M.L.A.

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM

USC Architecture
Discover how nature and culture combine to create dynamic (territorial and urban) landscapes as a Master of Landscape Architecture student in the Graduate Program of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism at the USC School of Architecture. USC offers a unique, living laboratory of a diverse, multicultural and geographically sophisticated territory, which is exemplar for many of the world’s most pressing landscape challenges within the context of a major urban research university. Los Angeles, in particular, and California, more generally, are extreme natural and social geographies, where the evolving interplays of infrastructure, landscape, and urbanism require innovative and systemic thinking.
Los Angeles, which Reyner Banham famously interpreted in 1971 as a construct of four ecologies, is an ideal urban nature setting for studying landscape architecture—where urgent contemporary issues can and must be addressed while testing the boundaries of design research, design thinking, and experimentation. The growing ecological and demographic population pressure on the city’s coasts, flatlands, and foothills are just a few among a myriad of challenges facing state, nation, and globe, ones that necessitate a paradigm shift to complex systems thinking.

Graduate landscape architecture at USC is based on the knowledge and skills to equip complex issues and to unleash ambitious design explorations. Upon completion, graduates are prepared for both design and leadership opportunities in professional practice as well as in public and private sectors and able to address the necessary linkages of ecology and development into future environments well beyond.

Landscape architecture at USC is about unraveling the complex and continually evolving social and environmental traditions of the territory; to explore the shifting conditions, processes, and parameters of the evolving city that must accommodate the continuously growing population of the region and the nation. This is a territory that must be studied, understood, and re-formulates problems, explores and proposes operative strategies, and becomes part of the evolving social and environmental conditions of sites and territories in order to develop thriving communities and environments. The design-centered program develops a trans-disciplinary capacity, approaches the (development) agencies that act upon them. Social and cultural transformations of the territories are a means to strategically reformulate reality.

Preparation for a public or private sector career in urban design, landscape architecture, and environmental planning, or preparation for doctoral studies.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

MLA Program) to acquire an understanding of core issues and knowledge; 16-unit program requires graduate standing and certificate program admission.

FIRST PROFESSIONAL MLA WITH ADVANCED STANDING

A three-year curriculum for students entering with non-LAAB accredited design degrees and can usefully adopt and apply geospatial technologies and underlying scientific concepts (civil science, geography, and psychology) to those in academic fields and application, domains that promote social equity, environmental justice, and spaces for creative expression. An exceptional diversity of the territory to the region’s setting, tools and outstanding teaching staff, which advises and directs them on an experiential research lab to study at the wider scale of landscape and affiliated fields county, food perspectives.

Some of the core courses, taught by both in-house and invited experts, focus on history & theory and techniques & tools and direct doctoral courses towards the challenges of today and tomorrow the built environment, urban change, recession, and future of the public realm in the twenty-first century. The design of the program has been informed by the studies of the major social and environmental challenges of contemporary Los Angeles: the growing ecological crises and intense population pressure on the city’s coasts, flatlands, and foothills are just a few among a multitude of challenges facing state, nation, and globe, ones that necessitate a paradigm shift to complex systems thinking.

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The USC Landscape Architecture + Urbanism program develops real-world issues, frontiers, and co-heralds problems, explores and proposes operative strategies, and becomes part of the discourse with stakeholders and subsystems of the territories in the civic, global, and political conditions of the city for parks, neighborhoods, city districts, and the larger territory of the landscape.

At the University of Southern California?
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The Landscape Architecture + Urbanism Program at USC encompasses two distinct degrees:

**FIRST PROFESSIONAL MLA** (+3 Curriculum, 96 units)
A three-year curriculum for students entering with non-LAAB accredited design degrees and prior degrees in non-design disciplines. The first professional degree curriculum is accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB).

**FIRST PROFESSIONAL MLA WITH ADVANCED STANDING** (+2 Curriculum, 64 units)
Exceptional students who possess undergraduate degrees in landscape architecture from a LAAB accredited program can be admitted into the program with advanced standing. The first professional degree curriculum is accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB).

The Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) can be combined with the following graduate certificates and/or dual degree:

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATES**
Architecture, Heritage Conservation, Landscape Architecture, and Sustainable Design

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**
For working professionals and graduate students (with the exception of students enrolled in the MLA Program) to acquire an understanding of core issues and knowledge; 16-unit program requires graduate standing and certificate program admission.

**DUAL DEGREE:**
**MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE/MASTER OF PLANNING**
Preparation for a public or private sector career in urban design, landscape architecture, and planning, or preparation for doctoral studies.

Associated Centers and Institutes:

**USC CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES**
The Center for Sustainable Cities within the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy fosters multidisciplinary, sustainability research with an emphasis on sustainability challenges of metropolitan areas.

**USC SPATIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE**
The USC Dornsife Spatial Sciences Institute promotes spatial thinking, analysis, modeling, and visualization and thereby helps to build excellence in research, teaching, and outreach across the entire university. This effort stretches from the fundamental spatial sciences (parts of computer science, geography, and psychology) to those in academic fields and application, domains that can usefully adopt and apply geospatial technologies and underlying scientific concepts (civil engineers, earth scientists, epidemiologists, historians, landscape architects, planners, etc.).

http://arch.usc.edu/programs/mla