

Application information to apply for the

BACHELOR OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (HONS)

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

for study in 2024

Thank you for your interest in the Landscape Architecture degrees at the University of Cape Town. The degrees are offered by the School of Architecture Planning and Geomatics located in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment.

Quick links

[2023 Directions for Postgraduate Applicants](#)

[Online application](#)

Contacts / enquiries

For general application enquiries please contact the Administrator Mcebisi Mdluli at mcebisi.mdluli@uct.ac.za

For enquiries regarding the degrees and courses please contact Clinton Hinds at clinton.hinds@uct.ac.za or Christine Price at christine.price@uct.ac.za.

Programme website:

<https://ebe.uct.ac.za/school-apg/bachelor-landscape-architecture-hons>

MLA thesis exhibition: <https://www.landscapearchitectureuct.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/landscape.architecture.uct/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UCTLandscapeArchitectureProgramme>

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01 Application deadlines

International applications: 31 October 2023

Local applications: 30 November 2023

02 Minimum admission requirements

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Honours

Applicants are required to hold a Bachelor of Architectural Studies or equivalent or an NQF 7 qualification in Landscape Architecture.

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Honours (Bridging Stream)

Please note that applicants holding non-design but related Bachelor degrees will be required to enrol for the Bachelor in Landscape Architecture Honours (Bridging) with the course code EH008APG16_Bridging Stream. For these applications, under *Specialisation or Major*, click on the dropdown arrow on the right and select "Landscape Architecture (Bridging)".

See [FAQs](#) for more information.

Master of Landscape Architecture

An Honours qualification (or NQF level 8 equivalent) in Landscape Architecture is a requirement for entry into the MLA programme.

Please also consult the Faculty of Engineering and the [EBE Postgraduate Handbook 2023](#) for additional admissions requirements.

03 Application process

Preparation

- Ensure that you meet the minimum admission requirements (see above)
- Refer to **2023 Directions for Postgraduate Applicants**
- Access the **Online application**
- In addition to the online application, students are required to submit their application (including ALL associated documents - certified where required) to Mcebisi **mcebisi.mdluli@uct.ac.za**

The online application will direct you to upload the following:

1. **A digital copy of your latest university transcript** and degree certificate(s).

External applicants (i.e. if your previous degree was not completed at UCT) are requested to email a **certified copy** of your original university transcript to **ferryl.pearce@uct.ac.za** AND **admissions-pg@uct.ac.za** (please include username/applicant number in the email header). Certified copies can be made at a police station, a post office or by a commissioner of oaths.

NB: If you are still in the process of completing your degree, please send preliminary results as part of your application but note that the university will not finalise a firm offer of place until your final **certified** transcript is received which states that you are a qualifier for the degree.

2. **Curriculum vitae:** this should include personal details, interests, travel or work experience.

3. **Letter of motivation:** submit a statement in your own words (approximately 750 words) of why you are attracted to the landscape architecture field, and what you hope to do with your qualification. This letter, with the portfolio, provides an important opportunity for you to give the assessment panel an understanding of who you are. It is advisable to undertake some research on landscape architecture online, to speak to landscape architects about the profession of landscape architecture and to reflect on this in your letter of motivation.

4. **A portfolio of design and creative work that includes:**

- a. a diagram (drawn by hand in any medium e.g. pencil, pen, charcoal, markers) explaining from memory the route from your home to another destination such as the local school
- b. a drawing (drawn by hand in any medium) showing how a material is used to make a specific element in the landscape
- c. If you have completed a design-based degree, we would like to get a sense of your design and technical and thinking abilities, so please include conceptual (rough / hand), final presentation and technical drawings. Please do not submit drawings undertaken as part of a team in practice, only drawings for which you are the sole author.
- d. Please feel free to include other creative work outside design that will give the panel a sense of who you are and how you think. For those applying from a related non-design based degree, the portfolio may include evidence of any creative work (art, drawing, photography, sculpture etc.).
- e. The portfolio should be compiled as one PDF of no more than 20MB.

It is strongly advised that you complete your online application and submit the above items as soon after the applications open as possible. This is to ensure you receive a selection result as early as possible, which will enable you to make timeous arrangements to complete the bridging courses (if required), register

before the registration deadline, attend the programme orientation, and be able to start classes on the first day of the semester (see dates below).

Once your application has been submitted please keep a close eye on your emails and Peoplesoft for any additional information or action that may be required. Failure to do so may result in your application being severely delayed.

04 International students

In addition to the application requirements above, if students have not attended a South African University prior to application, you are required to supply a SAQA NQF Level Confirmation Certificate to validate your previous degree / university. You may include this certificate on the first page of your portfolio.

Successful international applicants are strongly advised to apply for a study visa immediately after receiving an offer to avoid delays. International students must factor visa processing times (minimum 6 – 8 weeks) as well as International Student Clearance with the IAPO, within timelines for registration. International applicants are therefore strongly advised to submit completed applications well before 31 October 2023 to ensure timeous registration for 2024 (please see 2024 calendar below).

The International Programmes Office can be contacted at <http://www.iapo.uct.ac.za/>.

05 Application dates and calendar

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| April 2024 | Online applications open for 2024 |
| 31 Oct 2023 | International application deadline for study in 2024 |
| 30 Nov 2023 | Application deadline for study in 2024 (South African students only) |
| Jan / July 2024 | Bridging stream courses |
| 8-9 February 2024 | Orientation and registration |
| 12 February 2024 | Classes start |

Please visit the UCT [calendar](#) for updates to the 2024 term dates.

