School of Architecture
THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Master of Science in Urban Design

ADMISSION 2027-28

Admission to Master of Science in Urban Design

The Master of Science in Urban Design Programme is organised as a self-financed programme of the Graduate School at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The tuition fee is HK$300,000 (subject to University's approval) for academic year 2027-28 (17 months normative period). The places for the programme are given based on the academic and professional merit of the application.

Application must be made at the website of Graduate School's Online Application System.

Application Deadlines for 2027 entry: 15 January 2027 (Main Round) / 12 March 2027 (Clearing Round)

Application Requirements and Procedures

1. Applicants should have an undergraduate degree in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Planning or a related area recognized by the country where the school is located, normally achieving an average grade of not lower than "**B**".

2. Priority will be given to applicants with one year or more of relevant working experience.

3. To fulfill the English Language Proficiency Requirement for admission, applicant should have
   (More detailed information requirement please refer to Graduate School website):
   a) Obtained a degree from a university in Hong Kong or taken a degree programme of which the medium of instruction was English; or

   b) Achieved scores in the following English Language tests as indicated:
      - TOEFL: 79 of 120 / 4.5 of 6 (Internet-based/Home Edition);
      - IELTS (Academic): 6.5 (Test Centre based/Online);
      - GMAT: Band 21 (Verbal);
      - GMAT Focus Edition: Band 78 (Verbal); or
      *(*TOEFL and IELTS scores are considered valid for two years from the test date. GMAT scores are considered valid for five years from the test date. GMAT (Verbal) Score with a threshold of 21 will be kept until the score validity expires.)*

   c) Obtained a pass grade in English in one of the following examinations:
      - Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (AS Level);
      - Hong Kong Higher Level Examination;
      - CUHK Matriculation Examination;
      - General Certificate of Education Examination (GCE) Advanced Level (A-Level) /Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS-Level); or

   d) Achieved Level 4 or above in the English Language subject of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination; or

   e) Obtained a recognized professional qualification, provided that the examination was conducted in English.

4. Personal Statement - Explanation of your reasons for applying

5. Design Portfolio (Please refer to the notes on page 6-7.)

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List of Application Materials

Submission deadline: **15 January 2027 (Main Round)** or 12 March 2027 (Clearing Round). All application materials should be submitted directly to the School of Architecture, Room 106, Lee Shau Kee Architecture Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong SAR (Attention: MSc in Urban Design Admission Team, Phone (852) 3943 1028) **right after the submission of online application**, and in any case not later than 15 January 2027 (Main Round) or 12 March 2027 (Clearing Round).

Items		**Graduate School's online application system**	**Upload to the application materials collection platform**	**Original document to be posted to School of Architecture^**
1.	Completed application form (with successful application fee payment status show at the bottom of the application form)	NO	YES	NO
2.	CV (Please also insert your CV in your portfolio file.)	NO	YES	NO
3.	Statement of Purpose ● (Please also insert your Personal Statement in your portfolio file.)	NO	YES	NO
4.	Official transcripts for all completed Bachelor's and/or Master's degrees, including the grading scheme, are required. Photocopies or certified true copies will not be accepted. ● Applicants must provide transcripts issued by the Registry of their current or former university **in the university's official sealed envelope bearing the official stamp of the University Registry.** ● The transcripts must include or be accompanied by explanatory notes indicating the university's grading scheme or grading reference. Grading Scheme Sample: ● https://www.res.cuhk.edu.hk/tc/general-information/grading-system-of-undergraduate-programmes/ ● If your university does not have a grading scheme, please request a certification letter from the University Registry confirming that your programme does not include a grading scheme.	YES	YES	BY REQUEST AFTER INTERVIEW#
5.	Graduation and/or degree certificates for all completed Bachelor's and/or Master's programmes, or a letter confirming your current study status (for students who have not yet graduated)	YES	YES	NO
6.	Proof of practical experience, if any ^ ● The letter should be issued by the employer on official company letterhead and bear the company stamp. It must include the start and end dates of employment, the	YES	YES	NO

