

UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

Master of Landscape Architecture

MLA Profile 2020/2021



School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SEDRD)

Ontario Agricultural College

The Profession of Landscape Architecture

Landscape architecture is a diverse and rewarding design profession. Landscape architects play an important role in shaping our environment, working in collaboration with other designers, scientists and the public. As a landscape architect, you'll be involved in conservation, design, and management of landscapes from the scale of individual sites to entire communities and regions. The possibilities are endless.

Landscape architects are guided by the ideals of sustaining resources for future generations, accommodating human use and enjoyment, and enhancing aesthetic quality in the environment. As professionals, we serve the needs of society and individual clients through public, private and academic practice.

The profession of landscape architecture was founded in the nineteenth century, growing out of town and regional planning, community design, and public park design. There is a tradition of collegiality and support within our profession, beginning with membership in provincial and territorial associations across Canada. The national professional body is the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA), formed in 1934; the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA), formed in 1968, serves as the provincial body. The International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), which represents the profession on international issues, was founded in 1948.

Academic programs in landscape architecture were first established in Canada in the 1960s, including the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) and the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) programs at the University of Guelph. The BLA and MLA programs at Guelph are fully accredited by the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects. CSLA accreditation is also recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Our students become licensed professionals when they have earned a degree, interned for two years, and completed professional examinations.

Career Opportunities

Landscape architects enjoy a broad range of career opportunities. Graduates of our MLA program are in demand across Canada and around the world. They become licensed professionals who have exciting careers in the private and public and academic sectors. Many own or are employed by private-sector consulting firms, multi-disciplinary firms and design-build firms. As professionals, they frequently specialize in a particular area of practice, such as landscape restoration, aggregate resource reclamation, golf course and resort design, community design, heritage conservation or computer visualization. A growing number of landscape architects are employed by resource-based industries, including forestry and aggregate resource management.

The public sector employs landscape architects at the national, provincial, regional and municipal levels to provide expertise within parks and recreation, community development, transportation, engineering and planning departments.

Many of our graduates also have academic careers, including appointments in Australia, the United States and Canada.

Alumni Employment Profile

Sample of MLA graduates which are employed at the following:

Private Sector:

Janet Rosenberg and Associates, Toronto, ON
MBTW Group, Toronto, ON
Shanghai Fanrui Architectural Design Inc., Shanghai, China
NAK Design Strategies, Toronto, ON
Tract Consulting Inc., St. John's, NL
Maruyama & Associates, Vancouver, BC
Aboud & Associates Inc., Guelph, ON
The Planning Partnership, Toronto, ON
Urban Systems, Kamloops, BC
Henry Kortekaas & Associates, Toronto, ON
Civitas Architecture Inc., Ottawa, ON
EKISTICS Town Planning, Vancouver, BC
Colin K. Okashimo and Associates, Singapore
Terraplan Landscape Architects, Toronto, ON
Dougan & Associates, Guelph, ON
Brent Harley & Associates, Whistler, BC
Alexander Budrevics & Associates Ltd., Don Mills, ON
MMM Group Ltd., Ottawa, ON
Outside Planning & Design, Halifax, NS
Earthscape, Wallenstein, ON
Stantec, Saskatoon, SK and Calgary, AB
SCI Landscape Architects, Toronto, ON
Quinn Design Associates Inc., Toronto, ON
Forrec Ltd., Toronto, ON
BENCH Site Design Inc., Kelowna, BC

Public Sector:

City of Ottawa, City of Hamilton, City of London, City of Burlington, ON
Township of Clearwater, ON
Hong Kong SAR Government
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, BC
Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Toronto ON

Academic/Research Sector:

PhD Mining Engineering, University of Alberta, AB
PhD Planning, University of Waterloo, ON
PhD Geography, Western University, ON
PhD, Biology, Laurentian University, ON
Professor, Cal Poly University, Pomona, CA
Associate Professor, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX
Senior Lecturer, Lincoln University, Christchurch, NZ

Landscape Architecture at Guelph

The University of Guelph is an internationally recognized centre of landscape architectural education. It hosts a four-year undergraduate program leading to the BLA degree and graduate level studies leading to MLA and PhD degrees.

