (3) the continued development of the profession of Landscape Architecture so that it can remain relevant in our changing society. We are committed to the highest levels of creativity, innovation, and rigour in support of these objectives.

We encourage our students to interact with those in other programs and other disciplines across campus. There are many opportunities for such interaction, not the least of which is the Lookout grad lounge (5th Floor, University Centre). Although you will likely find your program quite busy with courses, we encourage you to get to know faculty on an individual basis. Faculty hold weekly office hours and are eager to share their professional and academic experience with you. We encourage interaction and invite you to talk with us.

This handbook is intended to provide in-course students with background information on the graduate programs in Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph. Students should also acquaint themselves with the [Graduate Calendar](#) and other forms and procedures through the [Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies](#) (OGPS) and [Student Financial Services](#).

1.2 Landscape Architecture Mission Statement

The University of Guelph landscape architecture mission statement is to excel at comprehensive and evidence-based education, innovation and scholarship in the art and science of landscape architecture and to prepare graduates to lead professional practice into the future.

1.3 Landscape Architecture Programs at Guelph

Founded in 1965, the Landscape Architecture program at the University of Guelph is the first professional program of instruction at a Canadian university. In 2001, the School of Landscape Architecture amalgamated with Rural Planning and Development and Capacity Development and Extension to form the School of Environmental Planning and Rural Development (SEDRD). The programs of SEDRD are situated within the [Ontario Agricultural College](#) and include a four-year undergraduate program leading to the BLA, and graduate level studies leading to the MLA, MSc, MPlan and PhD degree. Both the MLA and BLA professional degrees are fully accredited by the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects. CSLA accreditation is also recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

1.4 SEDRD Land Acknowledgement

The School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SEDRD) works with land and people. The lands where we live, learn and work hold the ancestral connections and stories of Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. However, colonization has orchestrated the displacement of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples from their ancestral lands and hindered their ability to be good relations with the land. Indigenous peoples are actively maintaining and strengthening their relationships with the land, which are grounded in respect, reciprocity, and resiliency.

SEDRD is committed to honouring and strengthening our relationships, through respect and responsibility, with the Indigenous nations across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that the lands on

which we reside is the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis peoples. Today, this place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging them is an act of reconciliation reminding us of our important connection to each other, and our shared responsibility to this land where we live, learn and work.

2. Landscape Architecture Faculty

Landscape Architecture faculty has been recognized within the University of Guelph as well as nationally and internationally for their expertise and strengths in teaching, practice, outreach, and research. They bring a variety of educational backgrounds and interests that span broad areas of the profession, adding significantly to the richness of the student learning experience at Guelph. Associated professionals (landscape architects), and faculty from other university programs contribute as well to the education of students in Landscape Architecture. See [SEDRD website](#) for full profiles.

2.1 Brief Research and Practice Interests of Landscape Architecture Faculty Members:

[Afshin Ashari](#), Associate Professor. BCS (Islamic Azad University-IAUCTB); MLA (Toronto). Room LA 115, Ext. 52406. Email: aashari@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: Computational Design (generative algorithms, machine learning and artificial intelligence, optimization, and environmental analysis), 3D printing, digital fabrication, and visual communication.

[Nadia Amoroso](#), Professor. BLA, MUD (Toronto), PhD (The Bartlett-UCL, UK). Room: LA 144, Ext. 53192, Email: nadia.amoroso@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: visual communication in landscape architecture (traditional, digital and hybrid), data visualization, creative cartography, geodesign, parametric design, urban design, contemporary design, digital design, 3D printing and fabrication.

[Steven Clarke](#), Associate Professor and MLA Coordinator. BEnvD, MLA (Manitoba). Room: LA 120, Ext. 52575, Email: steven.clarke@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: circular water governance & agricultural urbanism, regenerative & resilient community design, climate-resilient inclusive urban design, bio-based materials & green infrastructure, design leadership & convergence platforms, interdisciplinary & transdisciplinary scholarship, storytelling & narrative, and community engagement.

[Robert Corry](#), Professor. BLA (Guelph), MLA (Minnesota), PhD (Michigan). Room: LA 113, Ext. 58034, Email: rcorry@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: landscape ecology, landscape pattern measurement, design scenarios, alternative future landscapes, habitat quality, geo-spatial analysis (GIS), rural and small-town landscapes, evidence-based LA, research design, scholarship.

[Kearney Coupland](#), Assistant Professor. BA (Guelph), MLA (Guelph), PhD (Wilfrid Laurier). Room LA 110A, Ext. 56420, Email: kearney@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: Climate change adaptation, risk communication, planned community relocation and managed retreat, disaster risk reduction, Caribbean islands, Arctic coastal communities, climate migration.

[Aaron Hernandez](#), Assistant Professor. BA (Waterloo), MLA (Toronto). Room LA 116, Ext. 56239, Email: aaron.hernandez@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: climate adaptation, regional planning, urban design, site design and construction, cartography, cultural landscapes, communication theory.

[Sean Kelly](#), Associate Professor. BLA (Guelph), MSc (Guelph). Room: LA 101, Ext. 56870, Email: sean.kelly@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: destination and amenity environments, design implementation and landscape construction, community design planning, programming, active design, and wayfinding.

[Heather Schibli](#), Assistant Professor. BFA (OCADU), MLA (Guelph). Room LA 105, Ext 53478, Email: hschibli@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: Holistic ecological restoration, multispecies design, green infrastructure, assisted migration/climate adaptation, Miyawaki method, planting for resilience, environmental justice, multifunctional landscapes, interventionist art, kincentric ecology, biocultural landscapes, nature-based solutions.

[Brendan Stewart](#), Associate Professor and BLA Coordinator. BLA (Guelph), MLA (California-Berkeley). Room LA 117, Ext. 53483, Email: brendan.stewart@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: community design and public space design, heritage conservation planning and design, cultural landscape theory, design history, service learning and participatory design.

2.2 Other Contributing Colleagues:

[Karen Landman](#), College Professor Emeritus | Associated Graduate Faculty. BLA (Guelph), MSc (Guelph), PhD (Queen's). Email: klandman@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: urban greening, urban agriculture, planting design, green infrastructure, landscape stewardship.

[Cecelia Paine](#), Professor Emeritus | Associated Graduate Faculty. BLA (Illinois), MLA (Michigan). Email: cpaine@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: contemporary design, heritage and rural landscape conservation, professional practice, urban green systems, and community design.

3. The Master of Landscape Architecture Degree

3.1 MLA Program Degree Requirements (MLA.LARC:L)

The program is designed for individuals with an honour's degree other than the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture. **The MLA degree requires six semesters of full-time study over three calendar years. Students normally register for Fall and Winter semesters each year and request a scheduled academic break during the two Spring semesters to gain practical experience.** The following [MLA program requirements](#) will be followed by most students; however, there is some flexibility in the program depending on each student's individual background.

Students in the MLA program will focus on developing their skills and knowledge through successive studios and coursework, culminating in a capstone design project studio, LARC*6700. The MLA program prides itself on the diverse backgrounds and interests that make up each of our entering classes, and the opportunities for learning that this diversity creates. Students are encouraged to share the expertise they have developed in their undergraduate studies and professional experience and integrate it into the studio learning environment at Guelph. A student may opt to complete a Major Research Project (LARC*6730) instead of the Capstone Design project, pending successful approval of a written research proposal and identification of an Advisor and Advisory Committee member.

The program offers opportunities for students to take electives drawing from the wealth of offerings in adjacent disciplines on campus. Students may take no more than 4.00 credits in senior undergraduate classes. These elective courses may be inside or outside of the discipline either at the senior undergraduate (3000/4000 level) or the graduate level (6000 level).

The MLA.LARC:L program requires successful completion of 12.00 credits, with required courses taken in the following sequence as outlined below:

SEMESTER 1: Foundations (Fall)

LARC*2240 Plants in the Landscape (0.5)
LARC*6010 Studio I - Foundational Design & Communication (1.0)
LARC*6430 Landscape Resource Analysis (0.5)

SEMESTER 2: Site (Winter)

LARC*6030 Studio II - Site Design (1.0)
LARC*6340 Landscape History (0.5)
LARC*6470 Integrative Environmental Planning (0.5)

SEMESTER 3: Environment and Application (Fall)

LARC*6360 Professional Practice (0.5)
LARC*6440 Studio III - Environmental Design (1.0)
LARC*6610 Design Inquiry (0.5)
1 Elective (0.5)

SEMESTER 4: Design and Detail (Winter)

LARC*2420 Materials and Techniques (0.5)
LARC*6020 Site Engineering (0.5)
LARC*6040 Studio IV - Landscape Design and Construction (1.0)

SEMESTER 5: Community and Place (Fall)

LARC*6120 Studio V - Community Design (1.0)
1 Elective (0.5)
Design Capstone Project - LARC*6510 Advanced Digital Representation (0.5) **OR**
Major Research Project Option* - LARC*6660 Design Research (0.5)

SEMESTER 6: Capstone (Winter)

1 Elective (0.5)
Design Capstone Project - LARC*6700 Studio VI – Capstone Project (1.0) **OR**
Major Research Project Option* - LARC*6730 Major Research Project (1.0)

* Major Research Project Option: Students interested in doing the major research project option must approach a potential advisor in Semester 4 with a written research proposal. It is also recommended that MRP students will take an additional research methods course in Semester 4 or 5 as their elective. A proposal must be prepared and approved by their Advisory Committee (advisor plus one other member) by the end of Semester 4. Refer to the Appendices in this Handbook for more information.

