

UNIVERSITY  
of GUELPH

## MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (MLA)

### 2023-2024 PROGRAM HANDBOOK



## SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SEDRD)

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 environment provides the ingredients for lively debates, discussions, and creative solutions. We encourage all students to become part of this vibrant 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 and research, we encourage you to get to know faculty on an individual basis. Some faculty will have an open-door policy, while others post office hours. In either case, we encourage interaction and invite you to talk with us.

## 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 first 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

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.

The School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (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.

### 1.5 Purpose of the Handbook

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 the University's *Policy on Responsibilities of Advisors; Advisory Committees; Graduate Students and Student-Advisor Mediation Procedures; Graduate Policy on Thesis Format*; and other procedures by the [Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies](#) (OGPS).

## 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 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 (landscape architects), and faculty from other university programs contribute as well to the education of students in Landscape Architecture.

### 2.1 Research and Practice Interests - Landscape Architecture Faculty Members

[Afshin Ashari](#), Assistant Professor. BCS (Islamic Azad University-IAUCTB); MLA (Toronto).

Email: [aashari@uoguelph.ca](mailto:aashari@uoguelph.ca). Areas of interest: Parametric design (generative algorithms, optimization, digital simulation, and environmental analysis), 3D printing and digital fabrication, and visual communication.

[Nadia Amoroso](#), Associate Professor. BLA, MUD (Toronto), PhD (The Bartlett, UCL, London, UK). Room: LA 144, Ext. 53192, Email: [nadia.amoroso@uoguelph.ca](mailto: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., Email: 52575. [steven.clarke@uoguelph.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](#), Associate Professor. BA (Dalhousie), MLA (U. Virginia), PhD (Illinois).  
Room: LA 123, Ext. 58688, Email: [martin.holland@uoguelph.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:klandman@uoguelph.ca). Areas of interest: urban greening, urban agriculture, planting design, green infrastructure, landscape stewardship.

[Brendan Stewart](#), Associate Professor and BLA Coordinator. BLA (Guelph), MLA (California-Berkeley).  
Room LA 117, Ext. 53483, Email: [brendan.stewart@uoguelph.ca](mailto: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:

[Cecelia Paine](#), Professor Emeritus | Associated Graduate Faculty. BLA (Illinois), MLA (Michigan).  
Email: [cpaine@uoguelph.ca](mailto: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). Email: [jrtaylor@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jrtaylor@uoguelph.ca). Areas of interest: landscape planning, GIS, eco-tourism, professional practice, community design, renewable energy facility site assessment & planning.

## 3. The Master of Landscape Architecture Degree

### 3.1 MLA First Professional Degree Program

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. **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 take a scheduled academic break during the two Spring semesters 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.

In addition to the prescribed studies, a student may take courses outside the discipline. These courses may be at either the undergraduate or the graduate level.

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 degree:**

**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 (optional to audit in semester 4)*

**Semester 5 – Fall**

LARC\*6710 Special Study  
Thesis

**Semester 6 – Winter**

LARC\*6380 Research Seminar  
Thesis

### 3.2 MLA Second Degree Stream (for those with a BLA degree)

MLA students who hold a BLA or BSLA accredited degree will receive advanced standing and 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

### 3.3 MLA Second Degree Stream (for those with a BLA degree and substantial professional LA experience)

MLA students who have several years of substantial landscape architecture professional experience will receive advanced standing and 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

## 4. Overview of MLA First Professional Degree Program Structure and Content

Structured course work comprises Semesters 1 and 2 where design theory, 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; plant identification; 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 issues, applying, and integrating previous course work, and applying knowledge and skills to green infrastructure, 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 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. Thesis defence should be scheduled before the end of the Winter semester.



## 5. Financial Assistance

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 Landscape Architecture programs.

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. If you require financial assistance, feel free to contact the Graduate Coordinator to discuss your situation.

