YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

HERE IS HOW YOU’LL DO IT.
A DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT DESIGN SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

With a rich, interdisciplinary design-based philosophy, an entrepreneurial mindset and a proven commitment to working with industry stakeholders, our students are prepared for professional careers that make a real, lasting difference.
Through our degree programs, research work, and a deep connection to community, the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape is redefining the future of city building, for Calgary and beyond.
Bold Thinking for the Built Environment

Welcome to the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, where we prepare our students for innovative careers in research and design, and curate public conversations about city building. Together, our students and faculty explore disruptive design strategies and social innovations that will help make the world more resilient, equitable, vibrant and healthy. It is important work that will make a real, lasting difference.

We deliver a distinctly different design school experience combining a rich, interdisciplinary design-based philosophy with an entrepreneurial mindset and a firm commitment to working with industry stakeholders and community leaders at all levels to address some of society’s biggest challenges in new and creative ways.

Explore SAPL
sapl.ucalgary.ca | @ucalgarysapl

Study abroad in Barcelona
UCAN BREAK NEW GROUND → MINOR IN ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
Minor in Architectural Studies

Turn your minor into a major advantage. The Minor in Architectural Studies is an opportunity for University of Calgary undergraduates to get a one-year jump start on the Master of Architecture (MArch) program. This allows the flexibility for two areas of specialization – the major the student chooses and then architectural studies as the minor.

The Minor consists of the courses taken in the Foundation Year of the three-year MArch program. Undergraduates study alongside graduate students in a blended learning environment that includes architectural design studios, workshops in 2D and 3D graphics, and digital fabrication, as well as lecture courses in history, building science, and sustainability theory.

Students planning on applying for the MArch should use their undergraduate studies to develop a broad knowledge base that supplements the discipline-specific training in architecture. Examples include taking courses in the humanities, social sciences, fine arts, biological and physical sciences, computer science, commerce and management.

Creative courses that develop skills in 2D graphics and 3D modeling or fabrication are particularly beneficial, as are collaborative experiential learning experiences.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Minor in Architectural Studies can be added to almost all UCalgary undergraduate degrees. Students can complete their ARST Minor in their third and/or fourth year of undergraduate studies. Courses can be completed over one or two years, depending on timing related to the student’s major/degree or other scheduling conflicts.

Admission to the ARST Minor is competitive, based on academic performance, a design portfolio and space availability. Upon completion of the ARST Minor requirements, students can apply for admission into the two-year Master of Architecture program at the University of Calgary.

Find out about what you need to apply: sapl.ucalgary.ca/admissions/arst
UCAN DESIGN A BETTER FUTURE
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Architecture

The MArch curriculum challenges students to become innovative and responsive critical thinkers. Students develop design approaches using cutting edge digital tools to address the complexities facing our built environments across many scales. We prepare students to become licensed architects not only in Alberta, but in jurisdictions across North America and the European Union. SAPL is the only accredited school of architecture in Alberta.

All applicants admitted to the MArch program start in the fall term.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Changes in climate, the demographics of urban and rural communities, mass migration, material availability, and the formal and responsive possibilities of architecture are all addressed through core courses, work integrated learning studios, study abroad opportunities, focused research block weeks and elective courses.

Our educational model includes opportunities for applied research, supported by a number of design research labs that focus on energy conservation, lifecycle analysis, artificial intelligence, robotics, digital fabrication, and innovation in structural design.

Students are expected to work as individuals and in teams to develop a critical and productive body of work demonstrating their commitment to design as an act of research and creativity. The program cultivates critical, persistent thinkers through a curriculum that moves between the historical and theoretical underpinnings of the discipline and the hands-on making and production opportunities of the practice of architecture.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Master of Architecture degree equips students to navigate different contexts, think from multiple perspectives and develop innovative solutions to the world's design challenges.

Two streams are offered:

1. Three-Year Program: Open to applicants from any undergraduate discipline. Includes Foundation Year.

2. Two-Year Program: Open to students with a University of Calgary Minor in Architectural Studies, or an undergraduate degree accredited by the CACB and NAAB.
Master of Planning

The MPlan program prepares future professional planners with the knowledge and skills necessary to work effectively with other professions, community members, local governments and the private sector in a wide range of roles related to solving problems and making great cities and communities that are sustainable, vibrant, healthy and equitable.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Culture, technology, environment and how people experience cities and spaces are continually changing. Professional planners are actively involved in shaping the future of communities and cities and dealing with the day to day challenges of managing the social and physical aspects of complex urban systems at different scales.

