School of Architecture
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Master of Science in Landscape Architecture
ADMISSION 2026-27

Admission to Master of Science in Landscape Architecture

The Master of Science in Landscape Architecture Programme is organised as a self-financed programme of the Graduate School at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The tuition fee is HK$500,000 (subject to University's approval) for academic year 2026-27. This fee applies to a normative period of 24 months for full-time students and 48 months for part-time students. The places for the programme are given based on the academic and professional merit of the application.

Application must be made at the website of Graduate School's Online Application System.

Application Deadlines for 2026 entry: 16 January 2026 (Main Round) / 10 April 2026 (Clearing Round)

Application Requirements and Procedures

1.   Applicants should have an undergraduate degree in Landscape Studies or a related area recognised by the country where the school is located, normally achieving an average grade of not lower than "**B**".

2.   To fulfill the English Language Proficiency Requirement for admission, applicant should have
       (More detailed information requirement please refer to Graduate School website):
       a)   Obtained a degree from a university in Hong Kong or taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was English; or

       b)   Achieved scores in the following English Language tests as indicated:
              -     TOEFL: 550 (Paper-based)/79 (Internet-based/Home Edition);
              -     IELTS (Academic): 6.5 (Test Centre based/Online);
              -     GMAT: Band 21 (Verbal);
              -     GMAT Focus Edition: Band 78 (Verbal); or
              (*TOEFL and IELTS scores are considered valid for two years from the test date. GMAT scores are considered valid for five years from the test date. GMAT (Verbal) Score with a threshold of 21 will be kept until the score validity expires.)

       c)   Obtained a pass grade in English in one of the following examinations:
       -      Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (AS Level);
       -      Hong Kong Higher Level Examination;
       -      CUHK Matriculation Examination;
       -      General Certificate of Education Examination (GCE) Advanced Level (A-Level) /Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS-Level); or

       d)   Achieved Level 4 or above in the English Language subject of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination; or

       e)   Obtained a recognized professional qualification, provided that the examination was conducted in English.

3.   Statement of Purpose (400 – 650 words)
       a)   Our program is founded on the principle of Landscape as Agency: the conviction that landscape architecture is a creative, responsible, and powerful form of intervention. In your statement, please explain how your personal background, academic journey, and professional or life experiences have prepared you to become an agent of change. Rather than merely stating your interest in the field, we encourage you to demonstrate your thought process. The essay must be entirely your own work.

       b)   Answers to Short Questions (150 – 200 words)
              Our program is designed to cultivate leaders who are critical thinkers, proactive doers, and visionary innovators. To gain insight into your unique perspective and ambitions, please select and respond to ONE of the following three questions:
              i.   Identify a specific public space or ecosystem in your community that is underperforming or neglected. What single, critical intervention would you propose to begin its transformation, and why?

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      ii.   Describe a real-world scenario where the needs of 'People' (e.g., housing, economic development) and 'Nature' (e.g., habitat preservation, ecological function) appear to conflict. How would you, as a landscape architect, begin to reframe the problem to find a solution where both can thrive?

      iii.   Our students are empowered to launch new initiatives. If you were given the resources to start one green enterprise or non-profit project today, what pressing problem would it solve?

4.   Design Portfolio (Please refer to the notes on page 7-8).

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List of Application Materials

Submission deadline: **16 January 2026 (Main Round)** or 10 April 2026 (Clearing Round). All application materials should be submitted directly to the School of Architecture, Room 106, Lee Shau Kee Architecture Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong SAR (Attention: MSc in Landscape Architecture Admission Team, Phone (852) 3943 1310) **right after the submission of online application**, and in any case not later than 16 January 2026 (Main Round) or 10 April 2026 (Clearing Round).

	Items	Graduate School's online application system	Upload to the application materials collection platform	Original document to be posted to School of Architecture^
1.	Completed application form (with successful application fee payment status show at the bottom of the application form) Sample of Application Form	NO	YES	NO
2.	CV (Please also insert your CV in your portfolio file.)	NO	YES	NO
3.	Statement of Purpose • Please explain how your personal background, academic journey, and professional or life experiences have prepared you to become an agent of change. • Please answer one of the questions listed in the Statement of Purpose form. • You may download the form here.	NO	YES	NO
4.	Official transcripts of academic records of Bachelor's and/or Master's degree obtained plus grading scheme (photocopy/certified true copy of transcripts will not be accepted). • Copy of your transcripts issued by the Registry of the applicants' former/ current University in a sealed envelope with stamp from the University's **Registry** must be provided. • There should be explanatory notes printed/ attached to the transcripts indicating the grading scheme/reference of the University. Grading Scheme Sample: • https://www.res.cuhk.edu.hk/en-gb/general-information/grading-system-of-undergraduate-programmes	YES	YES	BY REQUEST AFTER INTERVIEW#

	• If your university do not have a grading scheme, please ask for a certifying letter from University Registry indicating that your programme do not have grading scheme.			
5.	Graduation and/or Degree certificate(s) of Bachelor's and/or Master's Degree(s) obtained and/or a Letter of Proof of your study status (for current students).	YES	YES	NO
6.	Proof of practical experience, if any ^ • The letter should be issued by the company with a company stamp and letterhead, it should include the start and end dates of employment, the position, and that it was full-time employment. • List in chronological order the experience that would fulfill the practical experience requirements • Download form here.	YES	YES	NO
7.	Copies of other academic/professional qualifications, if any (in 1 pdf).	NO	YES	NO
8.	Declaration of Academic Integrity ^ • The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating in examinations or plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University. Applicants are required to submit Academic Honesty Declaration for application materials submitted. • Download declaration form here.	NO	YES	NO
9.	Original English test report of TOEFL, IELTS, or GMAT for applicants from non-English speaking countries. • TOEFL and IELTS are valid for two years from the test date. GMAT is considered valid for five years from the test date. Photocopy/ certified true copy of transcripts will not be accepted. • Applicant should fulfill the English Language Proficiency Requirement set by the Graduate School at the application stage. • Since original TOEFL report will take 2 months to be delivered from the issuing authority to our University, you are strongly advised to obtain the report before January 2026.	YES	YES	BY REQUEST AFTER INTERVIEW#
10	Identity card and/or passport (if appropriate) as given in the	YES	YES	NO

