

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**Master of Architecture(Design) (MArch Design)**

1. After submitting an online application via the University's online application system (<https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>), applicants will receive a Faculty email and be requested to submit supporting documents in soft copies via Faculty's MArch(Design) Application Documents Submission System (<https://extranet.ad.arch.hku.hk/Admission/mdesign>). Applicants will only be requested to submit hard copies of supporting documents when they receive admission offers from the Faculty. Please refer to page 2 of this document for further information about submitting supporting documents.
2. Applicants have to appoint two referees, preferably one previous teacher and one professional employer, via the University's online application system (<https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>). At least one academic reference is required. 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.
3. To be eligible for admission to the Master of Architecture (Design) programme, a candidate:
  - (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (b) shall possess a **bachelor's degree** with honours of this University or another equivalent qualification from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
  - (c) shall possess a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Engineering, or Bachelor of Arts degree or equivalent;
  - (d) 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);
  - (e) shall satisfy the examiners in qualifying examination if required.

Preference will be given to applicants with professional experience that has shaped their practical and intellectual capacity in a positive manner.

4. The three-year professional Master of Architecture(Design) is accredited by the Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) and Architects Registration Board, HKSAR (ARB); recognized by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) and the New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB); and via the Canberra Accord as having substantial equivalency with the accreditation or validation systems in architectural education of: the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB), the China National Board of Architectural Accreditation (NBAA), the Chinese Taipei Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan (IEET), the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), the Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education (JABEE), the Korea Architectural Accrediting Board (KAAB), la Mexico Acreditadora Nacional de Programas de Arquitectura y Disciplinas del Espacio Habitable (ANPADEH), the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) and United States of America National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

For further information about the MArch(Design) programme, please visit:  
<https://www.arch.hku.hk/programmes/arch/master-of-architecture-design/>

5. The curriculum extends over three years of full-time study offering courses on the following: advanced structural systems, architecture and its discourses, core design courses, design and construction communication, design and technology of sustainable buildings, digital media and methods, history of modern architecture, introduction to building structures, pre-thesis seminar, principles of building, professional practice I & II and electives. The main feature of the curriculum is to enable students to acquire a broad range of skills in related fields, providing opportunities for student to keep pace with topical issues and to develop flexibility and mobility of thinking, coupled with a greater degree of initiative, innovation and self-reliance. The other feature is to place greater emphasis on project work congruent with the essential features of architectural professional practice and to closely link formal teaching to practice.

**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 MArch(Design) Application Documents Submission System (<https://extranet.ad.arch.hku.hk/Admission/mdesign>). Please upload the below list of supporting documents to the MArch(Design) Application Documents Submission System **by 12:00 noon (GMT+8), 2 January 2025**. Please do not encrypt the supporting documents.
- (a) Curriculum vitae (inclusive of publications and academic awards, if any)
  - (b) Official transcripts
  - (c) Graduation certificate (if any)
  - (d) 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).
  - (e) A portfolio with no more than 20 pages of creative work (landscape orientation in PDF format). Proper credit and context must be given for all work related to author, collaborators, and professional office in which the work was completed or academic course and instructor for which the work was completed, where appropriate. The maximum file size is 30MB. (optional)
  - (f) A written statement of interest (500 words maximum). You should:
    - i. describe why you want to attend the Master of Architecture (Design) Programme at HKU and identify specific aspects of the programme or the context of Hong Kong that have influenced your decision to apply;
    - ii. describe an academic project or professional experience that has shaped the way you approach architecture or urbanism; and
    - iii. identify a topic or architecture or urbanism that you would like to explore in greater depth in your graduate studies at HKU.

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

- II. Applicants have to appoint two referees, preferably one previous teacher and one professional employer, via the University’s online application system (<https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>). At least one academic reference is required.

Both of the 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?**

- (a) To be eligible for admission to the programme, a candidate shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) possess a **bachelor's degree** with honours of this University; or another equivalent qualification from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) possess a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Engineering, or Bachelor of Arts degree or equivalent
- (d) satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to high degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b) 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;
- (e) shall satisfy the examiners in qualifying examination if required;

A candidate should upload all the required supporting documents, in forms of soft-copy, to the Faculty's MArch(Design) Application Documents Submission System before the application deadline.

### **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 550 or above (paper-based test) or 80 or above (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)

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 MArch(Design) 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 MArch (Design) Application Documents Submission System will be closed at **12:00 noon (GMT+8), 2 January 2025. You are recommended to submit all the supporting documents as soon as possible as all applications will be considered on a rolling basis.** 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 February to July. In-person interview is preferred if the prospective candidates can make themselves available in Hong Kong. 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 2025-26 intake:

Self-funded places (fees paid in 6 installments during 3-year of study)	Local & Non-local Students:	HK\$724,950 inclusive of the caution money (HK\$350) and student activity fee (HK\$100)
Remarks: (a) The composition fee is pending for the University's approval and announcement.		

### **9. Are there any scholarships available?**

Those candidates who are successfully admitted to our MArch(Design) programme will have opportunities to be nominated to award the following scholarships/prizes:

Barrie Ho Architecture Travelling Scholarship  
Eric Lye Memorial Travelling Scholarship  
The Faculty of Architecture Scholarship for Architecture Students  
The Nascence Scholarship for Postgraduate Students in Architectural Studies  
Wharf Architectural Scholarship

More details regarding the scholarship opportunities are available at <http://www.scholarships.hku.hk/>.

### **10. When do I need to pay for the admission deposit?**

You are liable to pay for the admission deposit upon acceptance of firm/conditional offer. The deposit amount is the sum of the first installment of the composition fee (HK\$120,750), the caution money (HK\$350) and student activity fee (HK\$100).

The composition fee is pending for the University's approval.

### **Differences between the two-year MArch and three-year MArch(Design) programmes**

#### **11. What is the difference between the two-year MArch and three-year MArch(Design) programmes?**

The new Master of Architecture(Design) [three-year MArch(Design)] Degree was launched in September 2019. The programme offers a chance for students from a diverse set of undergraduate degrees to study architecture.

The Master of Architecture [two-year MArch] is a two-year UGC-funded full-time programme offered by the Department of Architecture. The two-year MArch is offered to applicants who hold a Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies degree at this University; or another equivalent qualification from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose.

The programme structure, tuition fees, and curriculum aims of both programmes are different.

For more details, please visit: <https://www.arch.hku.hk/programmes/arch/>

#### **12. If I satisfy the requirements for the two-year MArch programme, could I still apply for the three-year MArch(Design) programme?**

Please note the three-year MArch(Design) programme caters for those with less or no experience in architecture. You are advised to apply for the two-year MArch programme which more suits your skills and experience.

The admission committee will perform screening on your eligibility and may switch your application from two-year MArch to three-year MArch(Design), and vice versa.

#### **13. I might have applied for a wrong programme. Could I switch my application from two-year MArch to three-year MArch(Design) / three-year MArch(Design) to two-year MArch?**

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.

**14. I am interested in both the two-year MArch and three-year MArch(Design) programmes. May I apply both?**

Please do not apply for both programmes. The admission committee will screen your application and recommend admission to the programme that best suits your qualification and experience.

Even if you applied for both the two-year MArch and three-year MArch(Design) programme, we will only consider the ONE programme application that suits you most.