

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
Division of Landscape Architecture

Master of Science in Conservation (MSc(Conservation))
(One-year Full time)
[for local applicants only]

1. Applications are invited for admission in September 2024 to the Master of Science in Conservation (MSc(Conservation)) Programme.
2. To be eligible for admission to the programme, a candidate shall satisfy both the University Admissions Requirements and Programme Specific Requirements.
 - a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - b) hold a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field of this University or from a comparable institution accepted for this purpose; motivated candidates with a degree in other disciplines with relevant experience may also apply, subject to approval by the Faculty on a case-by-case basis;
 - 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).
 - d) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
3. The Programme is designed primarily for students with a background in a built environment-related discipline, including but not limited to architecture, landscape architecture, urban studies, urban planning, urban design, surveying, engineering, archaeology, etc. Motivated candidates with a degree from the social sciences and other disciplines with relevant experience may also apply, subject to approval by the Faculty on a case-by-case basis.
4. The Programme is designed to equip students with the technical competencies and intellectual skills required to guide decision-making in conservation planning, management and design in the 21st century. Through a combination of dedicated seminars, studios and elective courses, students will gain theoretical and practical insights into the latest policies, methodologies and best practices and apply their knowledge to real-life projects. To qualify for the MSc(Conservation) degree, all candidates are required to complete a total of 72 credits of courses with a combination of core courses, stream courses, and electives.
5. The Programme offers two streams of specialization, with each focusing on an expertise of the conservation profession:
 - i) Conservation Planning and Management; and
 - ii) Design for Conservation.Applicants to the programme must choose one of the two streams as their specialization in their application.

6. Applicants selecting “Design for Conservation” stream must submit a portfolio that demonstrates their design skills and experience. 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 portfolio should be in PDF format and should not exceed 15 pages or 30Mb.
7. There is an international field trip to an outstanding heritage site in the region every year as part of the Programme curriculum and students are expected to cover the expenses of the trip.
8. The programme fee is HK\$220,520 (Subject to final approval by the University) and will be paid in two instalments (HK\$110,260 per instalment).
9. Applications should be submitted via our on-line application system at <https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>. After submission of an online application, candidates are required to upload the supporting documents directly to the Faculty’s MSc(Conservation) Application Documents Submission System. Please refer to the “Supporting Documents” for details.
10. The closing date for application is extended at **12:00 noon (GMT+8), June 27, 2024 (Thursday) [for local applicants only]**. Successful applicants will be notified by the end of July 2024.
11. Interested applicants can join the Programme’s online Admissions Talks to be held in November 2023 via zoom. Please check the Faculty of Architecture webpage for a detailed schedule by late October:
https://www.arch.hku.hk/programmes_/conservation/

October 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

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

1. *What are the basic requirements for admission?*
 - Comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula
 - Hold a bachelor degree in a built environment related-discipline, such as architecture, landscape architecture, urban studies, urban planning, urban design, surveying and engineering. Motivated candidates with a degree from other disciplines with relevant experience may also apply, subject to approval by the Faculty on a case-by-case basis.
 - If your qualification is from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, you shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to high degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b).
2. *Is an interview required for admission to the Programme?*
 - Yes, shortlisted candidates will be invited for an admission interview. Details of interview arrangement will be sent to the shortlisted candidates via email.
3. *Is it necessary to specify a particular area/subject in conservation that I wish to explore in greater depth for my graduate studies at HKU?*
 - No, but specifying a particular area or subject in conservation will demonstrate that you've carefully considered your reasons for joining the programme and have familiarised yourself with the heritage conservation field.
4. *Are there particular books/articles that I have to read before applying for the programme?*
 - No, but reading books and scholarly articles on heritage conservation will allow you to articulate your thoughts and ideas more clearly and engage with the topic from a stronger position.
5. *Who can be nominated as referees?*
 - The referee should be the applicant's professor or colleague who is in a senior position and can comment on the applicant's abilities. This senior person does not need to be in the field of heritage.
6. *Will my application be rejected if the supporting documents cannot be submitted before the application deadline?*
 - The submission systems will be closed after the application deadline. Applicants are advised to submit all the supporting documents on time according to the instructions provided. Otherwise, the chance for admission will be slim due to incomplete supporting document
7. *Is practical work experience essential for my application?*
 - Practical work experience is not an essential requirement for admission but preference will be given to those applicants with relevant experience that may have contributed to enhancing their potential in the field of heritage conservation.

8. *Is there a minimum GPA requirement?*

- There is no absolute GPA requirement set for the admission to the Programme but applicants with good academic results will be considered favourably.

9. *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 either 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 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 of your application.

10. *I already have a Masters degree in another discipline, can I apply for a second Master degree?*

- A: Yes, you are welcome to apply for the Master of Science in Conservation Programme, there are no restrictions on applying for a second Master's degree.

11. *What is the fee structure of the programme?*

- The programme fee is HK\$220,520 (Subject to final approval by the University) and will be paid in two instalments (HK\$110,260 per instalment).

12. *What employment opportunities are available in the heritage conservation field?*

- The heritage conservation field is an interdisciplinary field with a variety of employment opportunities. Depending on your background, they can range from conservation architect, conservation landscape architect, collections manager, conservation engineer, museum / historic site director, conservation and curation of cultural assets, heritage management of historic sites and buildings, heritage learning and community outreach, project management in heritage development and urban renewal projects, policy development, consultant for international heritage NGOs, to name a few. Of course, there is the option to continue your studies and obtain a PhD in a broader range of disciplines in Hong Kong or abroad through our partner universities and beyond.