**Program Description:**

The Master of Architecture (M.Arch) is a studio-based, professional degree program, accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) to educate tomorrow’s leaders in architecture and related careers. It engages with the very forefront of disciplinary and transdisciplinary questions that locate architectural thinking and design ethics at the intersection of the pressing issues of our time—Climate change and its impeding challenges of ecological thinking in the Anthropocene; Social justice and the need for an intersectional politics to frame questions of equity and inclusion; and finally, Technology and the role of architecture in considering the strategic and ethical dimensions of the digital age. This is a two-year program designed for individuals who hold a pre-professional baccalaureate degree in architecture, or a professional architecture degree from an international university, or the equivalent in professional experience. The curriculum aligns closely with the Pedagogies conversations at CMU SoA to offer courses in three simultaneous tracks: Fundamentals, Design Ethics and Research. A careful evaluation of previous coursework and professional experience for each student determines the minimum course requirements for each student to achieve professional standards by graduation (including NAAB Program and Student Criteria).

All M.Arch students must enroll in the [M.Arch Canvas Portal](https://canvas.cmu.edu) at the time of registration and stay enrolled for the duration of the program.

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**Program Requirements:**

In addition to the standard requirements for all graduate students at CMU SoA, students in the M.Arch program must satisfy the following:

- **Residency:** A four semester full term residency requirement is mandated. Full term entails a minimum 36 units per semester. Coursework taken during the summer at CMU or at other institutions, may be used to satisfy program requirements, but not reduce residency.

- **Units:** Students must complete, at passing level, a minimum of 180 academic units to graduate.

- **Opt-outs:** If previous course work meets standards of equivalency, students may apply to “Opt-out” of certain courses listed here. For all Opt-out related terms and procedures see M.Arch Canvas Portal. Opt-out Process. All course substitutions must be of professional nature and approved by the program Track Chair.

- **Course Selectives:** Selectives are offered in each of the three pedagogical streams: Fundamentals, Design Ethics and Research. Out of the three selectives students must take at least one selective in Design Research and one in Design Ethics. See offered Course Selectives here. Free electives can be taken anywhere at CMU with the approval of your advisor.

- **Thesis:** A one semester Thesis Studio is optional. All students considering Thesis are required to follow the Thesis Track and must enroll in the required suite of Pre-Thesis and Thesis Seminar courses in semesters 2 and 3.

- **Summer Internships:** All students are encouraged to seek architecture-related internships, jobs, or research opportunities during the summer. International students must register for the 48-695 Internship Course to qualify for Curricular Practical Training (CPT). Further details per M.Arch Canvas Portal: Internship Career CPT.

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### Class of 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Selectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1st Year</td>
<td>180 units min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>45min-54max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>45min-57max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>45min-57max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>45min-57max</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Core Courses

- **STUDIO SEQUENCE (72)**
  - Praxis-1 Studio (18)
  - Praxis-2 Studio (18)
  - Advanced Synthesis Option Studio (18)
  - M.Arch Thesis Studio (18)

- **COMPUTATION SEQUENCE (12)**
  - Design Skills Workshop (3) (Summer Online)
  - Generative Modelling (9)
  - Materiality & Construction Systems (9)
  - Environmental Science-1 Climate & Energy (9)
  - Statics & Structures (9)
  - Environmental Science-2 Building Systems Integration (9)

- **FUNDAMENTALS SELECTIVE (3+)**
  - Required Fundamentals/Ethics/Research Selective (3+)
  - Required Design Ethics Selective (3+)
  - Required Research Selective (3+)

- **HISTORY & THEORY SEQUENCE (18)**
  - Architectural Theory (6/9)
  - Modern Architectural History (6/9)
  - Architectural Agency Discourses & Case Studies (6/9)

- **PRACTICE SEQUENCE (18)**
  - Ethics & Decision Making in Architecture (6)
  - Architecture Agency (6)
  - Real Estate for Architects (6)
  - Issues of Practice (6)

- **RESEARCH METHODS (3)**
  - Situating Research (3)
  - Pre-Thesis (3) (Required for Thesis Track)
  - Thesis Seminar (9) (Required for Thesis Track)
  - M.Arch Thesis Studio (Required in lieu of ASOS Studio) (18)