Holders of an Accredited BLA Degree:

Students who have previously completed a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) program accredited by Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB, American Society of Landscape Architects) and Landscape Architecture Accreditation Council (LAAC; Canadian Association of Landscape Architects) will be exempt from 4.50 credits of MLA coursework and be able to complete the program over four semesters, as follows:

SEMESTER 1: Environment and Application (Fall)

LARC*6430 Landscape Resource Analysis (0.5)
LARC*6440 Studio III - Environmental Design (1.0)
LARC*6610 Design Inquiry (0.5)
1 Elective (0.5)

SEMESTER 2: Design and Detail (Winter)

LARC*6040 Studio IV - Landscape Design and Construction (1.0)
LARC*6470 Integrative Environmental Planning (0.5)

SEMESTER 3: Community and Place (Fall)

LARC*6120 Studio V - Community Design (1.0)
1 Elective (0.5)
Design Capstone Project - LARC*6510 Advanced Digital Representation (0.5) **or**
Major Research Project Option* - LARC*6600 Design Research (0.5)

SEMESTER 4: Capstone (Winter)

1 Elective (0.5)
Design Capstone Project - LARC*6700 Studio VI – Capstone Project (1.0) **or**
Major Research Project Option* - LARC*6730 Major Research Project (1.0)

* Major Research Project Option: For Holders of a BLA degree: Students interested in doing the major research project option must approach a potential advisor in Semester 2 with a written research proposal. It is also recommended that MRP students will take an additional research methods course as their elective. A proposal should be prepared and approved by their Advisory Committee (advisor plus one other member) by the end of Semester 2. Refer to the Appendices in this Handbook for more information.

It is advantageous for the holder of a BLA degree to enrol in free electives that support higher learning (elective courses at the graduate level). The holder of a BLA may want to select the Major Research Project route with an Advisory committee seeing as the design project route has already completed in the BLA degree.

4. Overview of MLA Program Structure and Content

The MLA program features a carefully structured curriculum spanning six semesters (over thirty-two months), each centered around distinctive themes to provide a cohesive and integrated learning experience. The thematic breakdown and corresponding courses are outlined below for the six-semester program:

Semester 1 (Fall): Foundations

In this inaugural semester, students engage with introductory professional courses that delve into the theoretical aspects of landscape architectural design. Topics include design principles and philosophies, the design process and application, an exploration of plants in urban landscapes, and a field-based course in landscape analysis. Additionally, students gain insights into the principles of landscape ecology and regional landscape planning.

Semester 2 (Winter): Site

Building upon the foundation laid in the first semester, students delve into site planning principles, the influence of social factors on design, and the introduction of planting design and architectural structures. The curriculum encompasses facets such as facilitation and the application of computer tools in design. Furthermore, students explore the history of landscape architecture and are introduced to environmental planning theory and practice.

Semester 3 (Fall): Environment and Application

Moving into the intermediate phase, this semester focuses on the practical application of landscape ecology to address contemporary landscape challenges. Courses delve into the business, legal, and ethical aspects of landscape architecture practice. Additionally, students gain exposure to a diverse range of research methods applicable to landscape planning and design.

Semester 4 (Winter): Design and Detail

The curriculum advances with intermediate courses concentrating on design implementation, materials, and construction methods. Emphasis is placed on the development of construction documents, and students receive an introduction to site surveying, engineering, and construction materials and methods.

Semester 5 (Fall): Community and Place

At an advanced level, students engage in a professional design studio course that investigates contemporary design practice. This semester involves the application and integration of previous coursework, culminating in the practical application of knowledge and skills to urban open space, community design, and comprehensive integrative projects. Also, students are exposed to advanced digital representation tools.

Semester 6 (Winter): Capstone

The final semester is dedicated to the culmination of the program through either the Design Project or the Major Research Project option. The Design Project centres on a studio-based independent student landscape architectural design project, while the Major Research Project option entails independent research on a topic related to landscape architecture with an approved advisory committee. This choice allows students to tailor their concluding experience to align with their academic and professional aspirations.

5. Course Calendar Descriptions

Semester 1: Foundations**LARC*2240 Plants in the Landscape - Fall [0.5]**

This course explores the identification and cultural requirements of native and introduced plants in urban landscapes from a design perspective.

LARC*6010 Studio I Foundational Design and Communications - Fall [1.0]

Studio and field instruction introduces the student to professional skills and knowledge, including design theory, landscape inventory and analysis, application of and the design process to projects at the site scale. Graphic and oral communication includes the development of design and spatial literacy, use of two- and three-dimensional visual representation, and use of analogue and digital media.

LARC*6430 Landscape Resource Analysis - Fall [0.5]

Integrated field and classroom instruction introduces the student to inventory and analysis of biological, physical, social, and cultural elements of the landscape. Projects incorporate principles of landscape ecology and regional landscape planning. Field study requires some travel at the student's expense.

Semester 2: Site**LARC*6030 Studio II - Site Design - Winter [1.0]**

Studio and field instruction continues the student's development of professional knowledge and skills at the site scale. Topics include site planning principles, social factors in design, introduction of planting design and architectural structures, facilitation, and computer applications in design.

LARC*6340 Landscape History - Winter [0.5]

This course focuses on the history of Landscape Architecture. The development of oral and writing skills is emphasized.

LARC*6470 Integrative Environmental Planning - Winter [0.5]

Landscape planning emphasizing the integration and interrelationships between bio-physical and cultural resources, with application at a regional landscape planning scale.

Semester 3: Environment and Application**LARC*4610 Professional Practice - Fall [0.5]**

This course includes lectures and assignments dealing with professional ethics, organizations, contract law and procedures, relationships with clients, contractors and professional practitioners, office procedure and professional promotion practices and trends in landscape architecture.

LARC*6440 Studio III - Environmental Design - Fall [1.0]

This course integrates field studio and classroom study to apply landscape ecology to current landscape problems, including analysis of regional landscapes, restoration of degraded landscapes, and application of aesthetic and ecological principles across spatial scales from site to regional scale. Case studies component will require some travel at students' expense.

LARC*6610 Design Inquiry - Fall [0.5]

In preparation for the capstone design or major research project, students will be introduced to a broad array of research methods as they apply to landscape planning and design, with a focus on the connections between research and design. The course includes qualitative and quantitative analysis and interpretation. Students will review, critique, summarize, and explain academic research that is relevant for landscape architecture.

Semester 4: Design and Detail**LARC*2420 Materials and Techniques - Winter [0.5]**

This course is an introduction to the materials and techniques commonly used for landscape construction. Students will learn to prepare technical construction drawings and will develop a basic understanding of landscape architectural construction specifications and contracts.

LARC*6020 Site Engineering - Winter [0.5]

Lecture and field instruction introduces the student to basic knowledge and skills of site engineering as it relates to landscape architecture. Topics include surveying, principles of site grading and drainage, introduction to materials and methods of construction, and graphic communication.

LARC*6040 Studio IV Landscape Design and Construction - Winter [1.0]

Studio instruction emphasizes design implementation, materials and methods of construction, introduction to green infrastructure, construction specifications and graphic communication using computer applications.

Semester 5: Community and Place**LARC*6120 Studio V - Community Design - Fall [1.0]**

Studio and field instruction emphasizes integration of ecological, social, cultural, and historical factors in the comprehensive design of community. Students will consider issues of decolonization, spatial justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

LARC*6510 Advanced Digital Representation - Fall [0.5]

This course further develops students' visual communication knowledge and skills through the methods, media, and terminology of digital design communication, and provides an opportunity to exercise and develop modes of creative visual representation, through specialized research topics and seminars, and workshops.

LARC*6600 Design Research – Fall [0.5]

The design research course supports graduate students in developing the background research for their final Major Research Project (MRP) or Capstone Project. Through structured seminars, workshops, and critiques, students refine research questions, conduct literature and precedent reviews, and establish appropriate theoretical and methodological frameworks. Emphasis is placed on critical inquiry, design-based research methods, and the translation of research into a clear, well-supported foundation to support student MRP and/or capstone projects.

Semester 6: Capstone**LARC*6700 Studio VI - Capstone Project - Winter [1.0]**

This studio course reinforces the preparation of independent student landscape architectural design projects. Students will develop a project work-plan proposal, prepare professional design and presentation drawings, and provide formal presentations of their work. Students are encouraged to select problem topics that require an interdisciplinary approach and that integrate the skills and knowledge obtained in previous courses to produce a comprehensive final design project.

