MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (MArch) HANDBOOK

Department of Architecture

College of Environmental Design
University of California, Berkeley

2023–2024
For students enrolling to University of California Berkeley Fall 2023 or later

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Description

The mission of the Department of Architecture is to use the intellectual creativity of building and design to transform environments for social benefits. Our purpose in teaching and research is to critically explore the formation of environments as situated in a continuum of histories, societies, economies, materials, systems and scales. Our objective is to instruct a generation of leaders that will shape better environmental futures. We prepare our students with analytic, technical and generative skills, and we embed them in the breadth and depth of history and critical theories. In this way, they learn to discern significance and how to act upon it. We offer multiple intellectual foci, encouraging exploration and action in disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, and professional modes. Our department transforms the discipline by insisting on knowing international, cultural and cross- cultural canons and innovates based on the differences between places. The department encourages thinking with architecture as a mode of activism which focuses on improving the quality of peoples' everyday lives, recognizing the diversity of voices, and providing for accessibility.

The Master of Architecture curriculum is developed to prepare our graduates to become leaders in the design and transformation of the environment. We want them to be critical practitioners, grounded in a breadth of historical, social and cultural understanding of people in places, empowered with technical knowledge, and synthetic abilities to address a multitude of complex questions and demands that sit at the intersection of ecology, politics, economy and aesthetics. Some key strengths of the MArch program include conceptual and analytic thinking, digital and non-digital representation and modeling, innovative building systems, and sustainable city building.

Our MArch (Option 3) program consists of three years of study. Applicants with both a BA/BS in Architecture from an accredited institution and at least 5 weighted studio courses may apply for advanced standing (Option 2) in the MArch program, allowing them to complete the MArch degree in two years. This follows the "4+2" model adopted by NAAB with a four-year undergraduate degree in architecture (BS or BA) and an additional two years of graduate study for an accredited degree.

All students, domestic and international, must plan to arrive in Berkeley at least two days before instruction begins. The days before classes start often include important events such as studio lotteries. No excuses will be granted for absence from classes based on ongoing jobs or internships, flight schedules or late visas, so please plan well in advance any travel arrangements.

Accreditation and Licensing

In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes three types of degrees: the Bachelor of Architecture, the Master of Architecture, and the Doctor of Architecture. A program may be granted an 8-year, 3-year, or 2-year term of accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established educational standards. Doctor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degree programs may require a pre-professional undergraduate degree in architecture for admission. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree.

The University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design, Department of Architecture, offers the following NAAB-accredited degree programs:

- MArch Option 3 (72 graduate credits)
- MArch Option 2 (120 undergraduate credits + 48 graduate credits)

Please click here for the documentation for the two most recent accreditation reviews
Please click here for the most recent Architectural Registration Examination Pass Rates

The most recent NAAB accreditation visit for both programs was 2016. The next visit will be in 2024. Please see the California Architects Board website for more information about experience equivalents as well as NCARB for National Registration.

PROGRAM OPTIONS
1. Master of Architecture (MArch) (Option 3)
2. Master of Architecture (MArch) with Advanced Standing (Option 2)
3. Concurrent Programs
   a. Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture (MArch/MLA)
   b. Master of Architecture and Master of City and Regional Planning (MArch/MCP)
   c. Master of Architecture and Master of Science in Engineering (MArch/MS)

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
A. Master of Architecture (MArch) (Option 3)
B. Master of Architecture (MArch) with Advanced Standing (Option 2)
C. Concurrent Programs
   a. Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture (MArch/MLA)
   b. Master of Architecture and Master of City and Regional Planning (MArch/MCP)
   c. Master of Architecture and Master of Science in Engineering (MArch/MS)
D. Thesis
E. Filing Fee

Master of Architecture (MArch - Option 3)

YEAR ONE (FALL)		YEAR ONE (SPRING)	
ARCH 200A: Introduction to Architecture Studio	5	ARCH 200B: Introduction to Architecture Studio	5
ARCH 200C: Representational Practices in Architectural Design	3	ARCH 200D: Representational Practices in Architectural Design II	2
ARCH 270: History of Modern Architecture	3	ARCH 230: Advanced Architectural Design Theory & Criticism*	3
ARCH 207A: CED Lectures Colloquium[†]	1	ARCH 250: Introduction to Structures*	3
YEAR TWO (FALL)		YEAR TWO (SPRING)	
ARCH 201: Architecture & Urbanism Studio	5	ARCH 202: Graduate Option Studio	5
ARCH 207B: Architecture & Urbanism Colloquium[†]	1	ARCH 207D: The Cultures of Practice	3
ARCH 260: Introduction to Construction - Graduate Level	3	ARCH 240: Advanced Study of Energy & Environment*	3
ELECTIVE		ELECTIVE	
YEAR THREE (FALL)		YEAR THREE (SPRING)	
ARCH 203: Integrated Design Studio	5	ARCH 204B: Final Thesis Studio	5
ARCH 204A: Final Thesis Seminar	3	ELECTIVES	
ARCH 207C: Professional Practice Colloquium[†]	1		
ELECTIVE			

