MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (PROFESSIONAL) DEGREE PROGRAMME

The MArch(Prof) degree is a year-long design dissertation inquiry with individual definition of the topic, supervised in common interest fields of architectural design knowledge and practice. This builds on the BAS(Hons) degree which develops rigour in creative and critical inquiry, and reflective understanding and cultural, social and technical knowledge in preparation for self-motivated independent learning. The M.Arch(Prof) is the apex degree of a succession of qualifications leading towards professional registration as a candidate architect in South Africa. It is also one of the degrees required for admission to post-professional design or research specialisations.

The design dissertation inquiry occurs in a global context of technological innovation and increasing natural disasters, of human resilience and increasing inequity. Understood from a location in the global South, consideration of whose knowledge we produce and acquire, and in whose interests, is key. In this context the public purpose and ethical practice of architecture can make a significant contribution to life.

The MArch(Prof) programme aims to develop a student's design voice and trajectory as an emerging architect who has mastery over disciplinary knowledge of designing and making coherent architecture, and professional competence in producing habitable, durable, sustainable and beautiful works.

The curriculum integrates humanities and technologies through creative knowledge of design, informed by methodological and ethical rigour of design-research. Design excellence requires not only skillful manipulation of form and its making, but also inspiration from a broad body of sociological and scientific knowledge. Pedagogy is studio based, requiring active participation in the peer learning of studio culture within a structured framework of interim design submissions and draft research papers. Individual supervisors are allocated from the full-time staff based on common design-research interests.

The year-long Design Dissertation course is supported by Studies in Theory and Technology undertaken in the first half of the year, offering students the chance to contextualise and define their individual research in reference to deep reading of disciplinary knowledge and contemporary conditions of culture and making.

The diverse programmes presented in the School and Faculty offer support for cross-disciplinary design-research interests in the fields of Urban Design, Landscape Architecture City and Regional Planning, Conservation of the Built Environment, the African Centre of Cities, Geomatics, and Construction Economics and Management.

2023 MArch(Prof) ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The UCT MArch(Prof) degree consists of one year of full-time study (at NQF Level 9) and offers entry to the profession as a candidate architect in South Africa.

UCT STUDENTS:

UCT BAS(Hons) graduates qualify automatically for entry to the MArch(Prof) programme; to secure their place they must submit a UCT online application before the closing dates below:
International applicants: 31 August 2022
South African citizens and residents: 30 September 2022

STUDENTS APPLYING FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES:

Students applying from other universities must have a completed Bachelor of Architectural Studies (Honours) or equivalent degree and are required to submit a portfolio of work.

PORTFOLIO OF WORK

The portfolio should show evidence of a creative and balanced interest in architectural design knowledge. You are encouraged to show the process, development and thinking behind your work, not just the product. The portfolio consists of four sections: introduction, academic work, practical work and independent work. Carefully consider how you curate the portfolio of work.

1. INTRODUCTION

The introduction should contain:

• A one-page letter of motivation, in support of your application;
• A one- or two-page curriculum vitae, with two contactable references;
• A certified copy of your undergraduate and Honours degree certificates, and certified copies of your marks transcripts. In some cases, you may be requested to provide the course outlines or course material of your undergraduate and/or Honours studies.

2. ACADEMIC WORK

The portfolio of academic work should contain:

• Your statement on the Research Methods course you have completed in your Honours studies, the tasks and scope of learning this entailed, whether and how this learning was integrated in other courses (e.g. theory essays, empirical fieldwork, design-research projects);

• A copy of your own academic writing submitted as a course requirement at the institution where you completed your Honours studies (e.g. a history / theory essay or research report);

• Two Honours design projects or products of which you are the creative author (if teamwork was involved explain your contribution to the team);

• The final design project submitted in your undergraduate programme (BAS or equivalent).

3. PRACTICAL WORK

Practical work experience is an opportunity to consolidate undergraduate learning in the world of architectural practice. This includes consolidation of design knowledge in the context of multidisciplinary teamwork, of technical design development and documentation skills in the context of statutory, contractual and financial constraints, and of procedures of practice in the context of social and economic development. Though there may be limits to the work experience available to you, applicants who go out and find the kind of work

experience that matches their creative, technical, theoretical or societal interests have a good platform for pursuing these interests methodologically in graduate studies.

