

**APPLYING TO THE M.ARCH. PROGRAM AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE**
Information for External or International Applicants

If you are an international student, check the International Admissions Guide at http://www.grad.uwaterloo.ca/students/prospective/international/intl_adm_guide.asp for the UW graduate studies admission requirements for your home institution.

Admission & Average Requirements:

Admission to the program, requires the completion of at least a four-year honours undergraduate program in pre-professional Architecture or equivalent, with an average of 75% or higher. This is a professional, accredited degree in association with the honours undergraduate program in pre-professional Architecture (Bachelor of Architectural Studies, BAS) at the University of Waterloo, and stringent requirements are required regarding undergraduate course equivalents and admissions. Therefore, applicants outside of the Bachelor of Architectural Studies Program at UW have to complete a Qualifying period of study (one to three terms) prior to consideration for admission.

Application process:

The University of Waterloo uses an online application process. For information and access to the online application, please see the link below:

http://www.grad.uwaterloo.ca/students/prospective/prospective_main.asp

If you are an international applicant, please verify the academic and transcript requirements, specific to your home country in the International Admissions Guide available at the following link:

<http://www.grad.uwaterloo.ca/students/prospective/international.asp>

Qualifying Program:

If a qualifying program is required prior to enrollment into the Graduate program, an earlier start date is necessary after meeting the application requirement. Successful completion of the qualifying program, with a grade of 75% or higher overall and 75% or higher in the design studios, must be achieved to apply to the Masters program.

Qualifying students apply using the same process as Masters applicants. This period consists of one or more terms of study depending on the applicant qualifications. Two or more terms are required for international students, which are generally covered during the Winter and Spring terms. Canadian applicants, usually require one qualifying term that occurs in the Spring term, however this is subject to qualifications. Course information for the qualifying program, is provided by the School of Architecture including any conditional information, in the Offer of Admission. Once the conditions are met and the qualifying period is successfully completed, the student is eligible to apply for the Masters program.

The department *recommends* candidates for admission first to the Associate Dean Graduate Studies of the Faculty and then to the Graduate Studies Office. Applications can be refused at any stage, including by the department. Once a recommendation is accepted, the Graduate Studies Office will send the applicant an Offer of Admission. Details of any additional requirements or conditions will be outlined in this letter.

Required Documents

All of the required documents are processed online, with the exception of the portfolio, which is sent directly to the Graduate Coordinator at the School of Architecture.

- OUAC application (\$100.00 fee applies)
- Two references are attained electronically when you list your referees (academic references are preferred, however one academic and one employee reference is acceptable)
- A statement of interest outlining your thesis and/or research interests (one paragraph to one page document)
- A resume/CV
- Official transcripts (unofficial transcripts can be loaded online, and official transcripts must be sent directly to the Graduate Studies Office), and Degree Certificates (International Students) from any Secondary institution you have attended
- Proof of English language proficiency (TOEFL or equivalent test score), if required
- Proof of Canadian citizenship or Permanent Resident status if you were not born in Canada

For required documentation information please review the following link:

<http://www.grad.uwaterloo.ca/students/applyingonline.asp>

Once your application is submitted online, you will receive an email with instructions for obtaining a userid and password from UW Directory, along with logon instructions for Quest, the student information system. This will allow you to track your application through the various stages. An Applicant Quest Help Sheet is available at:

<http://www.grad.uwaterloo.ca/faculty/admission.asp>

Specific application information required:

A portfolio of work must be submitted directly to the School of Architecture. This portfolio does not have to contain original pieces; a condensed portfolio containing photographs and architectural work, CD submissions, or a web site are acceptable.

Upon successful review of your application, an applicant interview is scheduled, which involves a discussion of your portfolio and interest in architecture. The writing of a précis is also a requisite. A précis test involves the summarizing of a passage from a literary or philosophical text. If you are unable to attend an interview in person, a mail interview is arranged with the admissions committee of the School and an outside proctor of your choice can be contacted to supervise the précis test.

Duration: The Masters of Architecture program is a one-year, three term program, consisting of studio, elective, and thesis coursework, which generally can take up two years to complete, in six terms. Extended periods of study, provided the student is enrolled and approval is given, can be petitioned by students. The qualifying program will add an additional two terms onto the duration of study. Details on course requirements are available at the following link:

<http://www.architecture.uwaterloo.ca/programs/graduate.html>

Tuition & Fees:

Domestic and international tuition are available at:

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infofin/students/stdfees.htm>

Qualifying students are not eligible for funding, such as scholarships or bursaries, from the University of Waterloo. They also pay the Undergraduate fees for their qualifying terms.

Graduate Calendar:

The Graduate Studies website is a resource for all Graduate Studies information including awards, funding, admissions and term newsletters.

All graduate student admissions information can be reviewed at:

<http://gradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/default.aspx?>

The Calendar also contains information regarding English language proficiency; if you have less than five years experience in an English-speaking environment (school, work, or a combination of both) you will be required to write the TOEFL or an equivalent test.

School of Architecture web site:

<http://www.architecture.uwaterloo.ca/>

Location

We are located 20 km south of Waterloo, in Galt, Cambridge, at 7 Melville Street South. Student residence is not provided in Cambridge; you are required to locate housing in the area, unless commuting from elsewhere. The UW Housing and Residences web site includes a link to off campus housing, with a searchable database including housing information in Cambridge: <http://www.housing.uwaterloo.ca/>