### 5.1 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 in order 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. If you are a domestic student and have a first class average (equivalent to a minimum A- or 80%), it is most advantageous to apply in advance 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.

All awards are listed under [Graduate Awards and Financial Assistance](#) website of the University of Guelph, Graduate Calendar and through [Scholarships and Financial Aid](#) under Student Financial Services. A notice of current available awards 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.

#### 5.1.2 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  
[Thompson Graduate Studies Scholarship](#) - 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  
[John E. \(Jack\) Irving Scholarship](#) – Application Deadline: September 15  
[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

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

[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  
[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: 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Bursaries](#) – Application Deadline: January 10  
[Gryphon Investment Counsel Bursaries](#) – Application Deadline: January 10  
[Scotiabank Bursaries](#) – Application Deadline: January 10  
[Richard and Sophia Hungerford Graduate Scholarships](#) – Application Deadline: January 10  
[Richard & Sophia Hungerford Graduate Travel Grants](#) – Application Deadlines: October 1, March 15, and June 30  
[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  
[Cecil H. Franklin Graduate Scholarship in Soil & Water Conservation](#) – Application Deadline: March 1  
[Governor General’s Academic Medal](#) - nomination  
[D.F. Forster Medal](#) - nomination  
[Alumni Research Travel Grants](#) – Application Deadline: March 1  
[Doug & Esther Ormrod Scholarships for Parents](#) – Application Deadline: October 17  
[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

#### 5.1.4 Graduate Scholarships Administered by the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

There are numerous opportunities to apply for scholarships and various awards. Make sure you take the time to review your possibilities. Visit the [OGPS Scholarships and Awards](#) section for details.

##### Government Funded Awards

[Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s \(CGS M\) Program](#). Application deadline: December 2

[Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council \(NSERC\)](#). Application deadline: December 2

[Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council \(SSHRC\)](#). Application deadline: December 2

##### 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.

[Ontario Graduate Fellowships \(OGF\) Programs](#) – By department nomination by August 31

#### 5.1.5 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](#). Application deadline: August 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: August 31.

[Landscape Ontario - Scholarships and Bursaries \(including Cullen Scholarships Program\)](#).

[Olmsted Scholars Program – Landscape Architecture Foundation](#)

[The Saskatoon Association of Landscape Architects Academic Award](#). Application deadline: October 30  
[Landscape Architecture Foundation](#)

[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](#)

[Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration Scholarship](#). Application deadline: April 1

[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](#). Application deadline: September 29.

[Vectorworks Design Scholarship](#). Application deadline: July 31.

[The Walter J. Travis Memorial Scholarship](#). Application deadline: June 1

[Oakville Horticultural Society Scholarship](#). Application deadline: May 31

[The Geoff Peach Memorial Scholarship Fund](#). Application deadline: January 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 Grants to attend annual symposium. Application deadline: ~ September  
[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](#)  
[Fulbright Canada](#)  
[Métis Nation of Ontario – Post Secondary Education Support Program](#)

#### 5.1.6 Other Sites / Data Bases with Award Searches

[Scholarships Canada](#)  
[Yconic](#)  
[Universities Canada](#)  
[Scholarships.com](#)  
[FindMyScholarships.com](#)  
[StudyPortals Scholarships](#)

#### 5.2 Other Opportunities

##### Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs)

Graduate students are highly encouraged to apply for 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 via email, typically in July and November of each year. Please contact the SEDRD Administrative Officer, Cate Mennega ([sedradmin@uoguelph.ca](mailto: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](#).

##### 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 should also feel free to approach faculty and inquire if they have any GRA positions available.

##### 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 between the student's skills and knowledge and the work requirements. Positions will be announced via email.

### Miscellaneous Opportunities

Students are also encouraged to use summers to gain professional work experience within a Landscape Architecture firm or a government department. Job postings, internship positions and student competitions are emailed to the listserv.

### 5.3 Award Applications

For all awards that require a research proposal, please consult closely with your Academic or Thesis Advisor 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 your proposal to fit with the requirements or intent of the award. If you require letters of reference, approach your advisor 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 submissions.

