

The Pre-Masters' Year

The Pre-Masters' (PM) Year is an introductory year designed for students entering the program with a previous university degree but with little or no formal design education. It is a demanding year of study. It addresses an array of often unfamiliar ideas and knowledge, and presents the challenge of developing new skills.

The PM class comprises individuals with varying academic backgrounds and experience. Students are encouraged to build on and apply their previous education. The richness, diversity and exchange of knowledge in the PM class is an important aspect of the group culture and is a valuable asset in the development of all students in the Department.

The PM Year is designed to enable students to develop their knowledge and skills to the point where they are prepared to enter the Master's program. The means of achieving this aim are:

- exposure to a rich and intense curriculum consisting of history, theory, graphic communication, technology, ecology, computing and design
- discussion of historical precedents and theoretical issues which explore how paradigms of thought, ideologies, culture and technology influence the form and structure of the human-made environment
- development of spatial perception and the ability to understand spatial order and ordering principles within the built environment
- development of the ability to transform ideas into three dimensional/spatial design in a biophysical, social and cultural context
- development of written, verbal and graphic communication skills. Students are expected to develop graphic skills in their PM Year and to gain an understanding of the scope and potential of digital media.

Admission Requirements

An applicant for the Pre-Masters' Year must arrange for the presentation of the following materials:

1. A completed application form for admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. This is available online from the Faculty of Graduate Studies
2. Letters of reference from three individuals under whom the applicant has worked or studied. Two of these will normally be faculty members acquainted with the applicant's undergraduate performance. (forms available of the LA admissions page web site)
3. A brief written statement outlining the applicant's interest in landscape architectural study and practice, and reasons for seeking admission to the program.
4. A résumé, including biographical information, work and travel history, community service activities and any other information seen to be relevant by the applicant.
5. Official university transcripts of complete academic record. Applicants must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (B), or the equivalent, in the last two years of their academic work to be eligible for consideration.
6. Graduates of universities other than the University of Manitoba are required to submit, in English, a copy of their birth certificate or passport.
7. Students whose first language is not English are required to submit test results from an English language examination (TOEFL) and may be required to take the CanTEST once on campus. Preference will be given to applicants with TOEFL scores above 580.

To allow the admissions committee to assess applicants creative potential the applicants are encouraged to provide a portfolio as a communication device that reflect design interests, inclinations, creative abilities and potential across a wide spectrum of endeavours. This is not mandatory, but is highly recommended.

Guidelines:

- Format: Use a vertical binder (8 1/2" x 11") or a commercial folio with quality plastic sheet protectors for each page of the portfolio.
- Supply a table of contents or consistent chapter identification
- A brief explanatory text must accompany each image and/or project. Do not include any lengthy written descriptions -keep in mind that the Admissions Committee is reviewing many submissions so brief and succinct descriptions are greatly appreciated.
- Previous school work as well as independent or self-initiated work may be included. In the case of school work, include the project program issued, main objectives of project, instructors' names, dates and duration. Also include written evaluations and grades received where available. If group or office work is presented, clearly indicate your specific role in the work. Crediting is required for all work presented in the portfolio.
- Do not include CD's, videos, films, slides, etc. Only images that have been printed or reproduced will be accepted.
- Do not submit unclear or poorly reproduced photographs, reproductions or drawings. Photos should not be smaller than 4" x 6".

What to include: The portfolio should document your design interests, inclinations and passions. These can range from passions underlying hobbies to those that led you to pursue your previous field of academic study. The committee is very interested in projects that you do on your own, as well as those done for school assignments. These projects can be photographed or copied with accompanying brief descriptions to form the Portfolio.

The following outlines different forms that this material could take.

Written: Poetry, articles, travel journals, research papers, music, etc.

Graphic: Photography, sketches, drawings, paintings, or technical drawings, etc.

Constructed: Photographs, drawings and sketches of built projects: including ceramics, models, sculptures, hobbies, instruments, theatre sets, renovations to buildings, objects, cars, and/or photo-documentaries of experiences with building construction.

The body of work that you include should attempt to illustrate creative experience and/or graphic communication skills attained to date.

Curriculum

The current model for the Pre-Master's Year is:

course no.	course name	credit hours
*	Drawing Workshop (pre-term)	
LARC 6160	Landscape Architecture Studio 1	6
EVLA 3220	Site Grading and Drainage	3
EVLA 3180	History of Landscape Architecture to 1900	3
LARC 6150	Landscape Architecture Communications	3

course no.	course name	credit hours
LARC 6170	Landscape Architecture Studio 2	6
EVLA 3240	Plants, Landscape and Design	3
LARC 6140	Site Planning	3

EVLA 3720	LA Theory 1	3
LARC 6152	Landscape Arch CAD	3
EVLA 3730	LA Ecology	3
		Sub Total 36 credit hours

May/June (will be placed in the master program should applicants be successful in their February master application).

course no.	course name	credit hours
LARC 6180	Landscape Architecture Studio 3	6

Studios

Studio 1 is an introduction to the basic principles and formal properties of design.

Studio 2 (for which Studio 1 is a pre-requisite) explores landscapes as a function of natural and cultural factors, and the act of design intervention as a thoughtful, intentional and meaningful process.

Studio 3 (for which Studio 2 is a pre-requisite) is taken during May and early June as a parallel studio to Studio 6 (taken in the M1 Year). Students have the opportunity to synthesize the experience and knowledge from the preceding two terms in carrying out a series of design exercise and/or a comprehensive design project.