LARC*6730 Major Research Project - Winter [1.0]

Students carry out original and independent research on a topic related to landscape architecture. Students interested in doing a major research project must approach a potential supervisor in semester 4 (semester 2 if holder of BLA) and have a proposal approved by their advisory committee to enrol in this course.

Independent Study

LARC*6710 Special Study (Unspecified) [0.50]

Independent study. A proposal for the content and product required for this course must be developed in conjunction with the student and a faculty member.

6. List of Recommended Course Electives

Students select their own electives that support their focus areas within landscape architecture and beyond. Students may consult with faculty, the Graduate Program Coordinator or SEDRD CBM Academic Coordinator for advice. Recommended elective courses are listed below for the MLA degree.

Course offerings, and scheduled days/times can be confirmed via WebAdvisor/Planning Tool each semester. Registration in an elective course will require instructor consent via a [Graduate Course Waiver Request Form](#). Students may take no more than 4.00 credits in senior undergraduate courses.

Research:

RPD*6170 Rural Research Methods [0.50]

Environment | Ecology:

RPD*6080 Environment & Development: Biophysical Res. & Sustainable Dev. in Rural Envts. [0.50]

RPD*6320 Water Resource Management. [0.50]

ENVS*6460 Environmental Remediation. Winter [0.50]

GEOG*4200 Social Life of Cities. [0.50]

GEOG*6340 Human-Environment Relations. Winter [0.50]

BIOL*3130 Conservation Biology. Winter [0.50]

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion:

MGMT*6170 Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in the Workplace: Adv. Theory, Research & Practice. [0.50]

ANTH*6270 Diversity and Social Equality. [0.50]

ANTH*6420 Environment, Food and Communities. [0.50]

ANTH*6460 Gender and Development. Fall [0.50]

Indigenous | Settler Relations:

HIST*6630 Indigenous Research Relations and Methodologies. [0.50]

HIST*7280 Indigenous Histories of Turtle Island Major Seminar. [1.00]

RPD*6290*03 Indigenous Experience & Relations. [0.50]

GEOG*3210 Indigenous-Settler Relationships in Environmental Governance. Fall [0.50]

Climate Change:

POLS*6390 Resource Scarcity and Conflict. [0.50]

ENGL*6020 Environmental Writing, Art, and Media. [0.50]

REAL*4870 Sustainable Real Estate. Fall [0.50]

RPD*6070 Project Development: Principles, Procedures, and Selected Methods. [0.50]

RPD*6450 Recreation and Tourism Planning and Development. [0.50]

GEOG*4900 Special Topics: Facing Uncertain Crisis, Apocalypse and Hope. [0.50]

AVC*6310 Topics in Art and Visual Culture I, Winter [0.50]

Arts:

ARTH*3040 Public Art, Winter [0.50]

ARTH*3150 Space: Roman Art & Urbanism, Winter [0.50]

ARCH*3230 Critical Issues in Art History, Fall [0.50]

ARCH*3360 Power of Images, Winer [1.00]

Skills Development:

CDE*6420 Communication for Social and Environmental Change. [0.50]

CDE*6330 Facilitation and Conflict Management. [0.50]

GEOG*3480 GIS and Spatial Analysis. Fall and Winter [0.50]

HORT*3010 Annual, Perennial and Indoor Plants - Identification and Use. [0.50]

7. Financial Assistance | Awards

Financial assistance may be available from external agencies, the University of Guelph, the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC), and through the Landscape Architecture programs of SEDRD. Entrance scholarships are generally dependent on the student having an A- or better grade average. Other forms of assistance, such as in-program scholarships and research and travel grants, are made available after acceptance into the MLA program.

Applicants and in-program students are encouraged to apply for funding for which you are eligible. Deadlines may vary from year to year. Please note that while we regularly advise students of funding opportunities and deadlines, students are responsible for seeking out opportunities and making the necessary applications. In Landscape Architecture, we attempt to ensure that financial assistance is distributed among as many students as possible. The Graduate Awards Committee, chaired by the Graduate Coordinator, is responsible for determining the nominations that are submitted for some awards.

7.1 Awards Information

Student Financial Services provides assistance in support of your educational needs, including scholarships, bursaries, OSAP loans, on-campus work support and semesterly billing and payment. Please see the [Student Financial Services](#) website.

Specific awards for which students in Landscape Architecture may be eligible are presented in this section of the handbook. Access awards are endowment funds set up by the Ontario provincial government to assist Canadian citizens or permanent residents who meet the Ontario residency requirements. Students must complete a Financial Needs Assessment Form to be considered. See the SFS website under [Forms and Documents](#).

A listing and description of internal and external awards is maintained in the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and through Student Financial Services. The **Ontario Agricultural College (OAC)** section lists the internal awards available to graduate students in the MLA program and awards by application are typically due in mid-August.

If you are a domestic student and have a first class average (equivalent to a minimum A- or 80%), with a strong research agenda, you may apply for external awards such as the [Ontario Graduate Scholarship](#) and the [Canada Graduate Scholarship Master's – CGS M](#) (SSHRC - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council or NSERC - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada). More detailed information is available under [Scholarships and Awards](#) through the OGPS website.

Funding options are listed under [Graduate Awards and Financial Assistance](#) website of the University of Guelph, Graduate Calendar and through [Financial Aid](#) website under Student Financial Services. A notice of current awards available will be emailed to students prior to the deadline. The list below are awards that are available for graduate students either through application or nomination by the department. See [Graduate Awards Search tool](#) for a full listing of UofG awards.

Research Proposal

For awards that require a research proposal, please consult with a faculty member or the Graduate Coordinator prior to making a submission. Most awards are competitive, so you will want your

proposal to be clear, thoughtful, relevant, and well presented. Make sure you focus on your proposal to fit with the requirements or intent of the award. You may need to provide a detailed outline of your proposal, which may include background/context, hypothesis, objectives, methodology, significance, bibliography/citations, and expected contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field. If you require letters of reference, approach one of your instructors or the most relevant faculty members first. Give your referees lots of time to prepare letters (minimum of two weeks) and always let them know the deadlines for your submission.

Conditions for Financial Support

Student funding from sources over which the Landscape Architecture program has direct control is typically subject to availability of funds, academic performance, contributions to the academic community or profession, and satisfactory progress on the part of the recipient towards the degree and award criteria. Funding from internal sources will not normally be available to students if they are part-time or over normal program completion. Other items of interest relating to financial assistance are:

- Income taxes are payable on salaries (GTAs, GRAs)
- Unemployment Insurance Commission deductions are made from salary payments.

Please advise the Graduate Assistant of any awards you receive from outside sources. This information is important for our reports to the accreditation body.

7.2 UofG In-Course Awards - Landscape Architecture

[Landscape Architecture ACCESS Scholarships](#). Application Deadline: January 10.

[Bell-Sargant Scholarship](#). Nomination.

[W.E. Coates Memorial Scholarship](#). Nomination.

[Soden Memorial Scholarship](#). Nomination.

[Reid's Heritage Homes Bursaries in Landscape Architecture](#). Application Deadline: January 10.

[Chanasyk Graduate Medal for Professionalism](#). Nomination.

[Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Award of Excellence](#). Nomination.

[Ontario Association of Landscape Architects Scholarship](#). Nomination.

[Stantec Landscape Architectural Scholarship](#). Nomination.

[William Tolton Access Bursaries](#). Application Deadline: January 10.

[Durante Kreuk Scholarship](#). Nomination.

[University Graduate Scholarships \(Dean's Scholarships\)](#). Nomination.

[Helen Kippax Memorial Scholarship](#). Application Deadline: September 15.

[Landscape Architecture Alumni Scholarships](#). Application Deadline: September 15.

[Reverend Charles Wood Scholarship](#). Application Deadline: January 10

7.3 UofG In-Course Awards – Ontario Agricultural College and Campus Wide

[OAC Graduate Promise & Potential Fund](#). Application: On-going.

[Cecil H. Franklin Graduate Scholarship in Soil & Water Conservation](#). Application Deadline: March 1.

[Richard and Sophia Hungerford Graduate Scholarships](#). Application Deadline: January 10.

[Richard & Sophia Hungerford Graduate Travel Grants](#). Application Deadlines: Oct. 1, March 15, June 30.

[Doug & Esther Ormrod Scholarships for Parents](#). Application Deadline: October 17.

[OAC '38 Lloyd Minshall Bursaries](#). Application Deadline: January 10.

[OAC International Travel Grants](#). Application Deadline: January 10.

[Taffy Davidson Memorial Research Travel Grants](#). Application Deadline: August 15.

[F.L. McEwen Award](#). Application Deadline: August 15.

[OAC 1950 International Research Travel Grant](#). Application Deadline: January 10.

[Robb Graduate Research Travel Grant](#). Application Deadline: August 15.

[Earnest Austin Weir Memorial Scholarship](#). Nomination.