Our Mission 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.

Landscape Architecture, Rural Planning and Development, Capacity Development and Extension and Rural Studies comprise Guelph's School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SEDRD). This structure is intended to facilitate cross-disciplinary study in fields related to landscape architecture and expands the resources and opportunities available to students in all three areas of study.

School Atmosphere

Faculty and students in Landscape Architecture are a group of creative, concerned and intensively involved individuals who enjoy the opportunity to work and learn together. Unique in our skills, life experiences and points of view, we share the goal of improving the fit between humans and their physical environment. Discussions and debate are common as students and faculty struggle with the issues raised by this goal and collaborate in evaluating potential solutions.

The School provides comfortable studios and classrooms as well as computing and computer imaging capacity. Nearby cities and rural landscapes provide the context for many studio projects. Toronto, a city of three million, is approximately one hour's drive from Guelph and frequently serves as a setting for studying urban issues, as does the City of Guelph and nearby mid-sized cities.

Students come from all over Canada and numerous foreign countries, bringing a broad range of undergraduate backgrounds to their studies in landscape architecture. The richness of this mixture fosters an outstanding learning experience.

Landscape Architecture Faculty

Landscape Architecture faculty have 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 education backgrounds and interests that span broad areas of the profession, adding significantly to the richness of the student learning experience at Guelph.

Associated professionals and faculty from other university programs contribute as well to the education of students in Landscape Architecture. Please feel free to contact any of our faculty to discuss your interests.

Research and Practice Interests

Landscape Architecture Faculty:

Nadia Amoroso, Assistant Professor. BLA, MUD (Toronto), PhD (The Bartlett, UCL, London, 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, Assistant Professor. B.Env.D, MLA (Manitoba). Room: LA 120, Ext. , Email: 52575. steven.clarke@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: storytelling & narrative, community engagement, neighbourhood planning & urban design, agricultural urbanism, and design & construction.

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.

Martin Holland, Assistant Professor. BA (Dalhousie), MLA (U. Virginia), PhD (Illinois). Room: LA 123, Ext. 58688, Email: martin.holland@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: Landscape history and theory, cultural landscapes, landscape conservation and preservation, landscapes of commemoration and memorialization, contemporary design practice.

Sean Kelly, Associate Professor and SEDRD Director. 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.

Karen Landman, Professor. BLA (Guelph), MSc (Guelph), PhD (Queen's). Room LA 105, Ext. 53748, Email: klandman@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: urban greening, urban agriculture, planting design, green infrastructure, landscape stewardship.

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

Other Contributing Colleagues:

Robert D. Brown, University Professor Emeritus | Associated Graduate Faculty. BSc (Saskatchewan), MLA, PhD (Guelph). Texas A&M University, TX. Email:

rbrown@arch.tamu.edu. Areas of interest: microclimatic design, urban heat island mitigation, animal and human thermal comfort design, human health, landscape sustainability, landscape analysis.

[Cecelia Paine](#), Professor Emeritus | Associated Graduate Faculty. BLA (Illinois), MLA (Michigan). Room JH 007. Email: cpaine@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: contemporary design, heritage and rural landscape conservation, professional practice, urban green systems and community design.

[James R. Taylor](#), Professor Emeritus | Associated Graduate Faculty. BSLA (Iowa State), MLA (California-Berkeley). Room JH 017A. Email: jrtaylor@uoguelph.ca. Areas of interest: landscape planning, GIS, eco-tourism, professional practice, community design, renewable energy facility site assessment & planning.