	application form.			
11	Design Portfolio (Please refer to the notes on page 7-8).	NO	YES	NO
12	Applicants who obtained degrees from universities in Mainland China are required to provide an Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (教育部学历证书电子注册备案表) and Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate (中国高等教育学位在线验证报告) issued by the CHESICC (学信网). Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (教育部学历证书电子注册备案表) Sample: https://www.chsi.com.cn/xlcx/yb_bgys.jsp Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate (中国高等教育学位在线验证报告) Sample: https://www.chsi.com.cn/xlcx/yb_bgys_xw.jsp	YES	YES	NO
13	Applicants with degrees awarded by overseas universities by distance learning or by completing a curriculum of short duration are required to provide assessment report from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) on the level of qualification obtained by the application deadline.	NO	YES	NO
14	Confidential recommendations from 2 referees who have taught you or worked closely with you and could comment in detail on your abilities and personalities. (Referee can choose to submit the recommendation form/and letter for you via online system https://oiss.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/sbm_info/referee_login.aspx or in hard copy@.) @ Referee can send the hard copy to the below address: The School of Architecture, Room 106, Lee Shau Kee Architecture Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong SAR (Attention: MSc in Landscape Architecture Admission Team, Phone (852) 3943 1310)	YES	NO	YES
15	Employer's evaluation form (Preferably direct supervisor), if any practical experience. (Referee should submit the form for you via online system. Please send the form to your supervisor(s) and inviting your supervisor to complete and submit the online form. Please be reminded to provide your **Application Name** and **Application no.** to your supervisor. They will need the information for filling the form for you.	NO	NO	YES

Online Employer's Evaluation Form: https://cloud.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/webform/view.php?id=13719688 Applicants please remind your referees to complete and return the form to the SoA via the online platform ASAP preferably within 2 weeks upon submission of your application but no later than the application submission deadline.			

^ Additional forms can be downloaded in https://www.arch.cuhk.edu.hk/en/programmes/degrees/mla.

Applicants will only be requested to submit hard copies of supporting documents after the interview. Therefore, please do not submit hard copies to the School of Architecture before you receive an email notification after interview.

Notes to Applicant

Please refer to Graduate School Office's website for the latest announcement on the admissions requirements. More detailed information on the supporting documents required by the University and frequently asked questions (FAQ) can be found at the Graduate School website.

The ultimate judgment and decision as to whether the conditions for admission are fulfilled by the applicants shall be vested with the School of Architecture. As a general policy, no refund will be arranged upon acceptance of an offer except under special circumstances as deemed by the School of Architecture.

Grading Scheme

If your university do not have a grading scheme, please ask for a certifying letter from University Registry indicating that your programme do not have grading scheme.

Design Portfolio

The portfolio of independent work should illustrate independent studies and your own work from practical experience and should be accompanied by a commentary of not more than 1500 words. The portfolio should not exceed A4 size and no more than 20 pages (include the cover and content page). It should be selected to fit best to the materials which you want to present. In general, the portfolio should inform in a concise way about your school and practical work. It should not be a loose collection of material; but be clearly structured to reflect your educational and practical experiences. Proper credit and context must be given for all work shown including author, collaborators, and professional office in which the work was completed. Failure to properly credit work may result in the portfolio being discounted or the applicant being disqualified. Please put down your full name on the front cover of the portfolio for ease of identification.

Portfolios of (a) previous school work and (b) independent work with your full name and application number marked on the cover should be **uploaded** to the School of Architecture **application materials collection platform** no later than **16 January 2026 (Main Round)** or 10 April 2026 (Clearing Round). **No Hardcopy is accepted**.

School of Architecture   Lee Shau Kee Architecture Building   T +852 3943 1310
The Chinese University of Hong Kong   Shatin Hong Kong   arch.cuhk.edu.hk

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Design Portfolio Requirements:

   i.   Cover
   - Clearly indicate your full name and application number on the cover of the portfolio for easy identification
   - Include the date and the program to which you are applying

   ii.   Format
   - Submit the portfolio as a PDF file, smaller than 30MB
   - Use A4 size with a maximum of 20 pages.

   iii.   Content
   a. Personal Statement

   b. CV

   c. A maximum of 5 projects, with at least 3 being academic

   - Each project must have a clear title.
   - For each project, indicate the nature of the project (e.g., academic, competition, professional, workshop, etc.), along with the names of all collaborators, instructors, or employers (including names, positions, affiliations, and emails).
   - Clearly articulate your specific contributions to any group or professional work. Additionally, cite any text or images that were not produced by you.
   - Organise projects in chronological order, listing the most recent project first. Include architectural drawings (plans, sections, etc.).
   - Provide evidence of the design process, highlighting the rationale behind each project.
   - Please do not submit models of physical artifacts.

   iv.   Credit and Plagiarism
   - Proper credit and context must be given for all work shown in the portfolio, including authors, collaborators, and professional offices in which the work was completed
   - Failure to credit work properly or appropriating other people's work is a serious offence and may result in the portfolio being discounted or the applicant being disqualified