[Quinn Memorial Scholarship](#). Nomination.
[OAC '60 Leadership Development Scholarship](#). Application Deadline: August 15.
[Wilder Family Graduate Scholarship](#). Application: April 15.
[Arthur D. Latornell Graduate Scholarships](#). Application Deadline: October 1.
[Arthur D. Latornell Graduate Travel Grants](#). Application Deadlines: October 1 and March 1.
[Brinson Partners Inc. Bursaries](#). Application Deadline: January 10.
[Class of '72: 25th Reunion Bursaries](#). Application Deadline: January 10.
[Gryphon Investment Counsel Bursaries](#). Application Deadline: January 10.
[Scotiabank Bursaries](#). Application Deadline: January 10.
[University of Guelph ACCESS Scholarships](#). Application Deadline: January 10.
[Mary I. Whitelock Bursaries](#). Application Deadline: January 10.
[Kenneth W. Knox Graduate Leadership Travel Grant](#). Application Deadline: January 10.
[University of Guelph Travel Grants](#). Application Deadline: October 1, March 15, and June 30.
[Ellen Nilsen Memorial Graduate Scholarship](#). Nomination.
[Class of OAC '60 Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant](#). Application Deadline: March 1.
[Governor General's Academic Medal](#). Nomination.
[D.F. Forster Medal](#). Nomination.
[Alumni Research Travel Grants](#). Application Deadline: March 1.
[Alastair Summerlee Scholarship](#). Application Deadline: May 1.
[Mackenzie King Open and Travelling Scholarships](#). Application Deadline: February 1.
[Indigenous Graduate Scholarship](#). Application Deadline: entering students in May/Sept/January.

7.4 Graduate Scholarships Administered by the Office of Graduate Studies

There are several opportunities to apply for scholarships and various awards. Make sure you take the time to review your possibilities. These awards require a substantial research agenda/proposal. Visit the [OGPS Scholarships and Awards](#) section for details.

Government Funded Awards

[Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's \(CGS M\) Program](#). Application deadline: ~ December 1.
[Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council \(NSERC\)](#). Application deadline: ~ December 1.
[Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council \(SSHRC\)](#). Application deadline: ~ December 1.

Provincial Awards

[Ontario Graduate Scholarships \(OGS\) Program](#). Application deadline: January 31.
[Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology \(QEII-GSST\) Program](#) – to be considered for a QEII-GSST, interested applicants must submit an [Ontario Graduate Scholarship \(OGS\)](#) application.

7.5 External Awards | Foundations | Agencies

[Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation – Annual Grants Program](#). By application.
[Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation – Frederick Gage Todd National Scholarship](#). Application Deadline: May 3.
[Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation–Peter Jacobs Indigenous Scholarship](#). Appl. deadline: Aug 1.
[Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation–Regional Scholarships](#) by Province. [LACF UofG MLA award](#). By department nomination.
[Peter Klynstra Memorial Scholarship – LACF Atlantic scholarship](#). Application deadline: September 30.
[American Society of Landscape Architects Honors and Awards](#)
[Unilock Paving the Future Scholarship](#). Application deadline: October 31.
[Landscape Ontario - Scholarships and Bursaries \(including Cullen Scholarships Program\)](#). Application deadline: June 30.

[Olmsted Scholars Program – Landscape Architecture Foundation](#). By nomination & application.
[The Saskatoon Association of Landscape Architects Academic Award](#). Application deadline: October 30.
[Landscape Architecture Foundation](#). By nomination & application.
[CELA Fountain Scholar Program](#). Application deadline: December 31.
[CELA Student Awards Program \(Creative Scholarship Award and CELA Research Award\)](#). Application deadline: December 31.
[The Spec Start DIALOG Scholarship](#). Applications ~ September 1-January 15.
[Sigma Lambda Alpha Landscape Architecture](#)
[Tree Canada - Urban Forestry Student Bursary](#). Held every 2 years. Application deadline in March.
[Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration Scholarship](#). Application deadline: April 1.
[Norfolk Nature – Harry B. Barrett Bursary Fund](#). Application deadline: May 31.
[Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals – Student Awards](#). Application deadline: June 26.
[Ontario Parks Association](#). Application deadline: Last Friday in May.
[The Grand River Conservation Foundation – Watershed Awards](#). Application deadline: May 31.
[Toronto & Region Conservation Foundation–The B. Harper Bull Scholarship](#). Applic. deadline: Sept. 29.
[The Walter J. Travis Memorial Scholarship](#). Application deadline: June 1.
[Oakville Horticultural Society Scholarship](#). Application deadline: May 31.
[SERO Ecological Restoration Scholarship](#). Application deadline: June 30.
[The Geoff Peach Memorial Scholarship Fund](#). Application deadline: January 30.
[Georgian Bay Garden Club Bursary](#). Application deadline: June 30.
[rare Charitable Research Reserve](#). Application deadline: April 1.
[Su Morin Food Justice Scholarship \(Fledge\)](#). Application deadline: December 15.
[Hugh C Morris Experiential Learning Fellowship](#). Application deadline: February 15.
[Dumbarton Oaks](#). Travel and Project Grants.
[Canadian Bureau for International Education](#). Application deadline: May 16.
[Government of Canada, International Scholarships](#)
[Canadian Federation of University Women Fellowships](#). Application deadline: December 3.
[Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies](#). Application deadline: January 31.
[Canadian Water Resources Association Scholarships](#). Application deadline: January 31.
[Wadsworth Scholars \(golf course architecture\)](#). Application deadline: June 3.
[Pinch Construction Estimating Services Scholarship](#). Application deadline: December 22.
[International Council for Canadian Studies Scholarships and Awards](#)
[International Development Research Centre](#)
[Indigenous Services Canada - Education](#)
[Council of Ontario Universities](#)
[Métis Nation of Ontario – Post Secondary Education Support Program](#)

7.6 Other Sites / Data Bases with Award Searches

[Scholarships Canada](#)
[Scholarships.com](#)

[Yconic](#)
[FindMyScholarships.com](#)

[Universities Canada](#)
[StudyPortals Scholarships](#)

Other Opportunities

7.7 Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs)

Graduate students are highly encouraged to apply for SEDRD GTA positions to assist faculty in the delivery of courses within SEDRD (BLA and EDRD courses) and University-wide. All GTA positions are posted on the University of Guelph's [TA and Sessional/Lecturer website](#). **Students are also advised of SEDRD TA postings/application deadline via email, typically in July and November of each year.** Please contact the SEDRD Administrative Officer, (sedradmin@uoguelph.ca) for additional information

regarding SEDRD GTA's and GRA's. Any person employed as a GTA is considered part of the CUPE Local 3913 Union at the University of Guelph. For more information see [CUPE Local 3913](#). Students with TA positions of 0.5 or higher are entitled to certain benefits (see [Unit 1 Benefits FAQ section](#)) for details.

7.8 Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs)

Occasionally, faculty have research projects that allow them the opportunity to hire students to assist them. Typically, faculty will post a notice or contact students directly when such an opportunity arises. Students are free to approach faculty and inquire if they have any GRA positions available.

7.9 Work-Study

Faculty and SEDRD administrators occasionally hire students through Work-Study arrangements. Faculty must identify the need for a Work-Study student, and students must be deemed eligible by filling out an application through Student Financial Services. Students are selected based on the fit of the students' skills and knowledge and the work requirements. Positions will be announced via email.

8. Student Regulations and Procedures

8.1 Student Advising

All incoming course-based master students will not be assigned an Advisor. Should you need to seek curriculum advice while in the program please consult with the MLA Graduate Coordinator; the MLA Program Assistant; or individual faculty. All LA faculty can offer advice on capstone or major research project ideas and advise you on the selection of possible elective courses. This can evolve through discussion, contact in classes, and through the advice of your peers or a faculty member.

8.2 Major Research Project Option (semesters five and six)

In-course students interested in completing the major research project option in semesters five and six must approach a potential landscape architecture faculty advisor in semester four and develop a written research proposal, and have an approved Advisory committee established via an [Advisory Committee Appointment GryphForm](#). It is also recommended that MRP students will take an additional research methods course as their elective. A proposal must be prepared and approved by their Advisory Committee (advisor plus one other member) by the end of semester four. Please see the [SEDRD Sharepoint](#) site for detailed guidelines.

8.3 University Writing Guidelines

Each instructor will provide format requirements for the preparation of papers. Unless stated otherwise in course materials, papers submitted in the Landscape Architecture program should use formatting and reference styles that are consistent with scholarly papers. Styles that are commonly used in Landscape Architecture include the APA (American Psychological Association), MLA (Modern Language Application), Chicago Manual of Style, Landscape Journal, or Landscape & Urban Planning guides for authors (all available on-line). It is the author's responsibility to submit material prepared in accordance with an agreed-upon style. Refer to the UofG Library guide on [Citation & Bibliography Resources & Style Guides](#).

8.4 Degree Program Changes

If a student wishes to seek an exemption for a required course, the student should follow the procedures below either before the start of the program or before the semester in which the course is offered (within the add/drop period); and no later than the beginning of the second registered semester.

