

## Important Information for Incoming MLA Students - Autumn 2022

### MLA I - 3-year Track

Welcome!

Once again, we would like to congratulate and welcome you to the Department of Landscape Architecture MLA I (three-year program) at the University of Washington. We are excited to begin working with you in September. We have gathered together important information you will need to know as a new student in our department, the College of Built Environments (CBE) and UW!

In this guide, you will find many resources and steps to take to be prepared for joining the MLA program this fall. And while we ask you to do all of these items, the most important thing is to spend time enjoying yourself. You have made a big decision to come back to school, and while you certainly have a lot of work in front of you, taking time to do those things you enjoy is important. If you have not lived in the Pacific Northwest before, you are in for a treat. Seattle is a dynamic city surrounded by stunning mountains and water with a strong design community that plays a leading role in the development and application of urban ecological design.

### Important Dates to Note

Registration Opens	June 21, 2022
Arrive in Seattle	no later than Sunday, Sept 18, 2022
Design Preparation Week	Monday - Friday, Sept 19 - 23, 2022 - 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Department Orientation	Monday, September 26, 2022
CBE Orientation	Tuesday, September 27, 2022
First Day of Classes	Wednesday, September 28, 2022

### Design Prep Week + Orientation

#### Design Preparation Week

During the Design Prep Week, incoming students are introduced to representation skills including hand sketching and digital representation. The sessions are provided to introduce you to your colleagues, prepare you with some basic skills, and orient you to the MLA program, College of Built Environments (CBE), University, and Seattle. Over the week, you will visit some of Seattle's significant parks such as Freeway Park and the Olympic Sculpture Park for on-site sketching and learn about digital manipulation of your sketches and CBE's digital technology resources including available computer facilities and programs, scanning, printing, and plotting. Most importantly though, Design Prep Week is an opportunity to begin building community with your classmates. We will provide additional details later in the summer, but please note the dates on your calendar, and plan to join us for a fun start to the program.

All MLA I students are expected to attend the full Design Prep Week.

- Monday, September 19 - Friday, September 23, 2022
- 9:00 am - 4:30 pm daily (12-1:30 pm lunch break)
- \$200 per student (fee covers instruction and facilities use)

MLA II students who are new to Seattle are encouraged to participate in the sketching sessions at various Seattle parks each afternoon from 1:30 - 4:30 pm.

- Monday, September 19 - Friday, September 23, 2022
- 1:30 - 4:30 pm daily (12-1:30 pm lunch break)
- \$100 per student (fee covers instruction and facilities use)

#### Orientation and Start of Classes

All incoming MLA students are expected to attend both days of Orientation. Orientation is an opportunity to meet faculty, learn about the MLA curriculum, and hear more about opportunities you'll have while enrolled in our program. You will receive a detailed agenda and instructions in early September. For now, please plan to attend these events:

- Monday, September 26, 2022      Department Orientation
- Tuesday, September 27, 2022      College Orientation
- Wednesday, September 28, 2022      First Day of Classes

## Finishing Enrollment

### Required Steps for Enrollment

You will find required enrollment steps on your [UW Graduate Application](#) status page. The following must be done before you can register for courses.

- **Submit official transcripts** to UW Graduate Enrollment Services (GEMS) for degree verification.  
See your application's Pre-Registration Page and [Official Transcript Requirements](#) for detailed instructions.
- **Submit proof of immunization.**  
You must provide proof of immunization for measles, mumps, and Covid-19 (note there are additional requirements for students who are under 22 as of the first day of the quarter). See [instructions and requirements](#) for all required immunizations including [information specific to Covid-19 vaccinations](#).
- **International Students:** You will find instructions for the I-20 application on your graduate application's Pre-Registration Page. Furthermore, please see additional information on the [Admitted International Graduate Students](#) page.  
  
All students with F-1 or J-1 status must complete the International Student Services (ISS) Online Info Session as soon as they confirm enrollment at UW. It is one of several steps required before class enrollment. You will not be able to select classes until you have completed and submitted the quiz at the end of the information session. Please refer to the UW Office of International Student Services (ISS) [pre-arrival webpage](#) for further instructions.
- **U501: Graduate School Orientation** U501 is a self-guided, online resource design for new graduate students. We recommend reviewing the guide as an introduction to UW and graduate school.