- **OPTIONAL THESIS TRACK (30)**
  - Studio or M.Arch Thesis (18)

- **FREE ELECTIVES**
  - Electives

- **REQUIRED RESEARCH ELECTIVE (3+)**
  - Requires research elective (3+)

**Issued: 09/05/2022**
# M.Arch

Master of Architecture | Pre-Professional Degree + 180 CMU Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 1st Year (min. 45 units)</th>
<th>Spring 1st Year (min. 45 units)</th>
<th>Fall 2nd Year (min. 45 units)</th>
<th>Spring 2nd Year (min. 45 units)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Studio:</strong> M.Arch Studio: Praxis I (18 units)</td>
<td><strong>Studio:</strong> M.Arch Studio: Praxis 2 (18)</td>
<td><strong>Studio:</strong> Advanced Synthesis Option (ASO) Studio (18)</td>
<td><strong>Studio:</strong> Advanced Synthesis Option (ASO) Studio, or M.Arch Thesis Studio (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prof &amp; Tech Courses ¹:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prof &amp; Tech Courses ¹:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prof &amp; Tech Courses ¹:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prof &amp; Tech Courses ¹:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generative Modelling (9)</td>
<td>Statics &amp; Structures (9)</td>
<td>Computational Design Selective (3+)</td>
<td>Ethics &amp; Decision Making (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Science 1: Climate &amp; Energy (9)</td>
<td>Real Estate for Architects (6)</td>
<td>Design Ethics Selective (3+)</td>
<td>Elective Studies:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grad. Seminar: Situating Research (3)</td>
<td>Modern Architectural History (9)</td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Skills Workshops (3)</td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>M.Arch Pre-Thesis (3)</td>
<td>M.Arch Pre-Thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elective Studies:</strong> Electives</td>
<td><strong>Elective Studies:</strong> Electives</td>
<td><strong>Elective Studies:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Elective Studies:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M.Arch Pre-Thesis ^4 (3)</td>
<td>M.Arch Thesis Seminar ^6 (9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Program Description:

CMU’s Master of Architecture (M.Arch) is a studio-based, 1st professional degree program to educate tomorrow’s leaders in architecture-related careers. It combines CMU’s long tradition of educating architects in the broad core competencies needed to become practicing professionals, with the opportunity to engage with SoA’s cutting-edge expertise in sustainable, computational, and urban design. Students combine core and optional studies, and engage in interdisciplinary or in highly specialized research and speculation. Our program’s strategically small size allows students to shape their individual agendas as they interact directly with leading-edge faculty and projects in the school, community and around the world.

### Program Requirements:

This is a two-year, NAAB-accredited program designed for individuals who hold a pre-professional baccalaureate degree in architecture, or a professional architecture degree from an international university, or the equivalent in professional experience. The curriculum aims to provide flexibility and individualized courses of study for students with different backgrounds and with different ambitions. A careful evaluation of previous coursework and professional experience for each student determines the minimum course requirements for each student to achieve professional standards (including NAAB SPC’s) by graduation. Students may apply to “Opt Out” of coursework they have mastered previously.

Students can pursue specialty coursework associated with other SoA masters programs, potentially reducing the time/expense of obtaining another SoA post-professional degree. In addition to the standard requirements for all graduate students in the SoA, students in the M.Arch program must satisfy the following:

- Students must complete a minimum of 180 units of course work and a minimum residency of four (4) academic semesters at full-time status (minimum 36 units per semester).
- Coursework taken during the summer at CMU or at other institutions may be used to satisfy SPC, but do not reduce the residency requirement.
- All course substitutions must be of professional nature and approved by the program Track Chair.

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Footnotes:

1) If previous work meets our standards, students may apply to “Opt Out” of coursework listed here, though not a reduced total unit count.
2) Students may also choose to take the more advanced Postgraduate Program without the previous coursework listed here.
3) At least one computational design selective and one design ethics selective must be taken in any one of the 4 semesters for a minimum of 3 units each. See Track Chair for a current list.
4) A one semester thesis studio is optional. All students considering a thesis should begin discussions in the Architectural Theory course, and must enroll in the required suite of pre-thesis and thesis prep courses in semesters 2 and 3.

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Class of 2021

As of: 15 November 2021