- a) You may discuss with the Graduate Coordinator whether there may be a course for which you feel you have the equivalent content.
- b) You must demonstrate to the instructor of the course in question that you have completed the equivalent of that course through previous academic work or equivalent (i.e., course outline). The instructor then makes a recommendation by email letter to the Graduate Coordinator, copied to the Program Assistant (Diana Foolen).
- c) The Graduate Coordinator will decide whether to approve the exemption of a required course. The email document approval will be kept with the Graduate Program Assistant.
- d) If the exemption is approved, the student will drop the course via WebAdvisor.

8.5 On-Going Registration

Students in the MLA program are required to register full-time for Fall and Winter semesters each year for six semesters of full-time study over three calendar years and request an [Academic Break](#) during the first two Spring semesters to gain practical experience. The expected time to completion for the MLA program is six semesters (over 32 months).

To encourage timely completion of the MLA degree, students should try to avoid distractions of full-time employment during the Fall and Winter semesters.

Students who do not complete their MLA program of study within the prescribed completion period (six full-time semesters) will be required to submit a plan of study for completion by the maximum [program duration schedule](#) as per Graduate Calendar. Students are required to outline a plan of study using the [Plan of Study GryphForm](#) before the end of the semester of notification.

Students should use [WebAdvisor](#) whenever possible to register for the semester and to register for courses. External courses (with an undergraduate course code, or a course that is not in the MLA program) will require course registration/signature through a [Graduate Course Waiver Request Form](#). Additional information regarding registration can be found at the OGPS website under [New Student Guide](#). The [Schedule of Dates](#) for each semester can be found within the Graduate Calendar.

8.6 Summer Semester / Academic Break

Students normally register for the Fall and Winter semesters each year and request an academic break during the two summer semesters to gain practical work experience within a landscape architecture firm, government department or related field. Job postings, internship positions and student competitions are emailed to the listserv.

Students are responsible for completing the [Leave of Absence/Withdrawal/Academic Break Application GryphForm](#) prior to the start of the summer semester.

8.7 Student Progress

MLA students should progress through the normal program course requirements and students are encouraged to speak with course instructors, or the Graduate Coordinator if any issues arise. If a student is not progressing satisfactorily, the student may be requested to initiate a [Progress Report Gryph Form](#) at the end of the current semester. This form will provide an opportunity to provide comments, submit additional support materials and request a meeting with the Graduate Coordinator or Director. This report is reviewed by the Graduate Coordinator and forwarded to OGPS. When the progress of a student is evaluated as "Some Concerns" or "Unsatisfactory", a plan of study, prepared by the Graduate Coordinator in consultation with the student (signed agreement of the student), shall be included and submitted with the progress report.

8.8 Academic Standings | Use of Artificial Intelligence | Academic Misconduct

A graduate student who receives a grade of less than 65% in any course (graduate or undergraduate, prescribed, or additional) is deemed to have failed the course. Please see [Academic Standings](#) in the Graduate Calendar for more information.

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) must align with University of Guelph academic integrity principles. Students are expected to complete their work independently and showcase their problem-solving abilities. Undeclared and/or unauthorized use of AI tools to produce coursework is considered a form of academic misconduct. Any misuse of AI tools, including submitting AI-generated work, may be considered academic misconduct. For specific guidelines on acceptable AI use in your course, please check with your instructor. Please review the [University of Guelph Statement on Artificial Intelligence Systems, ChatGPT, and Academic Integrity](#) for more information.

Academic misconduct is a very serious infraction at the University and, even when inadvertent, can result in some severe academic penalties. Please refer to the Graduate Calendar regarding [Academic Misconduct](#). The library also provides information on [Plagiarism and Academic Integrity](#).

8.9 Application for Graduation

Every student/candidate for a graduate degree is responsible for submitting an application for graduation whether they intend to attend the convocation ceremony or not. Students apply for graduation via WebAdvisor by the deadline specified in the [Schedule of Dates](#).

9. Graduate Coordination and Committees

9.1 Graduate Coordinator

Day-to-day management of the graduate programs in Landscape Architecture rests with the Graduate Coordinator who should be consulted over any matter affecting graduate students. The Graduate Coordinator is a member of the faculty of Landscape Architecture appointed by the Director of the School. The role of the Graduate Coordinator includes:

- Chairing the Graduate Admissions Committee.
- Expediting the processing of student applications and registration.
- Chairing the Graduate Committee, which is comprised of faculty, graduate students, and alumni, and that establishes curriculum, policies and procedures for the graduate program in the school.
- Ensuring that the policies and regulations of Graduate Studies and the Landscape Architecture program are adhered to by the students and the faculty.
- Editing and revising policies and procedures related to the Landscape Architecture graduate program for consideration by the Graduate Committee.
- Chairing the Graduate Awards Committee, which includes coordinating scholarships and awards based on established criteria.
- Liaising with other Graduate Coordinators in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, across the College, and with the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Services.
- Preparing materials to be included in accreditation reports for the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA), and the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS).
- Working day-to-day with the Program Assistant in administration of the graduate programs.

9.2 Landscape Architecture Programs Assistant

The landscape architecture Programs Assistant takes care of day-to-day administration of the graduate and undergraduate programs and curriculum in Landscape Architecture. Contact [Diana Foolen](#) if you need forms, scholarship application information, or advice about general administrative issues.

9.3 MLA Program Committee

The Landscape Architecture MLA Program Committee is a standing committee of the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development. It is comprised of all Landscape Architecture graduate faculty, representatives of each co-hort, and typically one Landscape Architecture alumnus, and is chaired by the Graduate Coordinator. This committee typically meets once each academic semester to review curriculum, and matters related to the MLA program. Meetings may be called on the recommendation of the Director, faculty, students, or the Graduate Coordinator.

9.4 SEDRD Council

All SEDRD faculty plus staff and student representatives from the governing council of the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, chaired by the Director. This Council provides input on liaison with the professions, major space and facilities issues, budget priorities, faculty workloads, faculty search and planning matters, collaboration with other units, long range program planning, admission numbers, and so on. The day-to-day operation of the school resides with the Director.

10. Student Services and Facilities

10.1 Access to the Landscape Architecture Building

Access to the Landscape Architecture building is available for registered students. Once you are registered and your ID card is issued to you, SEDRD will automatically activate your card in mid-September for access to the landscape architecture building. Contact Diana Foolen if you have any questions.

10.2 Workspace | Studio

MLA students are provided with appropriate space in the classroom and graduate studio, and which operate as a “hot seat” environment (no set assigned workstations). SEDRD grad study rooms are also located in LA 208 and in Johnston Hall. Students are responsible for the security of their workspace while in the building, although the Graduate Coordinator can provide mediation in the event of disputes and/or conflicts. Please remember that offices and studios are a professional work environment, and we need to meet fire code requirements. Please do not alter, write, or paint the walls or furniture. Please do not bring furniture or storage units into the building. Studios are shared work environments. Please keep noise levels down and respect the space of your colleagues.

Please protect your valuables and do not leave valuables unattended in the building. Please use lockers available near your studio. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

10.3 Computing Facilities and Software

As a student at the University of Guelph, you have a central login account from the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the time of application. This identification (ID) and password allows you to access Guelph’s electronic services. [Computing and Communications Services](#) (CCS) provides core IT services to the greater campus community. Free IT help for students is available from the [CCS IT Help Centre](#).

The school provides its own computing output facility (called *Rick and Willies*) for all Landscape Architecture students to access scanners, digitizers, printers, and plotters.

Expertise in many aspects of computer applications is a fundamental skill for the profession. **It is expected that each student will have their own personal laptop computer in the program at the beginning of studies.** It is an essential tool both in the design studio and lecture environment. The brand of computer and operating system is your choice. The laptop should have processing power, storage space and display resolution to meet minimum requirements for 3D modeling, rendering, AutoCAD, GIS,

and Adobe Creative Cloud Pro (Photoshop, Illustrator, In-Design). It is also recommended to have warranty protection on your laptop.

Student software can be purchased with special student pricing for Microsoft and Adobe through the UofG Computing and Communications Services (CCS) software agreements. Visit the [CCS Software Distribution Site](#) once you are registered.

Other software you may use include:

AutoCAD: for UofG students to download (for a three-year period) for use while a student using your UofG email account; **SketchUp:** (30-day free trial); **Rhino3D:** (90-day free trial); **Google Earth Pro;** (free).

For those of you contemplating a purchase, ask lots of questions of faculty and other LA students and do look for educational discounts. The usual question asked is Mac or PC? The school does not have a policy, and use seems evenly split between the two platforms. Costs, durability, and compatibility are important considerations. With Autodesk 'porting' AutoCAD for Apple, there is no overriding reason to be concerned about a choice regarding the different operating systems. Although a few specialized 3D modelling programs are only available on the PC platform, these applications can also be run using software emulators such as 'Parallels' or 'Bootcamp.' Professional offices are varied as well in their preferred choice of operating systems.

10.4 Equipment, Audio-Visual and Room Bookings

Landscape Architecture classrooms and most studios are equipped with mounted computer projectors. For all other internal audio-visual equipment requests, please make bookings in advance. Any other equipment booked through Teaching Support Services will need to be approved by LA Course Instructors or Advisors. All LA equipment needs to be booked through the SEDRD CBM Academic Coordinator in Room LA103 or via email mcancell@uoguelph.ca.