The portfolio of practical work should contain:

• A report on your practical experience of at least six months work with an architect after completion of your undergraduate degree, describing the nature of that work month by month and the lessons learnt, illustrated with photographs and drawings. Where you have been involved in teamwork describe the work you have been responsible for in the team;

• At least one 2D and one 3D CAD drawing of which you are the author;

• Confirmation by the architect you have worked with of the period and scope of your involvement (e.g. worksheets or a letter, signed by the employer).

4. INDEPENDENT DEFINED WORK OF STUDY TRAVEL

Study travel is an opportunity to consider the architecture you are interested in, to identify a good built work or works of that kind, to visit and experience them 'in the flesh' and in their urban or rural social context, and to reflect on that learning. Though this travel could be to a location anywhere in the world, there is as much merit in visiting good architecture close by in your local region. Applicants who select this place of study thoughtfully, understand it historically or theoretically, observe and document it with curiosity and care on site, and reflect on this experience have a good platform for pursuing these interests with critical thinking and independent learning in graduate studies.

Evidence of this work and travel is to be included in the portfolio.

The portfolio of independent work should contain:

• A maximum 3,000-word illustrated essay reporting on your topic of architectural study travel.

SUBMISSION OF THE PORTFOLIO

The portfolio is to be submitted electronically as a single pdf document via a link on the UCT online application form. Please use the following document naming protocol – SurnameName+uct application number. For example: SteinbergRayda+ste001.

Where the requirements of work experience or study travel have not been met by the University's closing date for applications (31 August for international applicants and 30 September for South African citizens and residents) you may apply to the Selection Committee for either or both of only these last two sections of the portfolio (section 3 and/or 4) to be submitted at a date to be agreed but no later than 15 October for international applicants and 15 November for South African citizens and residents (contact naomi.gihwala@uct.ac.za). This may also be considered where lockdown during the covid-19 virus pandemic has interrupted work or travel. In all such cases only a provisional offer or no offer of acceptance may be made, pending full submission of the portfolio.

PORTFOLIO EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Portfolios are reviewed by a selection committee of the graduate programme. Applicants may be requested to present themselves for an interview with the selection committee either in person or via Skype or Zoom.

You will receive official notification about the outcome of your application directly from the Faculty Office of Engineering and the Built Environment as either an offer of acceptance, not accepted, wait listed or pending submission of outstanding documentation. It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact the School should you wish to know whether your application for study has been accepted or not.

The School receives a high number of applications for a limited number of places. For equity reasons no individual feedback will be given to unsuccessful applicants. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to consider to re-apply in the following year, to apply at another institution or to apply in a different but related discipline.

UCT ONLINE APPLICATION

Application forms: The UCT Application form is available on the UCT website: http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/applications/forms/ to make online application. The academic degree code for MArch(Prof) is EM021.

Portfolios are to be submitted electronically via a link on the online application form.

For further queries contact the Admissions Office on 021 650 4556/2129.

The closing date for the submission of the online application form, including all required documents as set out in the 'Portfolio of work' above, is:

> **International applicants: Wednesday, 31 August 2022**
> **South African applicants: Friday, 30 September 2022**

Please note that no late entries will be accepted.

Applicants from abroad: Please contact the International Academic Programme Office (IAPO) at the University on 021 650 2822/3740 with regard to special conditions for both fees and study permits (www.iapo.uct.ac.za).

Student fee enquiries: The fees for 2023 will only be approved in the final quarter of 2022. For all fee related enquiries please phone the UCT Fees Office directly: (021) 6502144/5 or 650-4076 or email fnd-feeenq@uct.ac.za.

Bursary enquiries: Contact the Postgraduate Funding Office on (021) 650-3926.

Student housing enquiries: Contact Student Housing and Residence Life on (021) 650-2429.

General information: Please visit the University of Cape Town's website, you will find it most informative. The address is www.uct.ac.za. The website for the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics is www.apg.uct.ac.za. The website for the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment is www.ebe.uct.ac.za.