TOTAL REQUIRED UNITS	72
MINIMUM ELECTIVE UNITS	13

NOTE: Minimum units each semester is 12. Only course numbers in 100s and 200s count toward the degree.

* SUBSTITUTION REQUESTS for Option 3 requirements must be submitted prior to the first day of instruction of the Fall semester of your first year of enrollment. If a required course is waived, you must still take a 3-4 unit advanced course in the same area.

ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS (OPTION 3)
- If waived out of ARCH 230, students must take an Advanced Course in DESIGN THEORY AND CRITICISM, numbered ARCH 23X.
- If waived out of ARCH 240, students must take an Advanced Course in ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT, numbered ARCH 24X.
- If waived out of ARCH 250, students must take an Advanced Course in STRUCTURES, numbered ARCH 25X.
- If waived out of ARCH 260, students are required to take an Advanced Course, in CONSTRUCTION, numbered ARCH 26X.

Master of Architecture (MArch - Option 2)

YEAR ONE (FALL)		YEAR ONE (SPRING)	
ARCH 201: Architecture & Urbanism Studio	5	ARCH 202: Graduate Option Studio	5
ARCH 207B: Architecture & Urbanism Colloquium†	1	ARCH 207D: The Cultures of Practice	3
ARCH 260: Introduction to Construction - Graduate Level	3	ARCH 230: Advanced Architectural Design Theory & Criticism*	3
ARCH 270: History of Modern Architecture*	3	ARCH 240: Advanced Study of Energy & Environment*	3
		ARCH 250: Introduction to Structures*	3
YEAR TWO (FALL)		YEAR TWO (SPRING)	
ARCH 203: Integrated Design Studio	5	ARCH 204B: Final Thesis Studio	5
ARCH 204A: Final Thesis Seminar	3	ELECTIVES	
ARCH 207C: Professional Practice Colloquium†	1		
ELECTIVE			

TOTAL REQUIRED UNITS   48

MINIMUM ELECTIVE UNITS   5

NOTE: Minimum units each semester is 12. Only course numbers in 100s and 200s count toward the degree.

*SUBSTITUTION REQUESTS for Option 2 requirements must be submitted prior to the first day of instruction of the Fall semester of your first year of enrollment. If a required course is waived, you must still take a 3-4 unit advanced course in the same area.

ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS (OPTION 2)
- If waived out of ARCH 230, students must take an Advanced Course in DESIGN THEORY AND CRITICISM, numbered ARCH 23X.
- If waived out of ARCH 240, students must take an Advanced Course in ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT, numbered ARCH 24X.
- If waived out of ARCH 250, students must take an Advanced Course in STRUCTURES, numbered ARCH 25X.
- If waived out of ARCH 260, students must take an Advanced Course, in CONSTRUCTION, numbered ARCH 26X.
- If waived out of ARCH 270, students must take Advanced Course in HISTORY, numbered ARCH 27X.

A. THESIS* (Option 3 and Option 2)

Option 3 and Option 2 students are required to produce a Departmental Thesis to satisfy their final degree requirements. The thesis course work is completed over two semesters in your final year. In the fall semester, you will enroll in ARCH 204A: Final Thesis Seminar (3 units). And in the spring semester, you will enroll in ARCH 204B: Final Thesis Studio (5 units).*

*While the department refers to a thesis, graduate division refers to this requirement as a capstone, project, or report as defined by the major as part of the degree goal.

Thesis Members include:

- ARCH Faculty #1: Instructor of 204A/B
- ARCH Faculty #2

The Following Items need to be completed by the time of Graduation:

- Presentation of Work at Thesis Review
- Complete Written Thesis
- Send Completed Thesis to Committee for Review and Signatures of Approval
- Submit Final Thesis (PDF format) and Signatures of Approval to the Graduate Student Affairs Officer (GSAO)

B. FILING FEE

The Filing Fee is a reduced fee, one-half of the Student Services Fee (formerly the University Registration fee), for doctoral students who have completed all requirements for the degree except for filing the dissertation (Plans A and B) and presenting the Final Defense (Plan A).