10.5 Photocopier, Scanning and Plotters

The LA student photocopier and plotters are operated by the Landscape Architecture Student Society and are in room LA 206. Please see the LASS student contacts if the machine needs service or requires paper. The department's photocopier (located in LA108) is only available to graduate students for copying only related to GTA assignments. Please see the SEDRD CBM Academic Coordinator in Room LA103 to obtain a GTA passcode if you are employed as a Graduate Teaching Assistant.

10.6 Mail and Phone

Mail should be directed to your own dwelling. Campus phones for local calls/emergency are in the upstairs hallway near LA206 (58539) and the downstairs hallway near LA140 (ext. 53112).

10.7 MLA Student Email and Listserv

All correspondence via email will be addressed to your UofG email account. The MLA student distribution and email listserv is maintained and serves as a network for students to stay current on the happenings in LA when in Guelph and abroad. Information such as registration, forms, and documents to complete, awards, job postings, conferences, guest lectures and other information of interest will be sent from the listserv called SEDRD-MLA@listserv.uoguelph.ca. Students on the MLA listserv can also send messages to the MLA listserv with approval. Students are reminded to use appropriate 'netiquette' when using the listserv. Please check your email account regularly and delete any unnecessary emails to ensure available quota space. **Please do not "reply" to messages** from the listserv or use "reply to all" as everyone else on the list will be getting your message!

10.8 Accessing MLA Major Research Projects and Theses

MLA MRP's and past MLA theses are available in PDF format through the University of Guelph Library Atrium website under [Thesis](#) or [Research](#).

11. Landscape Architecture Organizations

11.1 Landscape Architecture Student Society

Undergraduate students in Landscape Architecture form the Landscape Architecture Student Society (LASS). Elected representatives from each class form the governing council of this organization. LASS plays an important role in delivering services to all LA students and coordinating programs and events within the school. It also serves as a forum for contact between graduate and undergraduate students, the value of which goes well beyond your time in the program. LASS is also involved in the everyday running of school life and operates "Rick and Willy's", a store to provide students with print and copy machines, and special materials. All students are encouraged to take an active role in LASS and the programs and events it sponsors.

11.2 SEDRD Graduate Students Society

The School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SEDRD) Graduate Students Society (GSS) is a representative group of students working on behalf of the graduate student body to improve the value of the graduate student experience. SEDRD graduate students have a strong interest in making their time in Guelph a challenging and dynamic experience that prepares them to pursue future academic and career goals with confidence. The SEDRD GSS is interested in sharing ideas and experiences as well as getting the most out of their time in graduate school. You may reach SEDRD GSS via email at sedrdgss@uoguelph.ca

11.3 Community Outreach Centre

Through the Landscape Architecture Community Outreach Centre, students may get involved in providing design advisory services to community organizations and individuals. Both graduate and undergraduate students can participate in chosen projects. Outreach projects provide a great opportunity to expand the development of your knowledge and skills while giving service to others. [Steven Clarke](#), Assistant Professor in Landscape Architecture, is the LA Community Outreach Coordinator.

12. University Administration

The Office of Registrarial Services include Enrolment Services, Office of Graduate Studies, Student Financial Services, Admission Services (undergraduate), and Scheduling. All departments are located at Level 3, University Centre. For more information see the [Registrarial Services](#) website.

12.1 Student Financial Services

The University of Guelph offers a full range of student financial services designed to assist students dealing with the financial pressures associated with the cost of post-secondary education. Please visit the website for information about financial services and student tuition fees.

12.2 Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

The Office of [Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#) (OGPS) oversees graduate admissions, graduate awards, and records. News and events for graduate students is also administered through their office. The [Grad Pathways](#) website is a hub of academic and professional skills development opportunities for graduate students, organized by OGPS in collaboration with on-campus and off-campus partners. The

Grad Pathways calendar on Outlook collects all professional development workshops available for graduate students. We encourage you to regularly check in on the workshops being offered throughout the semester. If you have questions about Grad Pathways, please email gradpath@uoguelph.ca.

12.3 Enrolment Services

The services provided at Enrolment Services include processing Graduate Course Waiver request forms (es@uoguelph.ca), payments for all services and tuition, transcripts, confirmation of enrolment/completion and graduation. [Campus ID cards](#) are overseen by Hospitality Services, located in the basement of the UC.

12.4 International Students

The [International Student Experience](#) office offers resources and support services for international students including international student advising; programs/events; immigration information; living in Canada information; and financial resources for international students etc. Subscribe to the International Student Connections Newsletter (check your UofG email details).

12.5 Miscellaneous Support Services

There are many other UofG services available to graduate students you may want to become familiar with including:

- [Graduate Student Association](#): the mission of GSA is to advance the academic and social goals of graduate students through advocacy, social and financial resources.
- [Grad Pathways](#): is a hub of academic and professional skills development opportunities for graduate students.
- [Graduate Student Support Circle](#): is a mutual peer support network, and opportunity for connection among all graduate students.
- [University of Guelph Student Wellness](#): which includes seven units including: Counselling, Student Health Services, Health & Performance Centre, Student Support Network, Wellness Education & Promotion Centre, Student Accessibility Services, and Sexual and Gender Based Violence Support & Education.
- [Graduate Student Wellness Resources](#): offers additional resources to help graduate students navigate academic, personal and professional challenges throughout their graduate journey.

13. Additional Web Site Information

Additional information regarding Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph can be obtained from the following addresses and social media:

- [SED RD website](#)
- [SED RD SharePoint](#)
- [SED RD Twitter Feed \(@SED RD\)](#)
- [LASS Student Instagram \(uofg_landscapearchitecture\)](#)
- [SED RD GSS Instagram \(sedrd_gss\)](#)
- [UofG – Landscape Architecture Facebook Page \(@UofGLandArch\)](#)
- [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#)

For information on the profession of Landscape Architecture, visit these websites:

- [Ontario Association of Landscape Architects \(OALA\)](#)
- [Canadian Society of Landscape Architects \(CSLA\)](#)
- [Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation \(LACF\)](#)
- [American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)
- [International Federation of Landscape Architects \(IFLA\)](#) and [IFLAHub](#)
- [Landscape Architecture Foundation \(LAF\)](#)
- [Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture \(CELA\)](#)
- [Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards \(CLARB\)](#)
- [Landscape Architect Registration Exam \(LARE\)](#)
- [World Landscape Architecture \(WLA\)](#)
- [“Your Path to Landscape Architecture” \(ASLA\)](#)

14. Professional Organizations and Membership

Professional landscape architects have regular contact with students in the program as guest lecturers and design critics. There are opportunities for students to participate directly in activities and governance of the [Ontario Association of Landscape Architects](#) (OALA) and with the [Canadian Society of Landscape Architects](#) (CSLA), the [American Society of Landscape Architects](#) (ASLA) and the [International Federation of Landscape Architects](#) (IFLA). Students in the School are also eligible for scholarships, awards and competitions sponsored by these and other related organizations, such as the [Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation](#). Please contact the association to see how you can get involved.

14.1 Professional Awards for Students

Each year student financial and recognition student awards are by application or school nomination. These include the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects Scholarship and the American Society of Landscape Architects Award of Honor and Merit, and nomination(s) to the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects' Student Award of Excellence and the Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation awards. Recipients are selected by the organization, or the Landscape Architecture faculty based on criteria defined by the granting organization. For more information, contact the Landscape Architecture Program Assistant or the MLA Coordinator.

14.2 Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA)

The [OALA](#) is a self-regulating professional association that has been operating in the province since 1968. As the regulator for the title Landscape Architect in Ontario, OALA serves the public interest, and is a place of community, learning and growth for its members. The work of OALA and its 2,000+ members support the improvement and conservation of the natural, cultural, social and built environment in Ontario. The activities of OALA include setting standards for practice; active promotion of the profession to governments, related professionals and the public; and developing and promoting the standards and benefits of landscape architecture.

The association's responsibilities include regulating professional standards; accreditation for the profession; maintaining and improving the examining process; and approving educational and professional development standards.

The OALA Student Affiliate Membership is a free service offered by the OALA to students studying landscape architecture in Ontario. To register as a Student Affiliate member, please see the [OALA Path to Membership](#) page. Students or alumni who register with CLARB to write the L.A.R.E. must be a member of the OALA or component association. Landscape Architecture student members receive complimentary copies of [Ground](#), Ontario's landscape architecture magazine.

The University of Guelph's Appointed Educator to the OALA governing council is Professor, [Afshin Ashari](#). The school also has a UofG appointed LA student representative.

14.3 Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA)

The [CSLA](#), founded in 1934, is a professional organization with over 3,200 landscape architect members and is dedicated to advancing the art, the science and practice of landscape architecture. As the voice of the profession in Canada, the CSLA's mission is to provide support and resources to members, advocate for the profession, to provide solutions facing current and future challenges, and demonstrate the value of landscape architecture. Mission areas include climate change; reconciliation diversity and equity; cultural landscapes; and nature-based solutions.

