

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

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL
DESIGN ADMISSION for 2024**

Applications are invited for admission in January 2025 to read for the degree of Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design.

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) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) hold
 - i) a Bachelor's degree preferably in architecture, engineering, surveying, environmental science, geography or related fields in this University; or
 - ii) other qualification of equivalent standard from this university or other comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
 - iii) preferably a professional qualification in the architecture, building engineering, surveying or related fields.
- (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 higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and
- (d) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

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

The programme admits 28 to 32 local and international students to the Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design (MSc(AAD)) programme each year, and welcomes applications from students with a broad range of academic and cultural backgrounds. The MSc(AAD) programme is a design-focused post-professional, specialist taught postgraduate that creates a unique platform for students, practicing architects and urban researchers to contribute to emergent, cutting-edge research-based design agendas that result in real-life propositions.

The MSc(AAD) programme situates itself within several tracks of contemporary research in design: rural urbanization and construction, housing and habitat design (low-cost, social, urban, collective, etc.), high-tech façade and construction systems, material innovations in architecture (smart, bioplastic, etc.), non-extractive building processes, traditional building renovation and upgrading, sustainable and environmental building materials and strategies. Three research trajectories are offered each year, on a rotating

and flexible basis. Students may select a particular field of interest (and change) during the course of their study. Research themes are announced each year based on their relevance and potential impact in the contemporary discourse, led by an established designer/researcher (drawn from the faculty of architecture or as visiting guest professors).

The academic focus offers students a broad understanding of research and design methods framed by contemporary sustainability issues in architecture, and mastery of select tools for design and making. The study concludes with an opportunity to demonstrate and test a research-based design proposition through the realization of a full scale 1-to-1 prototype situated in an actual community. The programme structure operates on a trimester basis. Each semester includes a research-based design studio, a core course and a chosen elective.

The MSc(AAD) programme provides full-time (one year) study mode. The curriculum and syllabuses can be found at the Faculty of Architecture website (<http://www.arch.hku.hk/>).

The composition fee for the full-time programme of the 2024-2025 academic year is **HK\$250,470** inclusive of the caution money (HK\$350) and the student activity fee (HK\$100) (excluding expenses for mainland/overseas field trips and joint studios, if any), to be paid in 3 instalments during the year of study. The admission deposit upon acceptance of conditional offer is HK\$83,790 inclusive of the caution money (HK\$350) and the student activity fee (HK\$100). Application fee (HK\$300) 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 MSc(AAD) Application Documents Submission System (<https://admission.arch.hku.hk/>) **by 12:00 noon (HKT), September 2, 2024**. Applicants may 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 a bachelor's degree preferably in architecture, engineering, surveying, environmental science, geography or related fields;
- Have a strong interest in new technologies, environmental design, and construction prototyping;
- Have critical thinking and quantitative analysis capabilities; and
- Have an aptitude for design and its representation in built environments.

The MSc(AAD) Admissions Panel selects suitable candidates on the basis of their academic background, working experience, letters of recommendation, and personal statement. Admission is offered on the basis of their submissions and academic background.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Am I eligible to apply for the programme?

Apart from the local students, we also welcome non-local students, who are holding

- (1) student visa / entry permit to study in Hong Kong;
- (2) dependent visa / entry permit and were aged 18 years old or above when they were issued such visa / entry permit by the Immigration Department of the HKSAR; or
- (3) visa under the Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates (IANG), issued by the Director of Immigration of the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

2. How long does it take to apply for student visa?

Processing a student visa application requires **approximately 10 WEEKS**. Students should submit their visa application immediately once they have received either the Firm Offer of Admission or the Conditional Offer of Admission from HKU.

Upon successful application, a “Notification Slip for Entry Visa / Permit” (e-Visa) will be granted by the Immigration Department of the HKSAR. 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.

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 【逗留签注 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.

3. How can I fulfil 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)

Your test report will be considered valid if the test was taken within two years prior to the date you submit your MSc(AAD) application. Test scores obtained beyond this two-year timeframe will not be accepted.

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

While there is no absolute GPA requirement set for the admission to the MSc(AAD) programme, applicants with good academic results will be considered more

favourably.

5. Is design background essential for my application?

Design background is not an essential requirement for admission. However, preference will be given to applicants with design background that, as evidenced through portfolio submission, has shaped their practical and intellectual capacity in a positive manner.

6. Are there specific computing skills or software programme knowledge required for admission?

No pre-requisites on computer skills are set and you will not be tested on your software skills. Working knowledge of Rhinoceros 3D is preferred but not a requirement.

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

Our MSc(AAD) Application Documents Submission System will be closed at 12:00 noon (GMT+8), 2 September 2024. Therefore, you are strongly advised to submit your supporting documents before the deadline. Incomplete supporting document submission will definitely compromise your chance for admission.

8. Is there any interview or examination required for the programme?

Shortlisted applicants may be invited for a face-to-face/online admission interview in the fall term of AY2024-25. Detailed interview arrangement will be sent to shortlisted applicants via email. No written examination is required for admission to the MSc(AAD) programme.

9. Are there scholarships available for students and how do I know if I am eligible?

The Faculty of Architecture Scholarship for MSc(AAD) Students will be awarded to high-achieving applicants. No additional application is required as all applicants will be assessed and considered for nomination on the basis of (i) academic merit (i.e., portfolio related to architectural studies and/or other academic achievements), (ii) admission interview performance, and (iii) personal statement. The value of each scholarship shall be at least HK\$125,000.

[Note: The creation of this scholarship is subject to University approval. More details will be available in due course.]

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