The Master of Landscape Architecture

Students who hold an honours undergraduate degree or equivalent with high standing in virtually any field may be considered for admission to the Master of Landscape Architecture program. If your degree is not in landscape architecture, you may expect to follow a three-year (six-semester) academic program leading to a first professional degree (MLA). Currently students with backgrounds in music, economics, biology, philosophy, architecture, planning, engineering and many other fields are enrolled in our MLA program.

Recent BLA graduates with a recognized, accredited degree in landscape architecture will be considered for a two-year program of study (four-semester), and mature professionals in landscape architecture should expect to spend approximately one year (three-semester) at Guelph to fulfil requirements for the MLA degree.

The faculty in Landscape Architecture also participate in an interdisciplinary PhD in Rural Studies. Students who want to enter the PhD program with an emphasis in landscape architecture will apply directly to the PhD Rural Studies program.

Programs of Study

MLA First Professional Degree Program (those holding degree other than BLA)

This program is designed for individuals with an honours degree other than the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture. The prescribed studies will consist of at least fourteen graduate courses (6.75 credits) and a thesis. It requires six semesters of full-time study over three calendar years. Students normally register for Fall and Winter semesters each year and request a 'Leave of Absence' during the Spring semester in order to gain practical experience. The following program of courses will be followed by most students; however, there is some flexibility in the program depending on each student's individual background. An exchange/study abroad may be arranged in consultation with Advisor and Graduate

Coordinator. **Below is the typical program of study for those holding an honours degree other than BLA:**

Semester 1 – Fall

LARC*6010 LA Studio I
LARC*6020 LA Studio II
LARC*6340 Landscape History Seminar
LARC*6430 Landscape Resource Analysis

Semester 2 - Winter

LARC*6030 L.A. Studio III
LARC*6040 L.A. Studio IV
LARC*6470 Integrative Environmental Planning

Semester 3 – Fall

LARC*2240 Plants in the Landscape
LARC*6360 Professional Practice Seminar
LARC*6440 Environmental Design
LARC*6610 Research Methods (or equivalent)

Semester 4 – Winter

LARC*6120 Community Design
LARC*6600 Critical Inquiry & Research Anal.
LARC*6380 Research Seminar (audit)

Semester 5 – Fall

LARC*6710 Special Study
Thesis

Semester 6 – Winter

LARC*6380 Research Seminar (credit)
Thesis

MLA Second Professional Degree (recent BLA graduates)

Students who hold a BLA or BSLA degree will undertake a program of study that includes both courses and a thesis. If you are considering a second degree in landscape architecture, please consult the Graduate Coordinator in Landscape Architecture. Those without extensive professional experience should expect to undertake a program of at least seven graduate courses (3.25 credits) and a thesis. **Below is the typical core program of study for those holding an accredited BLA degree:**

Semester 1 – Fall

LARC*6610 Research Methods (or equivalent)
1 Elective

Semester 2 - Winter

LARC*6470 Integrative Environmental Planning
LARC*6600 Critical Inquiry & Research Analysis
1 Elective

Semester 3 – Fall

LARC*6710 Special Study
Thesis

Semester 4 – Winter

LARC*6380 Research Seminar
Thesis

MLA Second Professional Degree (those with substantial LA professional experience)

MLA applicants who have several years of substantial professional experience will be required to complete a program of at least five graduate courses (2.25 credits) and a thesis. **Below is the typical core program of study for those holding an accredited BLA degree with substantial professional experience:**

Semester 1 – Fall

LARC*6610 Research Methods (or equivalent)
1 Elective

Semester 2 - Winter

LARC*6380 Research Seminar
LARC*6600 Critical Inquiry & Research Analysis (or equivalent)

Semester 3 – Summer

LARC*6710 Special Study
Thesis

Overview of Program Structure and Content of First Professional Degree

Structured course work comprises Semesters 1 and 2 where design theory, landscape history knowledge and skills in combination with landscape analysis and planning are emphasized. Semesters 3 and 4 continue with professional courses emphasizing more advanced professional theory, knowledge and skills combined with courses that introduce research methods and analysis. Semesters 5 and 6 emphasize individual thesis work in consultation with the thesis advisor. Details of each semester are provided below:

Semester 1: Introductory professional courses focussed on history and theory of landscape architectural design; design principles and philosophies, design process and site scale design application; field-based course in landscape analysis and introduction to AutoCAD; introduction to site surveying and engineering and construction materials and methods.