### Reporting of Awards

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

### 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 toward complete of the degree. Funding from internal sources will not normally be available to students if they are part-time or after they have completed the number of semesters typically required to complete their degree (*six semesters for MLA students*).

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.

## 6. Student Advisory Structure

### 6.1 Academic Advisor

All graduate students will be advised on matters of curriculum during the first two to four semesters by an assigned Academic Advisor and Committee Member. The Academic Advisor will be the main source of information, counselling, and program direction for the student until a Thesis Advisory Committee is formed. Students may also choose to consult with the Graduate Coordinator on academic matters. It is recommended that students arrange a meeting with their Academic Advisor once a semester.

### 6.2 Thesis Advisor and Advisory Committee

Before the end of the fourth semester (for those in the six-semester program), you should identify a Thesis Advisor to assist you in developing and completing work towards your thesis. Your Thesis Advisor must be a full-time faculty member in Landscape Architecture. There is no set process for identifying the best Thesis Advisor for you. It should evolve through discussion, contact in classes, and through the advice of your peers and the Graduate Coordinator.

It is your responsibility to select a Thesis Advisor and confirm this selection with the Graduate Coordinator through completion and submission of an *Advisory Committee Appointment GryphForm*. You and your Thesis Advisor must identify one committee member to serve on your Advisory Committee. They can be from among the faculty of SEDRD or other departments across campus, from other universities, or they may be practicing professionals. The Advisory Committee is instrumental in assisting you on such matters as developing your thesis ideas and advising you on the selection of possible elective courses.

Your courses and Advisory Committee are all confirmed through the [Advisory Committee Appointment GryphForm](#) and [Degree Program GryphForm](#) which is completed online no later than the mid-point of the student's second registered semester. If the committee membership changes, a revised Advisory Committee Appointment GryphForm must be submitted.

### 6.3 Changes in Thesis Advisor or Advisory Committee Membership

Sometimes there are reasons to change your Thesis Advisor. It is the student's responsibility to inform the original Thesis Advisor of such intent. Students are advised to select members of their Advisory Committee in consultation with their Thesis Advisor. Changes in Thesis Advisory Committee membership should follow similar procedures as changes in Advisors and require a revised [Advisory Committee Appointment GryphForm](#).

### 6.4 Program Degree 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 (at the latest within the add/drop period); and no later than the beginning of the second registered semester.

- a) You should discuss with your Advisory Committee whether there are any courses 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. The instructor then makes a recommendation by email letter to the student's Advisory Committee and the Graduate Coordinator, copied to the Program Assistant (Diana Foolen).
- c) Your Advisory Committee will decide whether to approve the exemption from the required course.
- d) If approved, the student will drop the course via WebAdvisor if applicable.
- e) The student will initiate a revised [Degree Program GryphForm](#) to remove the required course if applicable.

### 6.5 On-Going Registration

Students in the MLA program are normally 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 in order to gain practical experience. The expected time to completion for the MLA program First Professional Degree Program is six semesters.

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 FT semesters) are required to submit a single plan of study for completion by the maximum [program duration schedule](#) as per Graduate Calendar. Students along with their Advisory Committee

are required to outline a plan of study using the [Graduate Student Plan of Study](#) form and submit it to the OGPS before the end of the semester of notification.

Full-time students in semester 5/6 may be allowed to register for part-time status if demanding circumstances relating to personal health, family responsibilities, or employment exist (documentation of these circumstances must be submitted upon application). Students who also go beyond the six-semester completion time will follow the same guidelines and will be encouraged to enroll part-time whenever possible.

Students should use [WebAdvisor](#) whenever possible to register for the semester and to register for courses. 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.