The MPlan program is characterized by form-based planning, involving design and graphic skills that enable SAPL MPLan students to understand and communicate the connection between policy and planning decisions and the spatial forms they create on the ground. Students work closely in cross-professional, interdisciplinary teams and often directly with community associations to explore planning issues and the role of professional planners.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Master of Planning is a two-year first professional course-based graduate degree accredited by the Professional Standards Board (PSB) and fulfills the accreditation requirements of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI).

All applicants admitted to the MPlan program start in the fall term.
AN
CAN
DEFINE
NEW
TERRAIN

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING + LANDSCAPE
Master of Landscape Architecture

The profession of landscape architecture involves designing human and natural processes at different scales including urban green space, built urban systems involving infrastructure, and transportation. The MLA program prepares students to provide innovative solutions to environmental and urban challenges in international and local contexts.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Master of Landscape Architecture is a first professional degree at the master’s level. It is a course-based degree which means no research thesis is required. The Program curriculum incorporates the breadth of Canadian Society of Landscape Architects accreditation requirements and the program was accredited in 2018, three years after it admitted its first students. The Program is a three-year curriculum (including a Foundation Year plus two years, M1 and M2). Applicants with previous related design degrees (for example, a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture) may have some or all of the Foundation Year courses waived. The program is structured around a sequence of core design studios, technology courses, and design theory and methods courses. Because of this curriculum sequencing all applicants admitted to the MLA must enter the Program in the Fall term. All applicants admitted to the MLA program start in the fall term.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Master of Landscape Architecture program is design studio-based with a focus on urban design, ecological design, regional landscape systems and cultural landscapes. Students consider the design and planning complexities of project work at different scales from site-specific to regional. Through core courses, study abroad opportunities and expert-led special topics courses, students explore processes and forms in ecology, urbanization, land use and social dynamics. Students have a chance to work and learn from professionals across different disciplines including engineers, architects, and planners, and work on projects directly involving communities, local governments and the development industry. The program’s curriculum design and delivery are structured around five key principles: process and form, design studio-based, interdisciplinarity, sustainability, and real-world problem solving.
UCAN CHART A NEW COURSE ➔ MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
Master of Environmental Design

The MEDes is a research-based degree for recent graduates of professional architecture, planning, or landscape architecture programs. The degree enables emerging professionals to extend their education to explore an area of expertise or practice specialization and increase value to prospective employers.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The MEDes can be completed in two different formats. The first is 16 months of continuous study starting in the Spring term with graduation the following September. Alternatively, students can choose to complete the program over two years with admission in the Fall term. Students typically undertake projects that contribute to one of the School’s larger industry-partnered research endeavours within the City Building Design Lab.

Students interested in splitting their study between the University and an industry organization, can complete the Mitacs Accelerate version of the 16-month degree. This format allows students to spend eight months with the University and eight months with a partner organization – typically a leading design firm with an interest in one of the School’s research themes.

During the application process, students identify an area of research interest within the Faculty’s broader research program and are admitted into the MEDes program under the supervision of a faculty member whose research focus aligns with the student’s interests.

Applicants admitted to the MEDes program start in either the Spring or Fall Term.
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING + LANDSCAPE

CAN TRANSFORM YOUR PRACTICE

DOCTOR OF DESIGN
Doctor of Design

The DDes is an advanced research-based degree for practicing designers who want to build recognized expertise in a specific topic area and make a contribution to the profession. The degree is intended for mid-career practitioners who want to enhance their expertise and contribute to the professional discourse.

Graduates generate new knowledge that is germane to their ongoing professional work by integrating practice as a research methodology.

The program structure allows students to remain at work, by offering one remote class per term and flexible contact with the supervisory committee.

DDes students also participate in a Fall and Spring design symposium structured like a design studio course. Students present their in-progress research and receive critical feedback from an expert panel of interdisciplinary academics and practitioners including their supervisory committee. The result is a rich and supportive learning environment and research culture.