Semester 2: Intermediate professional courses focussed on theory and practice related to site planning, social/behavioural factors in design, planting design, and public involvement in design; introduction to Photoshop and Illustrator; applications of site engineering and construction methods through contract documentation and use of AutoCAD; introduction to environmental planning theory and practice.

Semester 3: Professional courses focussed on business, legal and ethical aspects of practice; woody plants; application of design skills and knowledge to more complex ecological planning and design issues and use of GIS in design decision-making; introduction of research methods relevant to Landscape Architecture and development of an initial thesis proposal by individual students.

Semester 4: Advanced professional design studio course investigating contemporary design practice, applying and integrating previous course work, and applying knowledge and skills to urban open space, community design and comprehensive integrative projects; critical inquiry and research analysis and research seminar audit provide further understanding of relevant methods of inquiry and their application in Landscape Architecture.

Semester 5: This semester is devoted primarily to thesis research. It includes acquisition of knowledge and skills to prepare students for development of a practice specialization in Landscape Architecture. Students take an independent study course (LARC*6710) and may take elective courses in consultation with their Thesis Advisory Committee.

Semester 6: This semester is devoted primarily to completion of thesis research. It represents a culmination of knowledge and skills through fine-tuning of research and writing skills and critical-thinking abilities. Students share research results with others through Research Seminar and the MLA Conference.

Curriculum Components

The MLA curriculum is based on three knowledge/skill course components, plus a thesis. These components and their associated courses are presented below:

Design and Synthesis/Theory and Practice Component

- LARC*6010 Landscape Architecture Studio I (0.5)
- LARC*6020 Landscape Architecture Studio II (0.5)
- LARC*6030 Landscape Architecture Studio III (0.5)
- LARC*6040 Landscape Architecture Studio IV (0.5)
- LARC*6120 Community Design (0.5)
- LARC*6340 Landscape History Seminar (0.25)
- LARC*6360 Professional Practice Seminar (0.25)

Landscape Analysis and Planning Component

- LARC*2240 Plants in the Landscape (0.5)
- LARC*6430 Landscape Resource Analysis (0.5)
- LARC*6440 Environmental Design (0.5)
- LARC*6470 Integrative Environmental Planning (0.5)

Research Component

- LARC*6380 Research Seminar (audit)
- LARC*6380 Research Seminar (0.25)
- LARC*6600 Critical Inquiry and Research Analysis (0.5)
- LARC*6610 Research Methods (0.5)

Thesis

- LARC*6710 Special Study (0.5)
- Thesis Research/Writing

Course Calendar Descriptions

Design Theory and Practice

LARC*6010 Landscape Architecture Studio I F [0.50]

Studio and field instruction introduces the student to landscape architecture through acquisition of basic professional skills and knowledge. Topics include design theory, landscape inventory and analysis, application of the design process to projects at the site scale, graphic and oral communication and model-building.

LARC*6020 Landscape Architecture Studio II F [0.50]

Studio 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*6030 Landscape Architecture Studio III W [0.50]

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*6040 Landscape Architecture Studio IV W [0.50]

Studio instruction emphasizes design implementation, materials and methods of construction, principles of storm water management, construction specifications and graphic communication using computer applications.

LARC*6440 Environmental Design F [0.50]

This course integrates field 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 scales from site to regional scale. Case studies component will require some travel at students' expense.

LARC*6120 Community Design W [0.50]

Studio and field instruction emphasizes integration of ecological, social, cultural and historical factors in the comprehensive design of urban and special use landscapes at the community scale.