## 6.6 Student Progress Report

At the end of every semester that you are registered, you and your Advisory Committee are required to evaluate your progress in the graduate program through the *Progress Report GryphForm* that characterizes your progress as “Satisfactory”, “Some Concerns” or “Unsatisfactory”. The student is required to initiate the Progress Report form online through the [GryphForms Portal](#) and is encouraged to respond to comments or make observations on their program. Before you start your progress report, you will want to make sure that you have created and/or updated your Student Profile. Please refer to the OGPS GryphForms portal for more information. Students are encouraged to speak with Course Instructors, their Advisory Committee or Graduate Coordinator if any issues arise. In instances in which there is disagreement between the student and the Committee, materials which the student may wish to submit to the OGPS office will also be added to the student’s file.

# 7. Research and Papers

## 7.1 Guidelines for Preparation of Papers

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 Association), 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.

## 7.2 Research Proposal

Students should begin to work on the identification of an area of research as early as possible in their program. Those enrolled in the six-semester MLA program are expected to complete a preliminary research proposal by the end of their third semester, and a full research proposal in their fourth semester. Students in the MLA Second Professional Degree program should complete their proposal no later than their second semester.

Students should meet with their complete Advisory Committee to gain approval to proceed with their proposed research. Typed copies of the proposal should be circulated to the student's Advisory Committee members at least one week prior to a meeting of the Committee.

### 7.3 Thesis Proposal

Students and their Advisors should discuss an appropriate form for the thesis taking into account alternative formats approved by the University (see *Graduate Policy on Thesis Format*). A typical thesis proposal includes: (a) an introductory statement identifying the area of knowledge to be investigated and describing why this area of inquiry is important to Landscape Architecture, (b) a brief, thorough summary of the literature and history of the research problem and a first critique of previous work, (c) the goals and objectives of the research and the hypothesis(es) to be tested or the question(s) to be answered by the research, (d) details on the methods and procedures to be followed, (e) a time schedule, (f) a description of the context or study area within which the research will be carried out, and (g) an indication of the potential contribution of the research to Landscape Architecture.

A more complete description of a Landscape Architecture thesis can be found in the Graduate Calendar in the [General Regulations section](#) of the website.

### 7.4 Non-Conforming Thesis

Any proposed non-conforming thesis must be approved by the Advisory Committee, the Graduate Coordinator or Director, and then the Research Enterprise and Scholarly Communications Team and OGPS before final production. Non-conforming generally refers to a non-conforming format. The student should have solid reasons for not conforming to the OGPS thesis format and must receive approval before committing to any format nonconformity. Note that theses deposited in Atrium have substantial flexibility in format, so most MLA theses are likely to conform to requirements. Written approval from the Advisor and from either the Graduate Coordinator/Director is needed and submitted to OGPS. The written approval (submitted at the time of Atrium submission) should specifically demonstrate support of the thesis and should briefly describe the format of the thesis. The non-conforming thesis must still follow formatting guidelines (i.e., title page, abstract, page numbering). For more information visit the [Atrium ETD submission guide](#) or contact [ethesis@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ethesis@uoguelph.ca)

### 7.5 Thesis Schedules and Procedures

Thesis submission schedules and procedures as outlined by OGPS must be followed. The following detailed guidelines have been developed to provide a consistent format for the master's examination presentations of MLA candidates. The guidelines also confirm a format consistent with University policies and procedures for conduct of thesis examinations under [IV. Degree Regulations – Master's Degree by Thesis](#) in the Graduate Calendar. These guidelines are intended to assist candidates in preparing for their master's examination, and Chairs of examining committees in conducting the examination.

Please also refer to the OGPS website on [completion and graduation](#). This section will give you details on thesis completion, preparation of your thesis, submission checklist and information regarding graduation.

#### 7.5.1 Order of Events for Establishing Thesis Defence Date

- The Examining Committee and Committee Chair is established by the Director of the School who has designated this responsibility to the Graduate Coordinator.
- The Chair of the Examination Committee is to be confirmed at least 2 weeks before the examination date.
- The Candidate or Advisor is responsible for submitting the completed [Examination Request Form](#) to the Graduate Assistant. The Graduate Assistant will process the paperwork, arranging for notification and ensuring a suitable room is available.