	position held, and confirmation that the employment was full-time. ● Please list your relevant work experience in chronological order to demonstrate how it meets the practical experience requirements. ● Download form here.			
7.	Copies of other academic/professional qualifications, if any (in 1 pdf).	NO	YES	NO
8.	Declaration of Academic Integrity ^ ● The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating in examinations or plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University. Applicants are required to submit Academic Honesty Declaration for application materials submitted. ● Download declaration form here.	NO	YES	NO
9.	Original English test report of TOEFL, IELTS, or GMAT for applicants from non-English speaking countries. ● TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years from the test date, while GMAT scores are valid for five years. Photocopies or certified true copies of transcripts will not be accepted. ● Applicants must meet the English Language Proficiency requirements set by the Graduate School at the time of application. ● As the original TOEFL score report may take up to two months to be delivered from the issuing authority to the University, you are strongly advised to obtain the report before January 2027.	YES	YES	BY REQUEST AFTER INTERVIEW#
10.	Identity card and passport (if applicable), as provided in the application form	YES	YES	NO
11.	Design Portfolio (Please refer to the notes on page 6-7).	NO	YES	NO
12.	Applicants who obtained degrees from universities in Mainland China are required to provide an Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (教育部学历证书电子注册备案表) and Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate (中国高等教育学位在线验证报告) issued by the CHESICC (学信网). Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (教育部学历证书电子注册备案表) Sample: https://www.chsi.com.cn/xlcx/yb_bgys.jsp Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate (中国高等教育学位在线验证报告) Sample: https://www.chsi.com.cn/xlcx/yb_bgys_xw.jsp	YES	YES	NO

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13	Applicants with degrees awarded by overseas universities by distance learning or by completing a curriculum of short duration are required to provide assessment report from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic & Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) on the level of qualification obtained by the application deadline.	NO	YES	NO
14.	Confidential recommendations from 2 referees who have taught you or worked closely with you and could comment in detail on your abilities and personalities. (Referee can choose to submit the recommendation form/and letter for you via online system https://oiss.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/sbm_info/referee_login.aspx or in hard copy.) Referee can send the hard copy to the below address: Room 106, Lee Shau Kee Architecture Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong SAR (Attention: MSc in Landscape Architecture Admission Team, Phone (852) 3943 1028)	YES	NO	YES
15.	Employer's evaluation form (Preferably direct supervisor), if any practical experience. (Referee should submit the form for you via online system. Please send the form to your supervisor(s) and inviting your supervisor to complete and submit the online form. Please be reminded to provide your **Application Name** and **Application no.** to your supervisor. They will need the information for filling the form for you. Online Employer's Evaluation Form: https://cloud.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/webform/view.php?id=13735164 Applicants please remind your referees to complete and return the form to the SoA via the online platform ASAP preferably within 2 weeks upon submission of your application but no later than the application submission deadline.	NO	NO	YES

* Additional forms can be downloaded in https://www.arch.cuhk.edu.hk/programmes/pg-urban-design/.

Applicants will only be requested to submit hard copies of supporting documents after the interview. Therefore, please do not submit hard copies to the School of Architecture before you receive an email notification after interview.

School of Architecture
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Lee Shau Kee Architecture Building
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Notes to Applicant

Please refer to Graduate School Office's website for the latest announcement on the admissions requirements. More detailed information on the supporting documents required by the University and frequently asked questions (FAQ) can be found at the Graduate School website.

The ultimate judgment and decision as to whether the conditions for admission are fulfilled by the applicants shall be vested with the School of Architecture. As a general policy, no refund will be arranged upon acceptance of an offer except under special circumstances as deemed by the School of Architecture.

Grading Scheme

If your university do not have a grading scheme, please ask for a certifying letter from University Registry indicating that your programme do not have grading scheme.

Design Portfolio

The portfolio of independent work should illustrate independent studies and your own work from practical experience and should be accompanied by a commentary of not more than 1500 words. The portfolio should not exceed A4 size and no more than 20 pages (include the cover and content page). It should be selected to fit best to the materials which you want to present. In general, the portfolio should inform in a concise way about your school and practical work. It should not be a loose collection of material; but be clearly structured to reflect your educational and practical experiences. Proper credit and context must be given for all work shown including author, collaborators, and professional office in which the work was completed. Failure to properly credit work may result in the portfolio being discounted or the applicant being disqualified. Please put down your full name on the front cover of the portfolio for ease of identification.

Portfolios of (a) previous school work and (b) independent work with your full name and application number marked on the cover should be **uploaded** to the School of Architecture **application materials collection platform** no later than **15 January 2027 (Main Round)** or 12 March 2027 (Clearing Round). **No Hardcopy is accepted**.

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Design Portfolio Requirements:

i. Cover
- Indicate clearly your full name and application number on the cover of the portfolio for ease of Identification
- Include the date and programme you are applying to

ii. Format
- PDF format smaller than 10MB, as softcopy

iii. Content

a. Personal Statement

b. CV

c. 4 Academic projects only
- Each project to be titled
- Chronological order, with the most recent project placed first
- Include architectural drawings (Plans, Sections, etc.)
- Include evidence of the Design Process, i.e. the thinking behind each project
- 2 pages maximum dedicated to Professional work
- No models of physical artifacts can be sent

iv. Credit and Plagiarism
- Proper credit and context must be given for all work shown in the portfolio, including authors, collaborators, and professional offices in which the work was completed
- Failure to credit work properly or appropriating other people's work is a serious offence and may result in the portfolio being discounted or the applicant being disqualified

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