It is also available to master's students with no requirements remaining except for filing the thesis (Plan I) or taking the final comprehensive examination (Plan II). Filing Fee is available for the fall and spring semesters only.

REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT

All ARCH graduate students are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 units each semester.

Registering at Berkeley consists of two steps:

1. [Enrolling in classes](#).
2. Paying your bill. (Note: You need to pay at least 20 percent of your bill by August 18, 2023 or you will be dropped from your courses. For more information, read the [Cancel for Non Payment Policy](#). You may view what tuition and fees you owe within the [My Finances section of CalCentral](#).

To be officially registered at UC Berkeley you must meet three criteria:

1. You must be enrolled in at least one class.
2. Your tuition and fees must be paid either in full or the first installment of the [Fee Payment Plan](#).
3. You must not have holds against your registration

Please note that you must be officially registered to access campus services such as library privileges, the Recreational Sports Facility, University Health Services, etc.

Use [CalCentral](#) to review your academic record and enroll in classes. Please see deadlines available in the [Student Enrollment Calendar](#).

- For graduates, the limit for Phase 1 is 12 units, and for Phase 2 it is 20.5 units. This is a hard cap enforcement.
- Students have from the start of their appointment time until the end of the given phase to add, drop, or swap classes, change grading options, change discussion sections, and make variable unit updates.

COURSE WORK AND GRADING

ARCH 200A, ARCH 207A, ARCH 207B, ARCH 207C must be taken as satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U). All other required Core Courses in Degree requirements must be taken as a letter grade. Please note that no more than one-third of total units may be taken on a (S/U) basis.

Studio Lottery Process
Each semester, students in the second and third year of the MArch program will be given the opportunity to select which studio they would like to participate in. Faculty will give

presentations on their studio opportunities and students will be required to rank their preferences and make their selections (via google form) at a given deadline. A committee will then sort through all student preferences and match students to studios based on availability and other factors. Students will then enroll into their studio sections.

Electives
To fulfill the elective requirements, students may take undergraduate upper division courses (100-199) or graduate level courses.

Threshold Review of ARCH 200B
Upon the completion of ARCH 200B, the MArch Committee will review student work. The committee may require a student to take a summer studio to prepare for success in future years of study. The goal is to develop additional design conception, design development and design representation skills.

ARCH 299: Individual Study and Research for Master's and Doctoral Students
Individual studies including reading and individual research under the supervision of a faculty adviser and designed to reinforce the student's background in areas related to the proposed degree. To enroll, please consult with your GSAO.

Waiver and Substitution Process
Waivers and substitutions for required courses are possible after consultation with the GSAO, Faculty Advisor and successful completion and submission of the Course Substitution Request Form. Please note that students will need to replace waived or substituted courses with an advanced level of the same course unless otherwise stated.

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
Curricular Practical Training is a type of off-campus work permission for F-1 international students who are currently pursuing study programs in the United States and want to gain experience in their fields of study. CPT is not available after a student completes a degree program. Please refer to the CPT Application Process: Steps to Apply.

F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT)
Optional Practical Training (OPT) is 12-month work authorization available to F-1 international students who have been full-time students for at least two consecutive semesters and plan to seek employment in the United States in their fields of study. Please refer to Applying for OPT.

Incompletes
Students should always consult their academic advisor (GSAO) when considering an Incomplete grade. Academic advisors are able to help students understand how Incompletes may affect their future class schedules and progress towards graduation.

Incomplete grades will only be assigned to a student by the instructor if a student's work in a course has been of passing quality to date and the class cannot be completed due to circumstances beyond the student's control.

Graduate students do not have a specified deadline for the replacement of an I grade. The method of replacement of the I grade by a final grade is determined by the Dean of the Graduate Division and the Graduate Council. Please note, for Studio Courses, students must resolve the Incomplete in order to advance to the next studio.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Architecture Department Fellowships
Fellowships are awarded to incoming MArch students by The Department of Architecture based on merit, need, and/or diversity. Many students also successfully apply for external fellowships and grants.

CED Prizes + Awards
Scholarships, fellowships, internships, and travel opportunities are available for all CED Students.

Berkeley Graduate Division Fellowships and Awards
Application based aid that is open to all graduate students.