- The Advisor is responsible for confirming and providing the name of the third examination member and the Chair of the Examination to the Graduate Assistant for processing.
- The Chair or Advisor of the Examining Committee is responsible for reviewing examination procedures with the Candidate.
- The Candidate or Advisor is responsible for organizing appropriate mode, equipment and set up for the examination.

#### 7.5.2 Examination Procedures for Thesis Defence

- The Candidate, Examining Committee and guests convene in the presentation room.
- The Chair serves to administer and ensure the proper conduct of the examination. The Chair is expected to exercise full control over the proceedings and does not participate directly in questioning the candidate during the examination. In unforeseen circumstances where an examiner is unable to attend, the Chair will attempt to receive questions to ask on behalf of the absent member, to be answered by the student to the satisfaction of the examiners.
- The Chair announces the examination and introduces the Candidate and members of the Examining Committee. The Chair explains the procedures for the examination and indicates appropriate times when guests may leave the room if necessary.
- The Candidate presents the thesis. The presentation should be kept to 20 minutes; the maximum duration is 30 minutes.
- The Chair may invite questions from the audience either prior to or after questions from the Examination Committee. The suggested maximum for this part of the examination is 10 minutes. The Candidate may express a preference as to when the audience may ask questions. As directed by the Chair, members of the Examining Committee question the Candidate through rounds of questions solicited in the following order: 1. Member of the Examination Committee; 2. Member(s) of the Advisory Committee; 3. Advisor.
- Each examiner is allowed one round of questions with a recommended length of 10 minutes per examiner, followed by a second follow-up round of questions. Rounds continue until all examiners' questions are answered. The suggested maximum for this part of the examination is 60 to 90 minutes.
- The Chair thanks everyone and informs all that this is the end of the examination.
- The Examining Committee adjourns and will ask the Candidate to leave the room.
- The examination is passed, and the thesis approved if there is no more than one negative vote. An abstention is regarded as a negative vote. The report to the Dean of Graduate Studies will record the decision as unsatisfactory or satisfactory. If unsatisfactory, the candidate may be given a second attempt. A second unsatisfactory result constitutes a recommendation to the Board of Graduate Studies that the student be required to withdraw.
- Members of the Committee identify any deficiencies or corrections to the dissertation, which are recorded by the Examining Committee.
- The Committee signs the appropriate forms to indicate the outcome of the examination.
- The Candidate is immediately informed of the decision.
- Corrections are made by the Candidate, in consultation with the Advisor.
- Members of the Examining Committee may withhold signatures until they are satisfied that all the changes have been made.
- When all the changes have been made and the thesis title has been finalized, the Advisor notifies the Graduate Assistant that the signature of the Director is required on the examination

forms. The Graduate Program Assistant will process and submit the completed examination and defence forms to OGPS.

- Electronic submission of theses is required by the University of Guelph. Please refer to the [Atrium ETD submission guide](#).
- The Candidate will submit a digital pdf copy of the thesis to the Advisor and to other Committee members if requested.

## 8. Graduate Coordination and Committees

### 8.1 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;
- Assigning Academic Advisors and Committee members to incoming students and advising on the establishment of Thesis Advisory Committees;
- 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); and
- Working day-to-day with the Program Assistant in administration of the graduate programs.

### 8.2 Landscape Architecture Programs Graduate and Undergraduate 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.

### 8.3 Graduate Admissions Committee

The Landscape Architecture Graduate Admission Committee comprises three faculty members, chaired by the Graduate Coordinator. The Committee assesses all applicants to graduate studies on the bases of: (a) academic background and average grade received, (b) letters of recommendation, (c) creative ability and design potential, and (d) stated goals, research interests and research potential. The Committee recommends the acceptance or rejection of applicants to the OGPS office.