## Registering for Courses

### Registration for Autumn Quarter 2022

Registration for incoming students is done online via MyUW and begins on June 21, 2022 (Registration Period II). At UW, students may register for up to 18 credits each quarter without additional tuition changes. However, we strongly recommend you only take the required four courses in your first quarter. Design studio and thinking is a big shift for many students new to design and it will take time for you to adjust to the tempo and expectations of this way of learning.

See [Before You Register](#) and [How to Register](#).

The Schedule Line Number (SLN) is included below for use when registering. Sometimes, courses require an add/entry code. You can obtain the code from the coordinator of the home department. The contacts are listed on the [Time Schedule](#) for each department or program. The Autumn 2022 Department of Landscape Architecture Time Schedule page is located [here](#).

**MLA I (3-year) track students** should register for the following courses:

- |             |   |           |             |
|-------------|---|-----------|-------------|
| • LARCH 401 | Design Foundations Studio                     | 6 credits | SLN#: 17209 |
| • LARCH 411 | Landscape Representation I (lecture/workshop) | 3 credits | SLN#: 17213 |
| • LARCH 431 | Grading and Drainage (lecture/workshop)       | 3 credits | SLN#: 17216 |
| • LARCH 570 | Theory/Scholarship (lecture/seminar)          | 3 credits | SLN#: 17235 |

### MLA I Course Sequence

Attached you will find a Typical Course Sequence Chart indicating course requirements and the sequence of courses for your three years of the MLA degree. More information about course sequence and requirements will be provided during Orientation.

### Concurrent Degree Students

- For the first year of the MLA/MUP concurrent degree, students typically take MLA courses.
- For the first year of the MLA/MArch concurrent degree, students take MArch courses. Please reach out to the Architecture Graduate Program Advisor with any questions about registering for courses.

## Connecting with the Department and Other Incoming Students

### Department Activities and News

Learn about activities, opportunities and news about the MLA program:

- UW//LA community calendar - [Students](#) webpage (under Department Communications)
- LA News - sign up on the [About/contact](#) webpage
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/uwlarch>
- Instagram - @uw\_landscapearchitecture
- [Vimeo](#)

### Incoming Students Directory

The UW//LA Incoming Students Directory is an "opt-in" resource for new students; your participation is optional. The intent of the online directory is to make connecting with other incoming students easier. The directory will only be shared with MLA + BLA incoming students who submit their contact information. Additionally, you can select to have your contact information shared with the UW student chapter of the ASLA (UWASLA). If you participate, your name and email are required, all other information is optional. Once your information is submitted, you will be given access to the directory. Although not a hard deadline, we recommend students who are interested in the directory submit their information by July 1.

If you would like to participate, please complete this [form](#).

### Department MS Teams (UWCBE\_LARCH)

For department communication and communication among students, the Department uses email and MS Teams. Incoming students will be added to MS Teams over the summer. You will receive an invitation to join using your UW email. The MS Teams site hosts the following channels:

- General: Department communication for all students
- Advising and Questions: info from BLA/MLA Advisors + students can post general advising questions
- Ask the PAC: communication with the LA Professional Advisory Council
- Fishbowl: General/random communication and discussion between students
- Interesting-courses: posting for courses
- International students: discussion + info specific to our international students
- Jobs-Internships-Scholarships: posting for jobs, internships + scholarships
- Resources: resources from CBE, UW and the community
- Well-being: resources and discussion regarding topics of health and well-being of our community
- Cohort channels: discussion + info specific to a cohort

### Important Contacts

Graduate Program Coordinator - Julie Parrett, [parrettj@uw.edu](mailto:parrettj@uw.edu)

Undergraduate Program Advisor / Advising Assistant - Jennie Li, [jencyli@uw.edu](mailto:jencyli@uw.edu)

Department Administrator - Vanessa Lee, [ynl2@uw.edu](mailto:ynl2@uw.edu)

Department Chair - Ken Yocom, [kyocom@uw.edu](mailto:kyocom@uw.edu)

### Student Work

You may also be interested to see examples of what you will soon be doing.

- *Extents*, the annual student-led publication of our department - [UWASLA Extents](#)
- Recent studio work is available on our website - [Portfolio](#)

## General Information

### Department Website + Student Resources

The [Department website](#) is the best source for information about the department including faculty information, curriculum information and forms, and examples of student work. Please take some time to become familiar with the [Students](#) section and [Incoming Students webpage](#).

### MLA Guides

See [Students](#) webpage.