LARC*6340 Landscape History Seminar F [0.25]

A lecture/seminar course focussed on the history of Landscape Architecture. Skills emphasize the development of oral and writing skills.

LARC*6360 Professional Practice Seminar F [0.25]

A lecture/seminar course focussed on the legal, business, ethical and professional practices of Landscape Architecture professionals. Skills emphasize the development of oral and writing skills.

Landscape Analysis and Planning (Interdisciplinary)

LARC*2240 Plants in the Landscape F (1-2) [0.50]

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

LARC*6430 Landscape Resource Analysis F [0.50]

Integrated field and classroom instruction introduces the student to inventory and analysis of biological, physical, social and cultural elements of the landscape. Projects will incorporate principles of landscape ecology and regional landscape planning. Interdepartmental.

LARC*6470 Integrative Environmental Planning F [0.50]

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

Research Techniques and Practice (Interdisciplinary)

LARC*6380 Research Seminar W [0.25]

A seminar course focussed on the process and communication of research, influenced by the current research of the participants. Participants organize a conference to present their research results.

LARC*6600 Critical Inquiry and Research Analysis W [0.50]

Students are introduced to critical inquiry as a method of evaluating information, design, and planning. The focus of the course is on the analysis of research data. Modelling and simulation are introduced and discussed in the context of planning, design, and research.

LARC*6610 Research Methods W [0.50]

An introduction 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. Emphasis is on developing foundations for the creation of appropriate research questions.

Independent Study

LARC*6710 Special Study S,F,W [0.50]

Independent study. A proposal for the content and product required for this course must be developed in conjunction with the student's Advisory Committee. This course may be taken more than once.

Admission

Candidates for the MLA degree must apply online to the Landscape Architecture program. Students who have a 70 per cent (B-) or better average over the final two years (20 credits) of undergraduate study in any honours degree (four-year) program or equivalent will be considered for admission. Applicants holding a three-year degree and having a minimum of five years' relevant work experience may also be considered for admission through alternate/special case admissions criteria.

Acceptance to the MLA program is based on previous academic performance, references, statement of interest, evidence of creative work (portfolio) and background information provided through a questionnaire (supplemental document).

Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to submit the results of a standardized language test. Please see the [English Language Proficiency](#) chart for acceptable tests and required scores. The minimum required score is mandatory for MLA admission.

We look at the 'pool' of applications to make our selection and typically take in a total of 15-18 students annually. The MLA program has a high volume of international applicants and we may only choose the top 1-3 international candidates with a high overall ranking.

It is vital that applicants have sufficient funding. It is the student's responsibility to cover the entire cost of the program. Anticipated [Costs of Tuition/Living](#) expenses can be found at the Graduate Studies Web site. A full schedule of fees applicable to both Canadian and International can be found under [Guelph Graduate Fees](#) on the [Student Financial Services Web site](#). Entrance scholarships are available to domestic students with a strong application and admission average.

Application Procedures

Applicants apply on-line through the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral website at [Applying to Guelph](#). Only the electronic portfolio submission pertaining to your application for admission is to be sent via email to mla.portfolio@uoguelph.ca.

After a careful review of all submitted materials, the strongest candidates are selected for admission from the pool of qualified applicants.

Completed applications are due by January 31st each year. Applications received after January 31st may be considered by the Admissions Committee, but please check with the MLA GPA to see if applications are still be considered. Except in rare circumstances, applicants are accepted for entry into the fall semester annually. Course sequencing and space limitations make the winter semester entry point undesirable for most MLA degree students. Late applications will be reviewed if any spaces are available.

English Language Programs

The University of Guelph, Office of Open Learning offers intensive English language certificate programs for academic studies and corporate training. Courses are designed to improve the speaking and writing skills of international students. For more information please visit the [English Language Programs on the Open Learning Web site](#).