Membership in the CSLA is obtained by joining a provincial or territorial component association. Advanced education, professional work experience and in some cases passing a professional entrance exam are the requirements to become a member of a component association. Landscape Architecture students receive complimentary copies of [Landscapes/Paysages](#), a Canadian landscape architecture magazine.

14.4 Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation (LACF)

The [LACF](#) is a national charitable organization established in 1988 by members of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA). LACF invests in research, communication and scholarship that advances our collective capacity to shape resilient, equitable and meaningful landscapes for all.

14.5 American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

The [ASLA](#), founded in 1899, is the professional association for landscape architects in the United States, representing nearly 16,000 members. Landscape architects lead the planning, design, and stewardship of healthy, equitable, safe, and resilient environments. The ASLA's mission is to advance landscape architecture through advocacy, communication, education, and fellowship.

[ASLA student membership](#) and benefits is free for students that qualify for student, student affiliate, or international student membership until graduation and includes digital subscription of [Landscape Architecture Magazine](#), networking, and educational opportunities.

14.6 International Federation of Landscape Architects

The [IFLA](#) organization currently represents national associations from Africa, the Americas, Europe, Asia Pacific, and the Middle East. IFLA's mission as landscape architects is to create globally sustainable and balanced living environments for the benefit of humanity worldwide and to promote the landscape architecture profession within a collaborative partnership of the allied built-environment professions, demanding the highest standards of education, training, research, and professional practice, and providing leadership and stewardship in all matters. IFLA officially represents the world body of landscape architects through its member associations and regions and in both governmental and non-governmental organizations, such as the UN, UNESCO, UIA, etc. IFLA is a not-for-profit, non-political, non-governmental organization.

15. Summary

We hope this handbook provides you with a useful profile of the MLA program at Guelph. Please refer to it throughout your course of study. However, do watch for updates on university policies and programs - these can be found on the [University of Guelph website](#).

We urge you to take full advantage of the many opportunities available to you at the University of Guelph. The LA faculty and staff hope you will become an active part of our academic community and will find your graduate education a rewarding and fulfilling experience.

16. Contacts

The [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website](#) and the [Graduate Calendar](#) and [Office of Registrarial Services](#) are the sources of graduate information and outlines rules, regulations, forms, financial matters, and curricula during your time as an MLA student.

If you have any specific questions regarding your MLA studies, please feel free to contact us:

MLA Graduate Coordinator: Prof. Steven Clarke. Email: steven.clarke@uoguelph.ca.

MLA Graduate Program Assistant: Diana Foolen. Email: dfoolen@uoguelph.ca.

Appendix A: MLA Design Capstone Project

Default Guidelines

Overview

The Design Capstone Project (Capstone) is the default culminating requirement for students in the MLA course-based program. It is completed through LARC*6700 Studio VI: Capstone Project, the final course in the structured sequence of MLA design studios. Students who do not elect the Major Research Project (MRP) option will complete the Capstone.

The Capstone requires an individual landscape architectural design project, selected and developed by the student under instructor supervision. The project is expected to integrate and demonstrate the knowledge, values, and skills acquired throughout the MLA program at a quality consistent with professional practice. While the Capstone is an independent endeavour, students are encouraged to draw on their prior coursework as a knowledge base, seek feedback from appropriate sources — including the instructor, peers, and relevant professionals — throughout the design process.

Note: The instructor establishes the course schedule, milestone dates, and specific submission requirements. Students should consult the current course outline for LARC*6700 for all deadlines and deliverable specifications.

Course Registration: Semester 5 and 6

The Design Capstone Project is available to all MLA course-based students who have successfully completed the normal sequence of MLA program courses. Students completing the Capstone must register in the following courses:

- **LARC*6120 Studio V: Community Design** (1.0 credit, Fall semester).
- **LARC*6510 Advanced Digital Representation** (0.5 credit, Fall semester).
- **Elective** (0.5 credit, Fall semester) — Capstone students are strongly encouraged to take **LARC*6600 Design Research** as their free elective, with the intention that the research course will help set up preliminary research required for LARC*6700.
- **LARC*6700 Studio VI: Capstone Project** (1.0 credit, Winter semester) — The Design Capstone Project is completed within a single semester and is evaluated by numeric grade.
- **Elective** (0.5 credit, Winter semester).

Nature of the Capstone

The Capstone operates in a studio format. Students are expected to develop a clear research question, project brief, and work plan, with the instructor serving as a guide and navigator throughout the design process. While much of the course is dedicated to individual production, students are expected to attend all scheduled sessions, treat studio time as active working time, and engage regularly with the instructor and peers through desk critiques and pin-ups.

This course draws upon the full range of research, analytical, and design skills developed in the MLA program and serves as a demonstration of a student's ability to critically engage with issues of contemporary landscape architecture practice. Grounded in relevant research methods and theoretical

frameworks, the Capstone is an opportunity for students to push the boundaries of contemporary practice — not simply to replicate it — while further developing their individual strengths before graduation.

Student Responsibilities

You are responsible for:

- Selecting a project topic and defining the scope in consultation with the instructor.
- Developing and maintaining a project work plan and personal schedule.
- Attending all studio sessions and arriving with new progress ready for review.
- Engaging substantively in desk critiques, pin-ups, and mandatory critiques.
- Producing professional-quality design work across all required drawing types and deliverables.
- Demonstrating competence in written, graphic, and verbal communication throughout the project.

Project Scope and Deliverables

The Design Capstone Project is a comprehensive landscape architectural design project developed at a professional standard. The final submission consists of design panels produced in hand, digital, or hybrid media, as appropriate to the project and determined in consultation with the instructor.

Design Panels & Representation

Design panels are developed in hand, digital, or hybrid media, as appropriate to the project and determined in consultation with the instructor. Students are expected to produce approximately 10–12 panels over the course of the semester — roughly one per week — utilizing a range of analytical tools, representation methods, and design media best suited to their project. The scope, scale, and methods employed should reflect the nature and ambitions of the individual project, from speculative and large-scale proposals to detailed, site-grounded work.

Students are encouraged to consider the full range of project types and methods recognized by the profession. The ASLA Student Awards program offers a useful reference for the diversity of approaches, scales, and subjects that constitute rigorous and recognized landscape architectural work. Final panel requirements are confirmed with the course instructor at the outset of the semester.

Technical Skills

Students are expected to use a range of professional design and visualization tools throughout the course, including but not limited to AutoCAD, SketchUp, and the Adobe Creative Suite. Competency in file management, digital communication, and CourseLink navigation is also expected.

Course Structure and Assessment

Assessment in LARC*6700 reflects the typical stages of a professional design process. The following breakdown is a guide, but specific due dates are established by the instructor at the start of the semester.

Assessment	Due	Weight
Capstone Project Proposal (Written Statement)	Week 2	10%
Mandatory Critique 1 — Project Confirmation	Week 4	5%
Site Discovery and Understanding Report (Inventory & Analysis)	Week 5	25%
Mandatory Critique 2 — Design Progress Evidence	Week 6	5%
Panel Composition Mock-up (Drawings & Models)	Week 9	5%
Final Capstone Design Panels Submission & Presentation	Weeks 12–13	35%
Graded Desk Crits (minimum 5)	Throughout semester	5%
Studio Growth (participation & peer interaction)	Throughout semester	10%

Mandatory Critiques

Two mandatory critiques are scheduled during the semester. These are formal, assessed reviews of project progress conducted with the instructor and invited professional guests. Attendance is required. Students should prepare progress material in advance and be ready to present and discuss their work.

Desk Critiques

A minimum of five graded desk critiques are required throughout the semester, in addition to the two mandatory critiques. Desk crits are informal working sessions where students present in-progress work to the instructor and, on occasion, external professionals. Students are encouraged to bring substantive new work to each session and to take notes on feedback received.

Final Presentation

The final review is a formal presentation of completed design panels before a jury that may include the instructor, invited professionals, and peers. Students are assessed on the quality of their design work as well as their ability to articulate design ideas, concepts, and recommendations in a professional manner.

Completion of the Capstone

The following steps must be completed to successfully finish the Design Capstone. Steps 1–3 apply before or at the start of the semester; steps 4–6 apply during and at the close of the semester.

1. Register in LARC*6700 Studio VI: Capstone Project (1.0 credit) for your final Winter semester, having completed the prerequisite LARC*6610 Design Inquiry.
2. Fulfill all course requirements of the MLA program. A total of 12.0 credits (or 7.50 credits for holders of an accredited BLA) must be earned, as specified in the Graduate Calendar.

3. Apply to graduate via WebAdvisor within the first 20 days of your final semester. Late applications submitted via paper form are subject to a \$65 late fee. Refer to the Schedule of Dates for the final paper application deadline.
4. Submit the Capstone Project Proposal by Week 2, outlining your selected project, anticipated deliverables, and project timeline, as directed by the course instructor.
5. Complete all assessed deliverables — critiques, reports, panel mock-up, graded desk crits, final panels, and final presentation — by the dates established in the course outline.
6. Upon successful completion of the course, submit an electronic copy (PDF) of your final Capstone design panels to the Graduate Program Assistant.
7. Deposit your Capstone project in the Atrium Institutional Repository under the [Research Content collection](#), following the [submission instructions](#) provided by the library. Library staff will review your submission for alignment with deposit requirements, including file naming, file format, licensing, copyright, and metadata.