Financial Aid & Scholarships
Graduate students may apply for need-based loans and work-study through the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office. The programs are based on demonstrated financial need and require completion of a separate Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). International Graduate students can refer to the Financial Aid for International Students through the Berkeley International Office (BIO).

Graduate Student Instructor GSI Appointments
Architecture offers around twenty-five GSI appointments per semester in undergraduate and graduate level courses. Applications are announced in mid-semester for the following semester, and students in CED apply via a Department Google Form sent out by the GSAO. Qualified candidates must acquaint themselves with UC policies on GSI appointments.

For GSI appointments in the Department of Architecture, Ph.D. students receive priority appointments in the area they are researching. MArch students will receive priority appointments with primarily Studio courses. First semester MArch students are typically not hired as GSIs.

International Student Taxes

When any kind of award, stipend, or money from the University is received, international students are required to submit the [Initial GLACIER Information Form](#). Depending on the home country, additional forms may be required. These forms must be on file before any of the money will be released. In order to avoid the taxes and forms, the Department will try to apply any awards directly as fees whenever possible.

Establishing Residency

If you are a US citizen, but not a California resident, you can save money by [establishing residency](#) in California.

GENERAL

Please see the [Graduate Division Website](#) for more information regarding the following topics:

CAMPUS SAFETY
PARKING & TRANSPORTATION
CALCENTRAL
HEALTH & WELLNESS

CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

Equity and Inclusion

Commitment to equity, inclusion, and diversity is a key part of the department's mission. If we are to maintain our global leadership in research and education as we head into the future, it is critical that we welcome and retain the best students, faculty, and staff. Doing so requires that we create a culture that benefits all those associated with the department by making central a uniform expectation of adherence to the values of excellence, equity, inclusion, and diversity. No student, faculty member, or staff member should be held in less esteem, be less influential, or be less able to pursue his or her goals due to characteristics such as his or her race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and more.

Grievance Policy

The University and Department committed to a policy against legally impermissible, arbitrary, or unreasonable discriminatory practices. All groups operating under The Regents, including administration, faculty, staff, student governments, University-owned residence halls, and programs sponsored by the University, are governed by this policy of nondiscrimination.

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state law and University policy, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran.

The purpose of this grievance procedure is to provide Berkeley students an opportunity to resolve complaints alleging discrimination based upon any of the above listed grounds. This procedure is also available for the resolution of complaints alleging inappropriate application to a student of any other rules or policies of the Berkeley campus resulting in injury to the

student, except as noted in IB. below. It is the intent of this procedure that student complaints should be resolved, if at all possible, in the department or unit where they arise. Access the University Code of Student Conduct here.

III B. Formal Architecture Department Procedures
The following procedures have been established by the Department of Architecture to deal with student grievances. NOTE: These procedures do not apply to grades, student employment, and student discipline, which are governed by separate University Policies in the link above.

1. Informal Resolution: a student should attempt to resolve the matter informally with the person alleged to have committed the violation.
2. If the matter cannot be resolved at Step 1, a student brings the grievance to the attention of the Chair of the Grievance Committee.
3. If a satisfactory solution cannot be provided by the Grievance Committee, the Chair of the Department will make the final grievance resolution for the Department.
4. If a student still wishes to appeal, the grievance shall be referred to the Dean of the College of Environmental Design.
5. After recourse to the Dean of the College, the resources of the College will be considered to have been exhausted. Undergraduate students should file with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and graduate and professional school students should file with the office of the Dean of the Graduate Division.

CED RESOURCES

232 Bauer Wurster	Departmental Office. This is the main office of the Department of Architecture. Students are encouraged to visit the office for any advising related needs.
210 Bauer Wurster	CED Library. Most library resources used in conjunction with classes in the College can be found in the C.E.D. Library. Tours of the library are conducted at the beginning of fall semester. Consult the Reference Librarian for dates and hours.
214 Bauer Wurster	CED Computer Facility. This is the main computer facility available to both graduate and undergraduate students and is equipped for GIS and Computer Aided Design (CAD). Equipment includes IBM PCs, slide scanners, flatbed scanners, plotters, and printers. To gain access to the computer lab, you must have a validated Cal Photo ID (Cal 1 Card). In addition, each student must be issued a computer account in order to use the college-wide network.
273 Bauer Wurster	Fabrication Shop. The Shop is provided for your use in the completion of class projects. Students cannot use this facility unless they have completed a shop orientation.

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