Registration

Registration information is supplied to each entering and in-course student by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the Landscape Architecture program. Entering students should consult with the Graduate Coordinator and the Graduate Program Assistant to establish their course program and complete registration forms. In-course students should

consult with their Advisor or the Graduate Coordinator to discuss any matters of concern regarding their program or registration.

Students wishing to undertake a part-time schedule should consult with Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the Graduate Coordinator for guidance and procedures. The MLA Program generally is not amenable to part-time study, particularly in early semesters.

Advising/Supervision

Each entering student is assigned an Academic Advisor and Committee Member. As your focus within the program grows sharper, you are encouraged to select your Advisory Thesis Committee, from faculty members whose interests are aligned with yours. You are advised to choose your Thesis Advisor as soon as possible and, at the latest, prior to the beginning of your final year of study.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Applicants to Landscape Architecture and in-course students are eligible to compete for a number of fellowships, scholarships and bursaries available to University of Guelph graduate students. The School does not offer separate funding. It is vital that you are prepared to cover the full cost of the program.

A listing and description of internal and external awards is maintained under [Scholarships and Awards through the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#) and with Student Financial Services under [Scholarships and Financial Aid](#). The Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) section lists the internal awards available to graduate students in our School. Applicants with a high GPA average are encouraged to apply prior to entry for government funded awards such as the [Ontario Graduate Scholarship](#). The OGS scholarship requires that you have a completed MLA application and the OGS application submitted by the end of January. More detailed information is available from the University of Guelph Web site, and from the Landscape Architecture Graduate Coordinator and LA Programs Assistant.

SEDRD Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA's) are awarded each semester on the basis of the needs of instructors and available funds. These positions that support our BLA program and EDRD courses are posted in July (for Fall semester) and November (for Winter semester) of each year. Some Research Assistantships (RA's) are also available, depending on funding obtained by faculty. Individual faculty members should be consulted regarding these.

Student Financial Aid and Ontario Work Study Programs provide a way for students with financial need to work part time on campus. Work study enables you to earn money and gain work experience. To qualify, you must be enrolled in at least three courses and have an established financial need.

Financial aid is administered through the University of Guelph - Student Financial Services Office and is based on a financial needs assessment which all students are encouraged to complete.

For more information please view [Funding Graduate Studies](#) from the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Web site.

Additional Information

Additional information regarding Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph and the MLA program at:

["7 Common Questions About Applying to the MLA Program"](#) (YouTube Video)

[School of Environmental Design and Rural Development
Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#)

For information on the profession of landscape architecture, visit these Web sites:

[Ontario Association of Landscape Architects](#) (OALA)
[Canadian Society of Landscape Architects](#) (CSLA)
[Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation](#) (LACF)
[American Society of Landscape Architects](#) (ASLA)
[Landscape Architecture Foundation](#) (LAF)
[International Federation of Landscape Architects](#) (IFLA)
[Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture](#) (CELA)
[Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards](#) (CLARB)
[Landscape Architect Registration Exam](#) (LARE)

["Your Path to Landscape Architecture"](#) (ASLA)

Frequently Asked Questions: MLA Program at Guelph

[Which semester can I start the program?](#)

Except in very rare circumstances, applicants are accepted for entry into the fall semester annually. Course sequencing and space limitations make the winter semester entry point impossible for most MLA degree students.

[What are the requirements for my referees?](#)

Two Referee Assessment forms must be included in your online application submission. You can submit up to three references. You should try to include at least one reference from one of your professors or an academic source.

[What about transcripts? When am I required to provide a transcript?](#)

The academic record that we refer to as a transcript provides a listing, year by year, of all courses taken and the grade or mark received for each course. All transcripts need to include a

grading scale. You are required to provide transcripts from any institution where you have earned (or will earn) a degree, studied for one semester or more, or took courses that relate to your undergraduate degree or graduate study. This will include incomplete studies/programs, transfer courses, letter of permission or exchanges. Your application checklist on WebAdvisor will identify which transcripts you are required to upload. Final official transcript(s) stating when the degree was conferred, program completion dates and awarded degree certificate (if applicable) will need to be submitted as soon as you accept an offer of admission to the program. You will not be able to register until all final documentation has been received. Official/final transcripts must be received before the first day of classes of the semester in which you start your program.

