



Admission Guidelines Master of Architecture Program



This program is for applicants with a four or five-year pre-professional undergraduate degree from a recognized college or university in one of the following areas: **Architecture, Architectural Design, Architectural Science, Environmental Design-Architecture Option**, or equivalent.

Applicants seeking admission to the professional M.Arch program who do *not* meet the above requirements should review the [Environmental Design Architecture Masters Preparation](#) (AMP) program.

Electronic Admission Process

All application materials – including a digital portfolio – must be uploaded through the Faculty of Graduate Studies admissions portal by the deadline. Please carefully review the relevant application instructions and electronic forms on the [Faculty of Graduate Studies admissions webpage](#).

General Eligibility:

All applicants must meet the [Faculty of Graduate Studies minimum admissions requirements](#).

Master of Architecture (M. Arch.) Program Eligibility

Applicants with a minimum four-year pre-professional undergraduate degree in architectural design, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (or equivalent B in the last two full years (60 credit hrs.) of study), are eligible for direct admission to the M.Arch degree program.

For those applying from the University of Manitoba Bachelor of Environmental Design-Architecture Option program, the following is required: a minimum of "C+" in courses EVAR 4002, EVAR 4004, EVAR 4008, and EVAR 4010. Minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last two full years (60 credit hrs.) of study.

Acceptance decisions will be made by the Department of Architecture Admissions Committee based on a thorough evaluation of each student's application and supporting documents (listed below).

For admissions enquiries, contact the Faculty of Architecture Graduate Student Services:
Email: GradArch@umanitoba.ca ; Phone: 204-474-6578

M.Arch Program: Admission Requirements

These requirements are set by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) and Department of Architecture. Evaluation of academic potential and creative ability is based on all supporting documents.

1. Transcripts

Transcripts are required from ALL recognized, post-secondary institutions attended, whether a degree was awarded or not. **For initial assessment, unofficial transcripts are acceptable and preferred.** Please upload unofficial transcripts with your UMGradConnect application.

Official transcripts are required only if you are recommended for admission. To be considered official, transcripts must arrive to the UM Faculty of Graduate Studies in sealed and endorsed envelopes – stamped across the back flap by the Main Records Office of the issuing institution. In cases where the transcript does not clearly state that a degree has been conferred and when it was awarded, a copy of the final degree certificate must accompany the transcript. Note: official University of Manitoba transcripts are not required (as these will be provided by an FGS Admissions Assistant). However, UM students must upload their unofficial transcripts with their application, as noted above.

If the transcript is issued in a language other than English (and is not from a Canadian institution) the applicant must arrange for the submission of official literal translations of all records. The original language documents and the English translations must arrive together in an envelope that has been sealed and endorsed (stamped across the back flap) by the issuing institutions. All academic documents must arrive directly from the main records office (e.g., the Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Archives, etc.) of the issuing institution in order to be considered "official".

2. Resume or Curriculum Vitae

A summary of academic achievements, professional work and other relevant experience, including travel, personal interests, etc. (not written in prose format).

3. Statement of Intent – 750 words maximum; 12pt minimum font size.

The Statement of Intent is an opportunity to reflect on your interest in the field of architecture and to give the Admissions Committee a better idea of who you are by relating what architecture means to you. Do not write what you think the committee wants to hear; rather, be direct and heartfelt in describing why you care about architecture. The following questions may assist in this endeavour:

- What experiences have inspired your interest in studying architecture?
- What do you believe architecture can offer culture as a whole?
- What do you expect to get out of an education in architecture?
- What are your favorite spaces and why? Or, what is your most poignant spatial experience?
- What are your favorite books and why? (Not limited to architecture books).

4. English Language Proficiency Test – *must be submitted by the application deadline.*

Required for applicants who do not hold a secondary school diploma/university degree from a country on the list of [approved countries](#). For minimum test scores, see the [Faculty of Graduate Studies International Students Admission Requirements](#). The score must be no older than two years. Note: even though the language requirement is met, the Department may require remedial language work.

5. Two reference letters – *must submit the email addresses for referees with the online application.*

From academics and/or professionals (not family members or friends) who are able to assess your intellectual and professional ability to successfully pursue the program.

6. Proof of Identity – *a copy of your birth certificate or current passport is required once admitted.*

7. Proof of a name change (if applicable) if any documentation is in your former name.

8. Digital Portfolio - *must be uploaded with your application by the application deadline.*

For more details, see M.Arch Program: Admission Portfolio Guidelines (below).

9. Application Fee Payment

M.Arch Program: Admission Portfolio Guidelines

The Admissions Committee requires a comprehensive and well-organized portfolio, demonstrating evidence of skills development and design ability from undergraduate design programs and any other relevant studies, professional work and/or experience. The portfolio should show complete designs as well as creative design processes, including conceptual development, design experimentation, creative and critical thinking, comprehensive design development, technical resolutions, and representations of poetic / experiential qualities.

Aims – The portfolio should demonstrate the following:

- Ability to document, interpret, and respond to complex urban sites and cultural contexts;
- Ability to develop clear and relevant design strategies, architectural intentions and ideas;
- Ability to imagine, plan and design new and renovated spaces, buildings, works and sites;
- Ability to effectively communicate in drawing, graphic, model, and verbal form, and in manners appropriate to an aspiring design professional;
- Ability to think and design materially (quantitatively and qualitatively);
- Ability to think and design conceptually (formally and theoretically);
- Ability to perform research and explorations leading to appropriate design responses;
- Understanding of architecture within the context of current global and regional issues;

Content – The portfolio should include the following:

- the best work from each project completed in previous design studies;
- select research and explorations for each project, including analysis and design development;
- documentation of design work in chronological sequence (including select preliminary sketches and material experiments, as well as final drawings, renderings, models and/or construction photos, showing technical proficiency and experiential potential);
- applicable personal work and/or professional work.

Format

- **PDF, digital file, maximum 20MB;**
- dimensions: minimum letter (8.5" x 11"), maximum tabloid (11" x 17"), vertical or horizontal format;
- name must be clearly visible on the cover page;
- table of contents;
- brief explanatory text for each project, and titles/captions for each image and/or page;
- general care, clarity, creativity and professionalism in the overall composition;
- clear indication of your specific role in any group work and/or professional work.

NOTE: Only PDF portfolios are accepted. Physical portfolios, if sent, will not be reviewed or returned.

Interested in learning more about the design studio work and thesis projects in the Master of Architecture program?

*Please see the most recent listing of [Design Thesis Projects](#),
The Department of Architecture ArchFolio publications, available on the [DoA Press webpage](#),
and the general description of the program: [About Architecture](#).*