

## **Admissions / applications**

### **Does a Bsc Environmental Science or Fine Arts degree qualify as a prerequisite for the Bachelor in Landscape Architecture (Honours)?**

Yes, the BSc Environment Science and BA Fine Arts are what we call related degrees (the content is relevant to the body of knowledge of landscape architecture). But, as these are not design-based degrees (and design is important in landscape architecture), an Environmental Science or Fine Arts graduate will be required to do the 3 Landscape Architecture Bridging Courses which run in January of the year you are wanting to start studying Landscape Architecture (see the website for the details regarding the bridging courses).

### **Does a BTech in Project Management or an Advanced Diploma in Landscape Construction Management qualify as a prerequisite for the Bachelor in Landscape Architecture (Honours)?**

A BTech or Advanced Diploma are both NQF 7 qualifications which are required for application to the BLA (Hons) which is an NQF level 8. In terms of field of study, project management and landscape construction are relevant to the body of knowledge of landscape architecture. But, as these are not design-based qualifications (and design is important in landscape architecture), graduates will be required to do the 3 Landscape Architecture Bridging Courses which run in January (see the website for the details regarding the bridging courses).

**Does a qualification in Public Health or Business Studies qualify as a prerequisite for the Bachelor in Landscape Architecture (Honours)?**

No, these are unrelated degrees. We would recommend completing a related degree such as Environmental Science or Bachelor of City and Regional Planning (Hons) before applying for the BLA (Hons).

**I have a Honours or Master of Architecture degree, do I need to complete the Bachelor in Landscape Architecture (Honours) before applying for the Master of Landscape Architecture?**

The BLA (Hons) degree has considerable ecological content, plant (botanical / horticultural), landscape architectural history and theory, as well as landscape related spatial design and construction content. In order for you to qualify for entry to the MLA you would first need to complete the BLA (Hons) degree.

**Is there a limit to the number of students the department accepts each year?**

Yes, we aim to have about 20 students in each year: 20 in the BLA and 20 in the MLA.

**How beneficial is a Fine Arts background when applying for this course?**

Very beneficial as landscape architecture (like fine art) is a visual design discipline. The big difference however is the aspect of spatial design, this is why we require fine art students to undertake the Landscape Architecture Bridging courses as designing the spatial environment requires quite a specific way of thinking.

**Coming from a design background, and not necessarily being the most creative person in terms of art and drawing, would I still be able to complete the degree?**

Landscape Architecture does require creative visual and spatial thinking. Even if the Landscape Architecture Bridging courses may not be a requirement for you (coming from a design background), you might want to consider taking one or all of them as they are there to help you get a picture of the nature of the spatial and visual thinking you will be exposed to in the landscape architecture degrees. This will help you finally decide if landscape architecture is for you.

**The SAQA site is down and I am not able to obtain a SAQA certificate as part of my application.**

A SAQA certificate is not officially required by the Faculty as part of the application process (they accept NARIC certificates) so this should not prevent you from submitting your application. In the Landscape Architecture programme we would prefer a SAQA certificate for international qualifications so that we can make an informed decision regarding your application.

**What is the deadline for applications?**

Please see the 'Application Information' brochure for the full set of applications deadlines (<http://www.apg.uct.ac.za/apg/landscape-architecture>)

## **What are the portfolio requirements?**

The portfolio should be compiled as one PDF of no more than 20MB. If you have completed a design-based degree, we would like to get a sense of your design and technical and thinking abilities, so please include conceptual (rough / hand), final presentation and technical drawings. Please do not submit drawings undertaken as part of a team in practice, only drawings for which you are the sole author. Additionally, please feel free to include other creative work outside design that will give the panel a sense of who you are and how you think. For those applying from a related non-design based degree, the portfolio may include evidence of any creative work (art, drawing, photography, sculpture etc.).

## **Programme-related queries**

### **Can I study part-time?**

Yes, the Extended Programme is available to students who choose to complete the BLA (Hons) over two years i.e. you are able to take half your courses in the first year and then the other half in the second. Please note that for both years of study you will be required to attend classes during the day.

### **Can international students study remotely in a post-covid-19 scenario?**

Because of lockdown restrictions, all of our students (international students included) are studying remotely and online. However this is a temporary arrangement for the time we are under these lockdown restrictions - so in a post covid context with no lockdown restrictions you would however need to be on campus as the degree is not offered in a correspondence (remote) format.

## **What computer programmes are required for this course?**

Both landscape architecture qualifications make use of a range of computer programmes including MS Office, AutoCAD, SketchUp, QGIS, Revit, Adobe Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator). It is not necessary for you to purchase these programmes yourself as they are all available on campus computers. Some programmes such as AutoCAD can be downloaded for free as part of an educational license.

## **Is a laptop required for this course?**

It is not a requirement to have a personal laptop to complete this course as there are dedicated post graduate computer labs in our building. However if you wanting to purchase a laptop yourself or through bursary funds, we recommend the following minimum specifications:

Operating System: 64-bit OS  
Processor: minimum 2.5 GHz (3+ GHz recommended)  
Memory: minimum 8 GB (16GB recommended)  
Disk space: minimum 256GB  
Display: 1920 x 1080 resolution with True Colour  
Windows 7 & up  
Recommended minimum quad-core i5

## **Career prospects**

### **What is the demand for landscape architects in South Africa?**

The majority of our graduates are finding work in the field and most who go overseas also find employment there. Landscape architecture as a built environment profession is affected by economics / recessions (as with architects, civil engineers etc.) so demand for work fluctuates. Our work is however vital and we continually advocate for its importance to be recognised.

**Is there an international demand for landscape architects? If so, which countries?**

The demand internationally is also dependent on the state of the economy and specifically the construction industry. Our graduates who have gone overseas seem to all find work, and a number have established themselves there and have not returned as yet to South Africa.

**Are there networking events such as open lectures, exhibitions, events with (landscape architecture firms and organisations like ILASA) that happen throughout the year?**

If you follow ILASA or UCT LA on social media you should see these events advertised. (See UCT's social media links on our website.)

[https://www.instagram.com/ilasa\\_za/](https://www.instagram.com/ilasa_za/)

<https://www.facebook.com/ilasa.co.za/>

**Will the qualification, with my background in environmental sciences be accounted for when applying to landscape architectural companies?**

Yes, for sure! There are landscape architects who prefer the environmental side of the field more than the design side. These professionals work in landscape architecture and other kinds of practices (such as engineering firms) which focus on or have a division for environmental work (visual impact assessment, resource management, landscape management frameworks, environmental impact assessment etc.). So an environmental science background is useful to have.