[I do not have a design background. What should be included in my portfolio?](#)

Many applicants have not taken any courses related to design. In these cases, submit several samples of writing or other work that represent your critical and/or creative thinking skills. Examples of projects you have designed or constructed should also be considered for inclusion (e.g. woodworking, sewing, art). If you have taken graphics or design classes, or if you have done informal design related to landscape architecture, consider submitting examples of this work. Applicants are encouraged to be selective in the work they submit; it is preferable to send examples of a range of work rather than provide a comprehensive selection of one type of activity. We are looking for evidence of creativity.

[Are there opportunities to visit the campus or sit-in on classes?](#)

Please feel free to visit our School and the campus at any time. A map of the campus is located on the [Parents and Visitors Web page](#). The School is housed in the Landscape Architecture building. Faculty and staff offices are located on the first floor and the MLA studio is located on the second floor. The landscape architecture website will announce guest lectures and presentations. Please feel free to contact the Graduate Coordinator via email to discuss the program in more detail or to set up a visit to the School so that you can sit in on some classes and meet with faculty and students.

Get to know the Master of Landscape Architecture program by watching the "[7 Common Questions About Applying to the MLA Program YouTube Video](#)".

[Where do I find information regarding financial aid and tuition costs?](#)

All of our internal funding opportunities are described in the [Graduate Calendar](#). Funding and Fees information is listed in the [Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#) Web site. Financial aid and tuition costs can be found through [Student Financial Services](#). The Web links will give you direct access to information on tuition fees, employment through teaching, research, and service assistantships.

How many class hours per week are required in the MLA program?

During the first year, students are in class approximately 28 hours per week. In the second year, the class hours total approximately 12 hours per week. The third year focuses on your thesis work with usually only one formal class in the winter semester.

When will I find out if I am accepted into the program?

After the January 31st deadline for submitting your material, complete applications will be reviewed and acceptance/waiting list notices will be sent out in late March/April. Official offers of admission from the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies will be sent electronically through your WebAdvisor account. Offers of admission have a deadline date, giving you several weeks to respond. Wait lists and late applications will be reviewed if any spaces are still available.

Are there courses or readings that can prepare me for starting the MLA program?

Students can benefit from taking visual arts, ecology, soils or plant identification courses prior to starting the program, but this is not necessary. Other areas of activity that you may find useful to explore include freehand drawing, GIS, Photoshop and Illustrator, Sketch-Up and In-Design. An AutoCAD course at a community college is beneficial before you enter the program.

What kind of computer or supplies do I need?

Computer: We recommend that you own a laptop computer. The brand of computer and operating system is your choice. Computers ideally meet the following minimum requirements to handle 3D modeling, rendering, CAD, GIS, and the Adobe Suite. CPU: Intel i7 Dual-Core processor 2GHz or faster; RAM: 32GB or 64GB of RAM; Display: 1280x1020 (1920x1080 recommended); GPU: 2GB VRAM NVIDIA Quadro / AMD Radeon Pro or Intel UHD 630 (have a strong graphics card, discrete) ; Storage: 512GB SSD or higher.

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

Supplies: The MLA program does not require you to purchase a large amount of studio supplies; however, you will be required to bring your own basic supplies for studio. This will include items such as a set of pencils, drafting scales, felt tip markers, yellow or white trace paper rolls (18"; 24"; 36"), an eraser and drafting tape. Useful but not necessary additions to your supplies would be *Prismacolor* or *Tria* art markers and a 100 ft/30 m surveyor's tape measure. You do not need to possess all these items immediately; however, it gives you an idea of what might be needed throughout the year. Specific supplies will be discussed in class.

Are there employment opportunities while in the program?