#### 8.4 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 graduate class, and one Landscape Architecture alumnus/alumna, 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 at the recommendation of faculty, students, or the Graduate Coordinator.

## 9. School Administration and Services

#### 9.1 SEDRD Council

All tenured 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.

#### 9.2 Student Services and Facilities

##### 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 the Diana Foolen if you have any questions.

##### Workspace

First and second year MLA students are provided with appropriate space in the graduate studio and will operate as a “hot seat” environment (no set assigned workstations). It is the goal of the School to provide graduate students in their final semesters with appropriate space conducive to completion of their thesis. Due to variations in numbers and limitations on space, this might change from year to year. Students are responsible for the security of their workspaces 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 permanently 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.

##### Computing Facilities and Software

As a student at the University of Guelph you will receive 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 provides core IT services to the greater campus community. For a list of services please see the [CCS website](#).

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

We highly recommend that you own a laptop computer and note increasing use of tablets. 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 Apple M1 (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. Visit the [CCS Software Distribution Site](#) once you are registered. Other software you may use include:

**AutoCAD** available at: <https://www.autodesk.com/education/students> for UofG students to download (for a three-year period) for use while a student using your UofG email account.

**SketchUp** available at: <https://www.sketchup.com/try-sketchup> (30-day free trial).

**Rhino3D** website at: <https://www.rhino3d.com/download> (90-day free trial).

**Google Earth Pro** available at: <https://support.google.com/earth/answer/21955?hl=en> (free).

### 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 and room bookings need to be booked through the SEDRD Accounting and Administrative Clerk in Room LA103 or via email [sedrd.clerk@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sedrd.clerk@uoguelph.ca).

### Photocopiers and Plotters

The student photocopier and plotters are operated by the Landscape Architecture Student Society and are located in room LA206. Please see LASS contacts if the machine needs service or requires paper. The department's photocopier is located in LA108 and is only available to graduate students for copying only related to GTA assignments. Please see the SEDRD Accounting and Administrative Clerk in room LA103 to obtain a passcode if you are employed as a Graduate Teaching Assistant.

### Mail and Phone

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

### MLA Student 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](mailto: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 Guelph 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!

### Accessing Past MLA Theses

Recent theses are available as a PDF document through the University of Guelph Library Atrium website under [Theses and Dissertations](#). Older theses may be available on a disk copy or hard copy format. Hard copies may be borrowed. See Diana for a list of theses available and to sign out any items.

### Miscellaneous

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

## 10. Landscape Architecture Organizations

### 10.1 Landscape Architecture Student Society

Graduate and 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 supplies, 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.

### 10.2 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](mailto:sedrdgss@uoguelph.ca)

### 10.3 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 participate in management of the Centre. Outreach projects provide a great opportunity to expand development of your knowledge and skills while giving service to others. [Steven Clarke](#), Assistant Professor in Landscape Architecture is the LA Community Outreach Coordinator.

## 11. Student Services and Facilities

### 11.1 Office of Registrarial Services

The Office of Registrarial Services includes the following areas: 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.

### [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.

### [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.

### [Enrolment Services](#)

The services provided at Enrolment Services include processing Add/Drop Course Selection forms, 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.

### [Miscellaneous Services](#)

There are many other services available to graduate students at the University of Guelph. You may want to become familiar with including: [Graduate Student Association](#), [Student Housing Services](#); [Counselling Services](#); [Health Services](#) and [Student Affairs](#).

For more information, consult the University website or visit the various locations where these services are centred.