The Doctor of Design degree is a three-year, thesis-based program. Applicants admitted to the DDes program start in the Fall term.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Doctor of Design (DDes) provides an opportunity to explore a focused area of practice-based research that will make a positive contribution to candidates' careers, and the broader discipline, with the potential to improve the quality of the built and natural environments.
Minor in Architectural Studies (ARST)

WE ARE
RESEARCHERS
WE ARE
CURATORS
WE ARE
EXPLORERS
AND
DESIGNERS
WE ARE
THE
FUTURE
OF
THE
CITY
BUILDING

Master of Planning (MPlan)
Master of Architecture (MArch)
Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)

Master of Environmental Design

PhD in Environmental Design

Doctor of Design

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING + LANDSCAPE
Design-Based Research

The School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape trains the next generation of city builders. At the downtown City Building Design Lab, we conduct design research projects through partnerships with surrounding municipal, community and creative organizations. Our innovative projects include integrative infrastructure for sustainable cities, healthy neighborhoods, high-performance building envelopes, co-creation, green infrastructure, digital fabrication for the circular economy, outdoor playscapes in urban environments, affordable housing, walkable cities, and aging in place.

IDEAS INCUBATOR

With a design studio and gallery space, a digital fabrication lab and 400+ person event hall, the CBDLab is an ideal place for producing and disseminating research. Through our Design Matters Lecture Series, graduate studios and block week courses, we share knowledge from leading designers and thinkers around the world. Our window exhibitions along the C-Train platform capture the attention of tourists and commuters, engaging them with the work happening inside.

FUTURE FOCUSED

The City Building Design Lab drives innovation and increases research capacity for SAPL, UCalgary and the surrounding area. The activities at CBDLab help promote entrepreneurial job creation and economic diversification in the knowledge sector of Calgary’s building and construction industry.

CBDLab is an incubator for strategic research activity. We work with academia, industry, and policy makers to create a more vibrant downtown and expand the public conversation around city building.

Research outputs at the lab include international conferences on topics like affordable housing and cross-cultural creation, as well as design-builds such as Green Alley Project with Calgary Downtown Association and 9 Block with the City of Calgary.

If you’re passionate about pushing the boundaries of city building design, SAPL is the right place for you.

Connect with us
innovation@sapl.ucalgary.ca

Explore Research
sapl.ucalgary.ca | @ucalgarysapl
WELCOME TO A DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT DESIGN SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

→ APPLICATION

OVERVIEW

PROCESS

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING + LANDSCAPE
How To Apply

Undergraduate Studies
MINOR IN ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES (ARST)

Are you a student in your second or third year? GPA of 3.2 on your most recent 10 courses? If so, you are eligible to apply for the Minor in Architectural Studies.

Applications are accepted between October 1 and February 1.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

☐ Application
If you are a UCalgary student, submit a change of program request with your advisor, or in the MyUCalgary Student Centre. If you are transferring from another post-secondary institution, submit the application for your desired UCalgary program. Once you receive your UCID number, email apchange@ucalgary.ca with your UCID and let them know you wish to apply to the Minor in Architectural Studies.

☐ Supporting Document
Submit one PDF file containing a one-page statement of interest and a portfolio containing six works representing your design ability and range. The portfolio can feature any topic, it does not have to be related to architecture.
For more details, visit sapl.ucalgary.ca/how-to-apply

Graduate Professional Studies
COURSE-BASED MASTER’S PROGRAMS (MARCH, MPLAN, MLA)

Have you completed or are you in your final year of a four-year undergraduate degree? Do you have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher from the last two years of study? Do you have a portfolio of creative work? If you answered yes to these questions, consider applying!

Online application system opens September 1. Apply by January 15 to the MArch, MPlan and MLA programs.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

☐ Statement of Interest (MPlan and MLA)
Let us know what motivates you through stories, experiences and examples of places and spaces that have challenged and inspired you. Include responses to these questions:
A. Why is design important to society?
B. What about our program drew you to apply with us? (for MPlan: what are your reasons for wanting to pursue a studio-based planning program?)
C. How do you think a design education here will influence your future?
D. What do you hope your contributions to our program will be?

☐ Architectural Image Paragraph (MArch)
Provide an image or photograph that holds architectural significance and write a paragraph explaining its relevance and why you chose it. Maximum 500 words.

