

Master of Landscape Architecture

Portfolio Guidance for applicants

MLA1

Format

The portfolio should normally be a digital pdf, A4 landscape format, approx. 10-12 pages, containing a range of material to illustrate your relevant skills, areas of knowledge and awareness of landscapes/landscape architecture. Content may vary according to your background. Links may also be provided to online portfolios or websites.

Content

We are looking for evidence of a range of skills or areas of knowledge and experience, adapted to each individual applicant's background and strengths. The following list provides examples of acceptable elements to include based on the most common backgrounds for applicants, although this is not necessarily exhaustive:

Education or experience in art and design-related fields:

- Drawing and wider art or communication skills (relevance to landscape is useful but not essential)
- Design process and outcomes (graphics, interiors, product, fashion, ceramics, etc.)
- Work in public art/environmental art, evidenced through photography and/or drawings, etc.
- Short films or animations (links may be provided to online materials)
- Creativity and ability to respond to brief or need
- Use of relevant software (Adobe Photoshop, InDesign or Illustrator, AutoCAD, Sketchup, Rhino, Lumion, etc)
- Brief study of a landscape or a landscape design project of interest with information on background, designers, outcomes, current use and value. This may be illustrated through drawing and/or photography.
- OR brief study of a landscape practice (sourced online or from personal knowledge/experience)

Education or experience in Land-based sciences or disciplines (eg. Geog/Geol, Ecology, Env. Science or Management, Botany/Horticulture, Garden Design, etc.):

- Annotated landscape photography and/or drawings to show interpretations, reflections, perceptions of landscapes - these can be taken from a range of urban and rural landscapes and should aim to show your understanding of landscape formation, human use, ecological value, etc.
- Brief excerpts/examples of landscape-related work and/or assessments (reports/analysis). This may include ecological, geological or other studies but should ideally be related to the landscape character
- Drawings and/or photographs of plants (your own) with descriptions and explanations of interest and relevance/applications for specific landscapes
- A brief study of a landscape project of interest with information on background, designers, outcomes, current use and value
- OR a landscape practice (sourced online or from personal knowledge/experience)

Other backgrounds

- A range of the above adapted to personal skills and background OR by discussion and agreement with programme leader

MLA2

Selection Criteria

Please note that a pdf or online portfolio is required for all applications for direct entry to MLA2 and assessments will be based on this in addition to a candidate's relevant qualifications and experience. For overseas students, a further important criterion for selection is the demonstration of a high standard of proficiency in the use of English. This is important, as successful completion of the course requires students to read and interpret a wide range of academic texts as well as to undertake independent research and to write a full-length dissertation.

Portfolio contents

Portfolios must contain evidence of original work undertaken by the candidate in the field of landscape architecture or closely-related areas (either in practice or as part of an educational programme in the subject) and must demonstrate a range of the following attributes:

- a high level of skill in the use of a range of digital and non-digital visual media
- sophisticated use of a wide range of standard and non-standard representational formats, potentially including: plans, sections, elevations, iso/axonometrics, perspectives, diagrams, collage, etc.
- a sophisticated understanding of place and space at a range of scales, communicated through photography, drawing, text and analytical illustrations
- ability to generate and develop original design solutions to address challenges in the public realm across a range of contexts and at a range of scales
- knowledge of conventions in planting and construction design and the ability to apply these appropriately in a range of contexts
- ability to generate resolved construction designs and specifications for bespoke landscape elements
- ability to organise and lay out a wide range of complex information clearly and professionally
- documents or reports produced in practice or through study which demonstrate awareness of other areas of landscape practice may also be included, such as: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, Landscape Character Assessments, Urban Design Appraisals, Design Guidelines or Frameworks, etc.

Note: Drawings, paintings or photography may be included as an integral part of the above to communicate an interpretation, analysis or response to a particular landscape, to communicate abstract design ideas or to contextualise a proposal or report, but general artwork not related to landscape work is not required.