06 FAQs

Application queries

What non-design but related fields of study need to apply for the Bridging Stream?

NQF 7 qualifications such as the BSc Environmental Science, Environmental Design, BSc in Biodiversity and ecology, BA Fine Arts, Ad Dip in Landscape Construction or BTech in Project Management are what we call related degrees (the content is relevant to the body of knowledge of landscape architecture). But, as these are not design-based degrees (and design is important in landscape architecture), applicants are required to apply for the Bridging stream which includes an additional course which runs for 3-4 weeks in January and/or July.

Does a qualification in Public Health or Business Studies qualify as a prerequisite for the Bachelor in Landscape Architecture (Honours)?

No, these are unrelated degrees. We would recommend completing a related degree such as Environmental Science or Bachelor of City and Regional Planning (Hons) before applying for the BLA (Hons).

Can I apply for the Bachelor in Landscape Architecture (Honours) with a Diploma qualification?

Applicants need to hold an NQF 7 qualification (e.g. Bachelor degree or Advanced Diploma) in architecture, landscape architecture or a related field in order to apply. Applicants holding e.g. a Diploma in architecture with a minimum of 5 years of industry experience could apply via Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL). Please email Clinton clinton.hindes@uct.ac.za and Christine christine.price@uct.ac.za for more information about the RPL process.

The BAS (Hons) programme requires students to have a year out / work experience before beginning their studies, is there a similar requirement for the BLA (Hons)?

There is not a work experience requirement to apply for the BLA (Hons) but any industry experience is an advantage to your application.

I have a Honours or Master of Architecture degree, do I need to complete the Bachelor in Landscape Architecture (Honours) before applying for the Master of Landscape Architecture?

The BLA (Hons) degree has considerable ecological content, plant (botanical / horticultural), landscape architectural history and theory, as well as landscape related spatial design and construction content. In order for you to qualify for entry to the MLA you would first need to complete the BLA (Hons) degree.

Is there a limit to the number of students the department accepts each year?

Yes, we aim to have about 20 students in each year: 20 in the BLA and 20 in the MLA.

Course / programme queries

Course fees

The 2023 fees handbook can be found [here](#) (the Landscape architecture programme fees are listed on page 46). For more information regarding fees, please contact the Fees Offices [website](#) or email fnd-feeeng@uct.ac.za

Are there bursaries or scholarships available?

The Institute of Landscape Architecture in South Africa has a bursary programme with applications due in November. Please visit their [bursary website](#) for updates. Please note ILASA supports multiple institutions and currently only supports one bursary per institution.

Applicants are strongly advised to apply for funding well in advance. Many bursary applications close 3 - 6 months before the start of the academic year. For example, the NRF deadlines for funding applications are usually mid-year.

For more information please visit the UCT Postgraduate Funding [website](#) or visit their [contacts](#) page.

Do I need a laptop to study?

A laptop is required to participate in classes on campus, please see suggested spec below:

Operating System: 64-bit Windows 10, min quad-core i5 (i7 recommended)

Processor: 2.5 GHz (3+ GHz recommended)

Memory: 8 GB (16GB recommended)

Disk space: 10.0 GB

Display: 1920 x 1080 resolution with True Colour

What computer programmes are required for this course?

Both landscape architecture qualifications make use of a range of computer programmes including MS Office, AutoCAD, SketchUp, QGIS, Revit, Adobe Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator). It is not necessary for you to purchase these programmes yourself as they are all available on campus computers. Some programmes such as AutoCAD can be downloaded for free as part of an educational licence.

Can I study part-time?

Yes, the Extended Programme is available to students who choose to complete the BLA (Hons) over two years i.e. you are able to take half your courses in the first year and then the other half in the second. Please note that for both years of study you will be required to attend classes during the day.

Can I study remotely?

All students are required to be in Cape Town and attend classes on campus as the degree is not offered in a correspondence (remote) format.

Do the landscape architecture programmes have interdisciplinary interactions?

There are a number of our courses in the BLA (Hons) and MLA where we work with or collaborate with Urban Design and City and Regional Planning students and one or two courses where we interact with architectural students.

Career prospects

What is the demand for landscape architects in South Africa?

The majority of our graduates are finding work in the field and most who go overseas also find employment there. Landscape architecture as a built environment profession is affected by economics / recessions (as with architects, civil engineers etc.) so demand for work fluctuates. Our work is however vital and we continually advocate for its importance to be recognised.

Is there an international demand for landscape architects? If so, which countries?

The demand internationally is also dependent on the state of the economy and specifically the construction industry. Our graduates who have gone overseas seem to all find work, and a number have established themselves there and have not returned as yet to South Africa.

Are there networking events such as open lectures, exhibitions, events with (landscape architecture firms and organisations like ILASA) that happen throughout the year?

If you follow ILASA or UCT LA on social media you should see these events advertised. (See UCT's social media links on our website.)

https://www.instagram.com/ilasa_za/

<https://www.facebook.com/ilasa.co.za/>

Will the qualification, with my background in environmental sciences be accounted for when applying to landscape architectural companies?

Yes, for sure! There are landscape architects who prefer the environmental side of the field more than the design side. These professionals work in landscape architecture and other kinds of practices (such as engineering firms) which focus on or have a division for environmental work (visual impact assessment, resource management, landscape management frameworks, environmental impact assessment etc.). So an environmental science background is useful to have.