Please refer to the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies and the Graduate Calendar for complete program requirements.

Appendix B: MLA Major Research Project (MRP)

Option Guidelines

Overview

Students in the MLA course-based program may elect to complete a Major Research Project (MRP) in place of the Design Capstone Project. The MRP is a sustained, thesis-level inquiry that explores a topic relevant to landscape architecture discipline and practice through systematic research (50–75 pages of core text).

The MRP presents an analysis of a problem in practice, linking it to relevant theory and/or methodology. It may take the form of:

- A theoretical, philosophical, or practice-based exploration.
- A client-based study with reflection on methodology or theoretical perspectives.

Outcomes are analytical and evaluative in nature and may be exploratory or interpretive rather than conclusive. The literature review should be selective and focused on sources most directly relevant to the research problem. Methodology may include critical analysis grounded in the literature, case study approaches, secondary data analysis, or primary data collection.

Eligibility and Approval

To pursue the MRP, students must:

- Identify and secure a faculty advisor no later than the end of Semester 4.
- Develop a written research proposal in consultation with their advisor.
- Identify a second reader in consultation with your advisor. Together, the advisor and second reader form your advisory committee.
- Obtain formal approval of the research proposal from your advisory committee before work can begin.

You are expected to align your proposed research with the expertise of your advisor. The MRP option is not available without advisory committee approval.

Course Registration: Semester 5 and 6

Students completing an MRP must register in the following courses:

- **LARC*6120 Studio V: Community Design** (1.0 credit, Fall semester).
- **LARC*6600 Design Research** (Fall semester): Preparatory work, including research planning and proposal development, is undertaken in this course.
- **Elective** (0.5 credit, Fall semester): MRP students may elect to take LARC*6510 Advanced Digital Representation as their free elective, which can help build the graphic skills needed in support of LARC*6730.

- **LARC*6730 Major Research Project** (Winter semester): The MRP is completed within a single semester and is evaluated on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.
- **Elective** (0.5 credit, Winter semester) — Students may select an elective appropriate to their research interests in consultation with their advisor.

Registration for LARC*6730 must be approved by your advisor. You will need to submit a *Graduate Course Waiver Form* with Instructor Consent to register.

Nature of the Major Research Paper

The Major Research Project is an independent study undertaken with a faculty advisor. Students drive the direction of their projects, with the advisor serving as a guide and navigator throughout the process. In consultation with your advisor, you will develop a project schedule suited to the scope and nature of your research. Prior to formalizing the advising relationship, you are encouraged to approach faculty members whose research interests align with your proposed topic.

The MRP represents a culminating demonstration of your capacity to undertake rigorous, independent inquiry in support of evidence-based landscape architecture. Through this work, you will synthesize theoretical knowledge, research methodologies, and critical analysis to investigate complex questions relevant to contemporary practice. The project highlights your ability to frame research problems, engage with scholarly and professional sources, and generate well-supported arguments that inform design thinking and decision-making.

The MRP is structured to support faculty research interests. You are expected to propose a topic that aligns with the expertise of your chosen advisor, and approval from your advisory committee is required before any work may begin. The advisor serves as the primary supervisor and lead, and the second reader provides additional scholarly perspective as a committee member rather than a co-advisor. The second reader need not be a faculty member and may be an external expert whose knowledge and experience directly supports your research. In exceptional cases, an advisor may approve a project that falls outside their immediate research focus at their discretion, but this is not the norm and does not change the advisor's role as primary lead. Where funding has been secured in support of the MRP, whether through the advisor's research grants or other sources, you are expected to acknowledge that such funding carries scholarly and professional obligations. The advisor's guidance and research priorities must be respected, and your research direction must remain responsive to the advisor as principal investigator.

Student Responsibilities

You are responsible for:

- Selecting a project topic and defining the scope in consultation with your advisor.
- Submitting a research proposal to your advisor for approval.
- Developing and maintaining a project work plan and personal schedule.
- Engaging regularly in feedback sessions with your advisor.
- Submitting a draft to your advisor and second reader at a timeline determined in consultation with your advisor (typically 6–8 weeks prior to the end of the semester).

- Demonstrating competence in written, graphic, and verbal communication throughout the project.

Project Scope and Deliverables

The Major Research Paper is an in-depth, critical research paper on a topic in landscape architecture that aligns with a faculty members area of expertise. The final submission consists of a 50-75 page paper and an oral presentation.

Research Proposal

A written research proposal is required before any MRP work, including fieldwork, may begin. Students are encouraged to begin developing their proposal as early as possible — ideally in Semester 2 — and no later than the end of Semester 4. Proposals are typically drafted during Semester 3 using LARC*6610 Design Inquiry.

Proposal Content

The research proposal must:

- Define the research problem, supported by a review of relevant literature.
- Outline the research goal and objectives, and the hypothesis(es) or research questions to be addressed.
- Describe the context in which the research will be carried out.
- Describe the research methodology to be employed.
- State the potential contribution of the research to landscape architecture.
- Include a research schedule and budget.

Proposal Review Process

Submit your proposal to your advisor for review. Your advisor will provide written feedback, and you will revise accordingly. Once the proposal is accepted, you may proceed with your research.

If the first proposal is not accepted, you may submit a revised proposal. If the second proposal is also not accepted, you will be required to continue with the Design Project Option.

The approved proposal serves as a guide for your research. However, it is not expected that every aspect of the proposal be completed in full for the final MRP.

Scope of Research

The MRP may be based on secondary data analysis, case study review, literature review, or where feasible, within a single semester, fieldwork-based research. Any required fieldwork must be completed prior to the start of LARC*6730.

Ethics Review

If your research involves human participants (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observation), you must submit your research proposal for ethics review through the [University of Guelph Research Ethics Board](#) (REB) before commencing any data collection.

Key requirements and timelines:

- Research Ethics applications must be submitted before the summer semester. Please note that students are on leave during the summer semester and are therefore unable to submit ethics applications during this period. Plan accordingly to ensure your application is submitted in advance.
- Plan for approximately 6–8 weeks for the REB review process once all documents have been formally submitted.
- Fieldwork cannot begin without an approved research proposal and research ethics clearance.

Your advisor will guide you through the ethics review process and explain the program's relationship with and responsibilities to the Office of Research. For full details on conducting research with human participants, consult the Guidelines for Ethics Review of Course-Based Research Projects Involving Human Participants and the University of Guelph Research Ethics Board.

MRP Schedule and Procedures

While the MRP is formally completed during the Winter semester, successful completion depends on substantial preparation undertaken in advance. Students should plan their timeline accordingly.

Draft Submission

Submit a draft of your MRP to both your advisor and second reader at a timeline determined in consultation with your advisor, typically 4-6 weeks before the end of the semester. Your committee will provide written feedback and recommendations for final revisions.

Final Submission

Submit the final copy, incorporating all required revisions, to your committee at least one (1) week before the end of the semester. Once approved, provide an electronic copy in PDF format to both your advisor and the Graduate Program Assistant.

Presentation

Students completing the Major Research Paper will present their work to peers, faculty and experts in a final review at the end of the winter semester.

Completion of MRP

The following steps must be completed to successfully finish your MRP. Complete these in sequence, as each step builds on the previous one:

1. Obtain advisor approval of your research proposal. Registration for LARC*6730 requires advisor approval via a Graduate Course Waiver Form with Instructor Consent. Note: if your research involves human participants, ethics clearance from the University of Guelph Research Ethics Board (REB) is also required before any fieldwork or data collection may begin.
2. Complete an [Advisory Committee Appointment Gryph Form](#) to confirm your advisor and second reader.

3. Fulfill all course requirements of the MLA program. A total of 12.0 credits (or 7.50 credits for holders of an accredited BLA) must be earned, as per the [MLA program requirements](#) listed in the Graduate Calendar.
4. Submit a draft of your MRP to your committee at a timeline determined in consultation with your advisor, typically 4-6 weeks before the end of the semester. Your committee will provide written feedback and recommendations for final revisions.
5. Submit the final copy, incorporating all required revisions, to your committee at least one (1) week before the end of the semester.
6. Apply to graduate via WebAdvisor within the first 20 days of your final semester. Late applications submitted via paper form are subject to a \$65 late fee. Refer to the [Schedule of Dates](#) for the final paper application deadline.
7. Submit an electronic copy (PDF) of the approved MRP to your advisor and the Graduate Program Assistant.
8. Deposit your MRP in the Atrium Institutional Repository under the [Research Content collection](#), following the [submission instructions](#) provided by the library. Library staff will review your submission for alignment with deposit requirements, including file naming, file format, licensing, copyright, and metadata.

Please refer to the [Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies](#) and the [Graduate Calendar](#) for complete program requirements.