## 12. Additional Web Site Information

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

- [School of Environmental Design and Rural Development](#)
- [SEDRD Twitter Feed \(@SEDRD\)](#)
- [LASS Student Instagram \(uofg\\_landscapearchitecture\)](#)
- [SEDRD GSS Instagram \(sedrd\\_gss\)](#)
- [UofG – Landscape Architecture Facebook Page \(@UofGLandArch\)](#)
- [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 \(ASLA\)](#)
- [International Federation of Landscape Architects \(IFLA\)](#)
- [Landscape Architecture Foundation \(LAF\)](#)
- [Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture \(CELA\) and CELA Facebook](#)
- [Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards \(CLARB\)](#)
- [Landscape Architect Registration Exam \(LARE\)](#)

- [World Landscape Architecture \(WLA\)](#)
- [“Your Path to Landscape Architecture” \(ASLA\)](#)

## 13. 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 in the programs and activities of 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 feel free to contact faculty members to discuss how you can get involved.

### 13.1 Professional Awards for Students

Each year financial and recognition awards are awarded to students in the BLA & MLA programs. 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.

Recipients are selected by 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.

### 13.2 Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA)

The Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) is the professional body representing all licensed landscape architects in Ontario. OALA’s mission is to promote, improve and advance the profession of Landscape Architecture and maintain standards of professional practice and conduct consistent with the need to serve and to protect the public.

In 1984, the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects Act received Royal Assent granting members of the OALA the exclusive right to the use of the title “landscape architect” in the Province of Ontario. With this privilege, the OALA is charged with the following responsibilities:

1. To furnish the means and facilities by which members and students may increase their knowledge in all things related to Landscape Architecture.
2. To hold examinations of competency for the qualification and admission into the Association.
3. To establish and maintain standards of knowledge.
4. To maintain discipline among members
5. To establish and maintain standards of professional ethics among members.

For more information visit the [OALA](#) website.

**The University of Guelph’s Appointed Educator to the OALA governing council is Associate Professor, [Nadia Amoroso](#). The school also has a UofG appointed student representative.**

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.

### 13.3 Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA)

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA), founded in 1934, is a professional organization with 2,348 landscape architect members, 615 associate (or intern) members and 669 student of landscape architecture members. As the voice of the profession in Canada, the CSLA is an advocate for its members on issues such as urban design, urban renewal, sustainable development, human health and well-being, climate change and cultural heritage, reconciliation, and Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI).

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. For more information visit the [CSLA](#) website.

Students in the Landscape Architecture program receive complimentary copies of [Landscapes/Paysages](#), an award-winning Canadian landscape architecture publication.

### 13.4 American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is the professional association for landscape architects in the United States, representing more than 15,000 members. Landscape architects lead the planning, design, and stewardship of healthy, equitable, safe, and resilient environments. The Society's mission is to advance landscape architecture through advocacy, communication, education, and fellowship. For more information visit the [ASLA](#) website.

#### ASLA Student Members

Explore all the benefits of free student membership to the ASLA which includes digital subscription of Landscape Architecture Magazine, networking, and educational opportunities. For more information visit the [ASLA membership](#) web page.

### 13.5 International Federation of Landscape Architects

IFLA currently represents 77 national associations from Africa, the Americas, Europe, Asia Pacific, and the Middle East. Our mission as landscape architects is to create globally sustainable and balanced living environments for the benefit of humanity worldwide.

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.

The IFLA mission is 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. For more information visit the [IFLA](#) website.



## 14. Summary

We hope this handbook provides you with a useful profile of Landscape Architecture at the University of 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. We encourage you to pursue a graduate program that will provide you with the skills and knowledge you desire, while developing the ability to continue to learn throughout your life. Landscape Architecture faculty, staff and students hope you will become an active part of our academic community and will find your graduate education a rewarding and fulfilling experience.

## 15. Contacts

If you have any specific questions regarding your MLA studies, please contact:

**Your Advisor;**

**Steven Clarke, MLA Graduate Coordinator, ([steven.clarke@uoguelph.ca](mailto:steven.clarke@uoguelph.ca)); or**

**Diana Foolen, MLA Graduate Program Assistant ([dfoolen@uoguelph.ca](mailto:dfoolen@uoguelph.ca)).**

The [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#) website is also the best source of graduate information during your time as an MLA student.

Notes: