

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE**

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ADMISSION for 2025-26**

Applications are invited for admission in September 2025 to read for the degree of Postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture.

To be eligible for admission to the programme, a candidate shall satisfy both the University Admissions Requirements and the Programme Specific Requirements as listed below:

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to high degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b).

An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

The Division will admit up to 18 local and international students to the Postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture (PDLA) program each year. We welcome applications from students from a broad range of academic and cultural backgrounds. The PDLA provides a foundational education in the discipline of landscape architecture focusing especially on the creative and intellectual aspects of the field. The diploma program is designed to prepare students without design backgrounds for continuing studies at a master's level. Those students enrolled in the PDLA who wish to continue in the Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program at the University of Hong Kong will be granted a fast-tracked application process.

PDLA students engage in a broad range of core landscape architecture studies covering the history of the discipline, landscape materials and their technologies, representational methods, and studio design. Topical issues addressed during the program currently include issues such as urbanism, human settlement, community and heritage, public space, green infrastructure, impacts of climate change, environmental remediation, conservation, and sustainable development.

Students are exposed to diverse approaches to a broad range of environmental, contextual and problem-solving challenges. Students will build individual skills as develop their abilities to work productively in groups. As with any studio-based learning, this program features a high degree of one-on-one instruction but also expects students to develop self-initiating and reflective work methods.

The PDLA program extends over one year (three semesters) of full-time study. There is no part-time mode. The curriculum and syllabuses can be found at the Faculty of Architecture website (<http://www.arch.hku.hk/>).

All students who are accepted into the PDLA program are required to participate in the PDLA Landscape Architecture Intensive Course. This is a three-week intensive course (starting in the second week of August) introduces candidates to the culture of the landscape discipline. Through frequent field-trips within Hong Kong and through in-studio workshops, candidates will approach landscape through a series of critical and reflexive exercises dealing with perception, representation, typology, and time. This course is credit based, therefore students need to ensure that they can attend and participate in the whole course.

The composition fee for the 2025-26 academic year is HK\$190,800* (excluding expenses for materials, books, and printing). (*Subject to approval). The Application fee is non-refundable and non-transferrable.

After submitting an online application via the University's online application system (<https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>), applicants will receive an email from the Faculty and be requested to submit supporting documents in soft copies via the Faculty's PDLA Application Documents Submission System (<https://admission.arch.hku.hk/>) **by 12:00 noon (GMT+8), 2 January 2025** . Applicants will only be requested to submit hard copies of supporting documents when they receive admission offers from the Faculty.

Admission is both rigorous and competitive. Candidates should show that they:

- Have an appreciation for the natural and built environment and its communities;
- Are critical and articulate thinkers; and
- are motivated, collaborative and willing to learn.

The PDLA Admissions Panel selects candidates for interview based on their academic background, working experience, letters of recommendation, personal essay, and portfolio of creative works. Admission is offered on the basis of both interview performance and original submissions.

Notes on student visa applications

(1) The processing time for application of a student visa requires approximately 10 WEEKS. Students should submit their visa application immediately either they have received the Firm Offer of Admission or the Conditional Offer of Admission from HKU.

(2) Upon successful application, a "Notification Slip for Entry Visa / Permit" (e-Visa) will be granted by ImmD. Admission Office will send students through email a link for downloading the e-Visa. However, the email with the e-Visa will ONLY be sent after they have uploaded a copy of the Firm Offer of Admission to the application system.

(3) For mainland students should apply for an "Exit-entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macao" (EEP) 【往来港澳通行证】 and a relevant Exit Endorsement 【逗留簽注 D】 from the relevant Mainland authorities. They should bring along the EEP bearing the relevant Exit Endorsement and the e-Visa to enter Hong Kong for activation of the student visa.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The University of Hong Kong has not entered into any agreement or collaboration with any intermediary agencies for overseas studies in respect of a mechanism of “quota for direct admission”. Applicants are strongly advised not to engage any agency to submit an application or any application materials on their behalf. Applicants should prepare and submit their applications and supporting documents directly to HKU.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following are some frequently asked questions raised by potential applicants:

1. What supporting documents do I need to submit?

- I. After submitting the online application via the University’s online application system (<https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>), within one day, applicants will receive an email from the Faculty with login ID and password to access the Faculty’s PDLA Application Documents Submission System (<https://admission.arch.hku.hk/>). Please upload the below list of supporting documents to the PDLA Application Documents Submission System by **12:00 noon (GMT+8), 2 January 2025**. Please do not encrypt the supporting documents.
- a) HKID copy (with watermark) for local applicants or passport copy for non-local applicants
 - b) Brief curriculum vitae (1 page)
 - c) Official transcripts
 - d) Graduation certificate (if any)
 - e) Test Report of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (non-home edition), or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (if you have not been studying in the university in which the courses are taught in English).
 - f) A portfolio with no larger than A4 size and with no more than 20 pages of creative work related in landscape orientation in PDF format. The maximum file size is 30MB. Your portfolio is a visual essay of your creative and intellectual abilities. It should express your interests in environment, community, and design issues and reflect your analytical abilities and problem-solving experience. Your portfolio will not be evaluated on competence in landscape architectural design. You might consider including images or works of studio art, photography, industrial and graphic design, creative writing, website design, video, sketchbooks or other representational media. Labels and writing should be kept to a minimum but sufficient to explain the work. Proper credit and context must be given on all work shown including clear indication of the author, collaborators, and professional office in which the work was completed or academic course and instructor for which the work was completed, where relevant. Failure to properly credit work may result in the portfolio being discounted.
 - g) Personal essay: you should submit an essay that addresses your background as it relates to your professional and academic interests and your motivations in applying to the Master of Landscape Architecture program. The essay must be entirely your own work, written in English, and no more than 500 words.

IMPORTANT: Applicants will only be requested to submit hard copies of supporting documents when they receive an admission offer. Therefore, please do not submit hard copies to the Faculty Office before you receive the offer.

- II. Applicants have to appoint two referees, preferably previous teacher or professional employers, via the University's online application system (<https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>). Both of your referees will be requested to complete an online referee report and upload a reference letter via a separate email sent by the Faculty.

** It is crucial that applicants have to input accurate information into the University's online application system. Any inaccurate information may cause email delivery failure and unavailable access to Faculty's Submission System.

2. What are the basic requirements for admission?

To be eligible for admission to the programme, a candidate:

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to high degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b).

An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

3. How can I fulfill the University's English Language Proficiency requirement if the medium of instruction in my University is not English?

An applicant is required to obtain:

- (a) a score of 570 or above and a minimum of 55 on each section (paper-based test) or 95 or above and a minimum of 23 on each section (internet-based test) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL; University TOEFL code: 9671) (non-home edition); or
- (b) a minimum overall band of 6 with no subtest lower than 5.5 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Preference will be given to students with oral English subtest scores of 6 or above.

Test scores obtained more than 2 years will not be accepted. Your test report will be considered valid if it is non-expired on the date you apply.

4. Is there any GPA requirement of my Bachelor degree?

There is no absolute GPA requirement set for the admission to the PDLA programme. However, an applicant with good academic results will be more favorable to his/her application.

5. Is practical work experience essential for my application?

Practical work experience is not an essential requirement for admission. However, preference will be given to those applicants with professional experience that has shaped their practical and intellectual capacity in a positive manner.

6. Will my application be rejected if the supporting documents can't be submitted before the application deadline?

Our PDLA Application Documents Submission System will be closed at **12:00 noon (GMT+8), 2 January 2025**. Therefore, you are strongly requested to submit your supporting documents before the deadline. Otherwise, the chance for admission will definitely be slim due to incomplete supporting documents submission.

7. Is there any interview required for the programme?

Starting from 2021 intake, in light of the COVID-19 situation, shortlisted applicants may be invited for the admission online interview via ZOOM between March to June. The detailed interview arrangement would be sent to shortlisted applicants via email.

8. What is the fee structure of the programme?

The exact composition fee for 2025-26 intake is yet to be confirmed. Below is the table for the estimated composition fee for 2024-25 intake:

HK\$191,250 inclusive of the caution money (HK\$350) and student activity fee (HK\$100)
Remarks: a) The composition fee is pending on the University's announcement. b) The aforementioned composition fees are paid in 2 installments during 1 year of study.

9. When do I need to pay for the admission deposit?

You are liable to pay for the admission deposit upon acceptance of conditional offer. Below is the table for the estimated admission deposit amounts for 2025-26 intake:

HK\$95,850 inclusive of the caution money (HK\$350) and student activity fee (HK\$100)
Remarks: The composition fee is pending on the University's announcement.

10. If I satisfy the requirements for the MLA programme, could I still apply for the PDLA programme?

Students without prior design training, as well as those with design training comprising fewer than six studios, may be eligible for the Postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture program (PDLA). This distinct, one-year curriculum is structured to provide an introductory education in the discipline of landscape architecture and prepare students for continuing studies at a master's level. You are advised to apply for the MLA programme which more suits your skills and experience.

The admission committee will perform screening on your eligibility and may switch your application from MLA to PDLA, and vice versa.

11. I might have applied for a wrong programme. Could I switch my application from MLA to PDLA / PDLA to MLA?

Please note that programme switch is at the sole discretion of the admission committee.

The admission committee will recommend admission to the programme that best suits your qualification and experience. If you are recommended admission to a programme different than the one you applied for, you are required to pay the application fee and submit a formal application again via Admission Office, the Registry.

12. I am interested in both the MLA and the PDLA programmes. May I apply both?

You can apply for both programmes and pay the application fee for each programme. However, the admission committee will screen your application and recommend admission to the programme that best suits your qualification and experience.

Even if you applied both the MLA and PDLA programme, we will only consider the ONE programme application that suits you most.