- [MLA Program Guide](#) - contains policies and requirements for the MLA degree
- [MLA Curriculum Course Guidelines](#) - contains curriculum requirements and course options

### UW NetID | UW Email Address

Your UW NetID (which is also your UW email address) provides access to all UW information and other online services. The Department will use your UW email (ending in @uw.edu) starting in Autumn quarter. If you prefer to use a different email account, please set up message forwarding on you UW email so you do not miss any emails.

### Computer Recommendations

Students entering the MLA program should own a laptop or mobile workstation for use in studios and courses. We have prepared a [document](#) that provides specifications for what to purchase. We estimate students should expect to spend \$1500-2000 for a computer, necessary accessories, and required software.

A few things to note:

- Students have access to computers in the CBE Digital Commons and in the studio spaces with all necessary software. While we do not recommend that students solely rely on using CBE shared computers, you can plan to use the CBE shared computers for software that you cannot run on your computer such as Lumion.
- If you already own a laptop but it does not meet all of the recommended specifications, you can use it for the first quarter to give yourself time to determine what you would like to purchase. However, you will need to run the Adobe Creative Cloud software (Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign) in the first quarter.
- The document lists options for students if you need help affording a computer with the recommended specifications.

### Software Tutorials

Landscape architecture requires strong visual communication skills including both hand drawing and digital composition. If digital tools are new to you, spend some time learning your way around the computer and some of the basic software programs for design. Professionals make use of a wide variety of programs including ArcGIS/QGIS, Rhino, AutoCAD, and Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. The more familiarity you arrive with, the easier the transition will be.

UW IT Connect offers free and discounted [software](#) and several [online tutorials](#) for enrolled students in web publishing, graphics and design, digital video, and digital audio.

LinkedIn Learning also offers several online tutorials. All enrolled students have access to [LinkedIn Learning](#) through the University.

## Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

### Department of Landscape Architecture

The Department of Landscape Architecture recognizes the value that diverse perspectives brings to professional education and scholarly endeavor. Accordingly, we are committed to improving our recruitment and retention of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff from groups that are historically underrepresented in our department and profession. More information is available on our [website](#).

### College of Built Environments

Renée Cheng, FAIA, Dean of the College of Built Environments, cares deeply about equity, diversity and inclusion, and is guiding many efforts towards inclusivity and to advance equity within the College community ([read her message](#)). Overall, we seek to increase intercultural competency and the ability to bridge across differences by using [strategies outlined in our strategic plan](#). More information is available on the CBE [website](#).

### Graduate School

The [GSEE: Graduate Student Equity + Excellence](#) supports graduate students of color at the University of Washington. They offer programming, resources, community building, and more.

### University

UW President Ana Mari Cauce launched the university's [Race and Equity Initiative](#) in 2015 and presented the UW community with a challenge: that all of us—students, faculty, staff and university leadership—take personal responsibility for addressing our own biases and improving our university culture.

## Moving to Seattle

### Housing

Our students live both in on-campus and off-campus housing. Seattle is experiencing a time of high growth, finding housing can be competitive depending on where you would like to live and when you are looking. Students who live off-campus, often live in neighborhoods that are near to the University and/or easily accessible on foot, by bike and/or by public transportation. Close by (easy walking commute) neighborhoods include Wallingford, U-District, Ravenna, and Montlake. Easy bike commuting neighborhoods include those listed before as well as Greenlake, Fremont, Magnuson Park, Bryant, Ballard, Eastlake, Madison Valley, and Madison Park. Easy access via light rail include Capitol Hill, First Hill, Downtown/Belltown/Pioneer Square, International District, Beacon Hill, Columbia City and Rainier Beach. The northern extension of the light rail from the University (Husky Stadium) station connects the Roosevelt, Northgate and nearby neighborhoods to UW via the University (Brooklyn) station. Keep in mind if you plan to commute via bike, that Seattle is a city of many hills. From UW, Capitol Hill and First Hill neighborhoods include a long, steep climb.

On-campus Graduate Student Housing - Options available, amenities and information about the application process is available here - [Graduate Housing](#). You are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Off-campus Housing - Websites like Craigslist and Zillow or phone apps like PadMapper and Trulia are good sources for off-campus housing. You might also try Facebook groups such as "University of Washington (UW) Housing, Sublets & Roommates". The City of Seattle has [information about renting](#) in Seattle.

A useful resource for confirming locations is the dynamic [UW Campus Map](#).