☐ Transcripts
One official transcript from all post-secondary institutions attended.
Digital Portfolio
This is your chance to make a great impression! The admissions committee is looking for evidence of creative ability and/or potential. Graphic organization of the portfolio, including typography and layout, are also considered.

MPlan applicants:
Digital Portfolio: your portfolio should also showcase your interest in understanding, analyzing and reflecting on the natural and built environment. Include annotations of how the work depicted in the portfolio connects to the planning discipline.

Writing Sample: include an example of previous academic or professional writing, such as an essay, published paper, thesis, design project, or consulting report.

Curriculum Vitae

References
You must list three references on your online application form along with their contact information. For more information, visit sapl.ucalgary.ca/references

Evidence of English Proficiency
If your first language is not English, you need to have a minimum TOEFL score of 105, IELTS Academic score of 7.5, or Duolingo score of 130.

For sample portfolios and more details, visit sapl.ucalgary.ca/how-to-apply

Graduate Research Studies
MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (MEDES)

Do you have a professional architecture, planning, or landscape architecture degree with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and want to develop an area of specialization? If you answered yes, consider applying for an MEDES.

Online application system opens September 1. Apply by February 1.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Statement of Research Interest
A. Include your reasons to pursue an MEDES; educational, professional and personal alignment with environmental design; research interests within an interdisciplinary context; desired area of specialization; and how MEDES furthers this “vision”.

B. Five or six keywords that identify your areas of research interest.

C. Name(s) of prospective supervisors who you consider a good match with your research interests.

Example(s) of Writing
Previous academic or professional writing such as an essay, published paper, thesis or design project.

Digital Portfolio (if applicable)

Funding Plan
Two-year plan with evidence of sufficient funding to carry out the program of study.

Transcripts

Reference Letters

Evidence of English Proficiency
If your first language is not English, you need to have a minimum TOEFL score of 105, IELTS Academic score of 7.5, or Duolingo score of 130.

CONTINUED ON BACK
Graduate Research Studies

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (PHD)**

Have you completed Master's degree from a recognized institution? Do you have a grade point average (GPA) above 3.50 on both your Bachelor and Master's degrees? If you answered yes to these questions, consider applying for a PhD.

*Online application system opens on September 1, and application deadline is February 1.*

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

☐ **Research Statement**
  The statement must include these sections: background, research questions, literature review, research methodology, intellectual merit of the proposed research, and broader impact of the proposed research. Also indicate if ethics approval is required to carry out the proposed research. Maximum 1500 words.

☐ **Transcripts**

☐ **Reference Letters**

☐ **Example(s) of Writing**

☐ **Digital Portfolio** (if applicable)

☐ **Curriculum Vitae**

☐ **Evidence of English Proficiency**
  If your first language is not English, you need to have a minimum TOEFL score of 105, IELTS Academic score of 7.5, or Duolingo score of 130.

Find out more about scholarships, tuition and fees, and detailed information on how to apply at sapl.ucalgary.ca/admissions

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Graduate Research Studies

**DOCTOR OF DESIGN (DDES)**

Are you a mid-career architect, planner or landscape architect interested in augmenting your expertise through focused, applied design-based research at the doctoral level? If you have at least five years of work experience following a professional degree, with a GPA of 3.5 or higher*, consider applying for the DDes. The degree is unique in Canada, and a new opportunity to conduct doctoral-level, design practice-based research.

*Consideration will also be given to those who demonstrate extensive professional practice experience and accomplishment.

*Online application system opens on September 1, and application deadline is February 28.*

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

☐ **Research Proposal**
  A proposal that includes the following sections: researcher background, context of the research proposal, research questions, and broader impacts of the proposed research. The research statement should indicate potential supervisors and/or committee members, and whether they have been contacted by the applicant. Maximum 2500 words.

☐ **Portfolio**
  Include examples of your design work, professional work, consulting reports, policy reviews, research, creative thinking, community action, planning products, and/or graphics and visual communication.

☐ **Curriculum Vitae**

☐ **Reference Letters (2)**

☐ **Evidence of English Proficiency**
  If your first language is not English, you need to have a minimum TOEFL score of 105, IELTS Academic score of 7.5, or Duolingo score of 130.

Once your application has been reviewed, you’ll be invited to a formal interview (in person or online) with a DDes faculty member as part of the admissions process.