As we have a large undergraduate Bachelor of Landscape Architecture program (BLA) we have many opportunities for graduate students to be employed as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) to assist faculty in the delivery of courses. Students may apply for GTA positions for the Fall and Winter semesters. There are also opportunities for faculty to hire Graduate Research

Assistantships (GRA) or Work Study students. There are also landscape architecture job opportunities available. It is recommended that students work no more than 10 hours per week while attending the MLA program. The first four semesters of the program are quite intense and students usually reduce outside workloads during that time.

What can I do to gain practical experience while in the program?

The Landscape Architecture Community Outreach Centre offers design assistance directly to communities, organizations and individuals. Students are also encouraged to use the summer months to gain professional work experience within a landscape architecture firm or a government department. Job postings, internship positions and student competitions are emailed, posted and placed in our LA job binder for students to pursue.

Why Choose the MLA Program at Guelph?

Guelph's Reputation:

The BLA and MLA programs at Guelph enjoy a world-wide reputation as a centre for landscape architecture education. Our faculty and associated professionals are recognized internationally for their contributions to teaching, research, writing, practice and professional service. Faculty bring a broad range of experiences to the learning environment. They hold degrees in landscape architecture and many related fields and have practiced in a variety of settings. Both BLA & MLA programs are fully accredited by the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and fully accepted by the American Society of Landscape Architects. An accredited degree from Guelph's programs facilitates membership in Landscape Architecture professional associations across North America.

Design:

Our students get hands-on experience through community-based studio projects with real clients. There are many options for BLA & MLA students to study abroad through the University's international exchange program. Internships and summer employment opportunities provide students with paid professional experience in some of North America's most prestigious firms.

Research:

Students and faculty at the University of Guelph make a significant contribution to research in Landscape Architecture. Research is published widely in the top international journals of the discipline, as well as professional/industry periodicals. The MLA program offers research opportunities and travel / field trip experiences.

Graduates/Alumni:

Our graduates are in demand by employers who value their education in both theory and practice, and because of experience gained through practical experience and community outreach projects. Our alumni have exciting careers in the public, private and academic sectors worldwide. The LA program has a strong relationship with the largest group of alumni in Canada

and the connection to a diverse alumni base and other employers who want to hire Guelph grads. Graduates of the University of Guelph work all over the world.

Atmosphere:

The faculty and students in Landscape Architecture are a group of creative, concerned and intensely involved individuals who enjoy the opportunity to work and learn together. Housed in our own building, we provide comfortable studios and classrooms, as well as computing output. The Landscape Architecture Student Society (LASS) and the SEDRD Graduate Student Society (GSS) organizes many social and educational student events throughout the year.

The MLA program gives graduate students an opportunity to be a Teaching Assistant in our BLA program or in other programs across campus.

We provide top-notch education in an atmosphere where people work to help each other, build upon each other's strengths, and create a community where everyone will know your name. We strive to provide you with knowledge, skills, values and experiences that will last a lifetime through engagement with professors, fellow students, professionals, alumni and staff. We have a vibrant atmosphere engendered by a combination of graduate programs within our School, and strong connections to other programs across the University.

The Campus:

Our safe, friendly, walkable campus is a mix of charming traditional buildings and new facilities, set in a lovely landscape that forms a learning landscape for our students. Food Services at UofG is recognized as a Canadian leader for sustainability initiatives within University food service and retail operations, and has won numerous local food awards. University students rank Guelph as Number 1 in food quality. There are also excellent athletic facilities and many Landscape Architecture students are varsity athletes. Our library houses the Centre for Canadian Landscape Architecture Archives.

The Community:

The [City of Guelph](#) has big city appeal with a small town feel and is consistently rated as one of Canada's best places to live in Ontario. It is a vibrant community population of over 135,000 with a lively downtown, abundant shopping opportunities and dynamic cultural activities. Guelph students have unlimited access to Guelph transit for travel throughout the city, and linkages to surrounding cities.

MLA Profile 2020/2021