### Commuting to Campus and Getting Around Seattle

UW is committed to sustainable commuting - we're #2 for universities in the US! As a UW student, you are eligible for U-PASS which is good for unlimited rides on King County Metro Transit, Community Transit, Pierce Transit, Kitsap Transit, Everett Transit and Sound Transit, which includes regional buses, Link light rail and Sounder trains. You can also use it to take a King County Water Taxi or Kitsap Fast Ferry. There are several multi-use commuting trails near UW. Seattle also has bike share programs. We recommend you check out the UW Transportation Services [information for new students](#).

### Health Insurance

US citizens and legal permanent residents - The University of Washington does not currently offer medical coverage to U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents. However, you can obtain insurance from a variety of private and public sources, [affordable care information](#).

International students - Federal and state laws require international students to maintain health insurance while studying in the US. All F-1 and J-1 eligible international students who are enrolled and actively engaged in a program of study approved by the appropriate UW Principal Designated School Official (PDSO), and are temporarily outside their home country are required to purchase the UW International Student Health Insurance Plan (ISHIP) in order to meet these requirements. UW international students are automatically enrolled for student-only coverage each quarter they register for classes. Note: if you plan to arrive in the U.S. before the effective date of the ISHIP plan, you should buy short term medical coverage from an outside company during this period. [Information about ISHIP](#)

## Recommended Reading

If you would like to “kick start” the work you’ll be doing as part of your degree in landscape architecture, here is a short list of some foundational literature for our department, works by faculty and resources for learning about Seattle and Puget Sound. We recommend you select a few to peruse, or read cover-to-cover, before beginning classes.

### Foundational Works

- Place Attachments: Advancements in theory, methods, and applications (Lynne Manzo, Patrick Devine-Wright 2020, 2nd edition)
- Design as Democracy: Techniques for Collective Creativity (David de la Pena, Diane Jones Allen, Randolph T. Hester, Jeff Hou, Laura J Lawson, Marcia J. McNally, 2017)
- Ecological Design (Ken Yocom, Nancy Rottle, 2011)
- Greening Cities, Growing Communities (Jeff Hou, Julie Johnson, Laura Lawson, 2009)
- Unbounded Practice (Thaisa Way, 2009)
- Landscape as Urbanism (Edited by Charles Waldheim, 2015)
- To Design Landscape: Art, Nature & Utility (Catherine Dee, 2012)
- Design for Ecological Democracy (Randolph T. Hester, 2006)
- Site Matters (Carol Burns and Andrea Kahn, 2005)
- Ecological Design and Planning (Thompson and Steiner, 1998)

### Readings About Seattle and Puget Sound

- The River that Made Seattle (BJ Cummings, 2020)
- Seattleness: A Cultural Atlas (Tera Hatfield, Jenny Kempson, Natalie Ross, 2018)
- Too High and Too Steep: Reshaping Seattle’s Topography (David Williams, 2017)
- Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing-Over Place (Coll Thrush, 2017 2nd ed)
- Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast (Jim Pojar and Andy MacKinnon, 2016)
- Emerald City (Matthew Klinge, 2009)
- The Forging of a Black Community : Seattle’s Central District, from 1870 through the Civil Rights Era (Quintard Taylor, 1994) <https://www-jstor-org.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/stable/j.ctvcwnx96> (Links to an external site.)
- Claiming the Oriental Gateway: Prewar Seattle and Japanese America (Shelley Sang-Hee Lee, 2011) <https://www-jstor-org.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/stable/j.ctt14btcnt>

### Other Notable Works by Faculty

- Design-Build: Integrating Craft, Service, and Research through Applied Academic and Practice Models (Daniel Winterbottom, 2020)
- River Cities, City Rivers (Thaisa Way, 2018)
- GGN: Landscapes 1999-2018 (Thaisa Way, 2018)
- Messy Urbanism: Understanding the “Other” Cities of Asia (Manish Chalana, Jeff Hou, 2016)
- The Landscape Architecture of Richard Haag (Thaisa Way, 2015)
- Therapeutic Gardens: Design for Healing Spaces (Daniel Winterbottom, Amy Wagenfeld, 2015)
- Now Urbanism: The Future City is Here (Jeff Hou, Benjamin Spencer, Thaisa Way, Ken Yocom, 2011)
- Insurgent Public Space (Jeff Hou, ed, 2010)

Additionally, you will find interesting work in several of the periodicals published within the field, including Landscape Architecture Magazine, Topos Magazine or Landscape Journal. The Built Environments Library, in Gould Hall, has current and back issues for these and many others.