

AY 22—23

MLA
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

MLA
PROGRAMME
HANDBOOK

DOA
NUS LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

MASTER OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

MLA Programme Handbook AY 22–23
Department of Architecture
College of Design and Engineering

Administration Office
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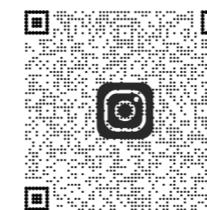
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[https://cde.nus.edu.sg/arch/programmes/
bachelor-of-landscape-architecture/](https://cde.nus.edu.sg/arch/programmes/bachelor-of-landscape-architecture/)



<https://www.facebook.com/nus.larch/>



<Instagram.com/nus.la/>

SEMESTER 1	1 AUG-3 DEC 2022	18 WEEKS
Orientation Week	1–6 Aug 2022	1 week
Instructional Period		
Week 1–Week 6	8 Aug–16 Sep 2022	6 weeks
Recess Week	17–25 Sep 2022	1 week
Week 7–Week 13	26 Sep–11 Nov 2022	7 weeks
Reading Week	12–18 Nov 2022	1 week
Examination	19 Nov–3 Dec 2022	2 weeks
Vacation	4 Dec–8 Jan 2023	5 weeks

NUS Landscape Architecture is a core programme at Asia's premier school of design and the built environment. Starting from the inception of the Master of Landscape Architecture in 2009, NUS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE has grown to also offer the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture with effect from Academic Year 2020/21, marking an exciting milestone for tertiary-level landscape architecture education in Singapore. NUS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE provides the only tertiary-level programmes that qualify graduates for accreditation as a practicing landscape architect in Singapore through the Landscape Architects Accreditation Programme of the Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects.

The core emphasis of NUS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE is excellence in design—we imbue our students with a deep understanding of the dual nature of design as both a process and a product. As a process, we prioritize landscape design to be creative, but one which is grounded in socio-cultural sensitivities, ecological knowledge, and grasp of conventional and emergent technologies and techniques. Design as a process benefits from synergistic knowledge exchange among multiple disciplines in NUS as one of the top research intensive universities in Asia and the world. As a product, landscape design expressed through various visual and digital media, must be inspiring, move the heart, and above all, instigate meaningful and impactful landscape changes in real life.

NUS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE is distinctively Asian and pantropical in its geographic attention and urban in its emphasis. With our central location in one of the most dynamic, diverse and rapidly urbanizing regions of the world, we aim to provide a landscape architecture education that is sensitive to the myriad challenges facing Asian cities, as well as opportunities provided by the sheer richness of heritage and cultural, socio-economic and ecological elements of the region. Our location in Singapore, with its diversity of culture and cosmopolitan outlook, and where greening and ecology of the built environment is a cornerstone of its urban development approach, also provides an enriching backdrop to our training of landscape architects.

As we move into the Ecological Age, where the environment and nature increasingly become prioritized in land-use developments, landscape architects are well-poised to play a critical role in shaping an environment that affects the large majority of the world's population. To that end, we train our students to design, build and manage design projects of different scales and context. Our graduates are expected to navigate the demands of the profession, and the dynamism and challenges the environment presents, and to be leaders and stewards in shaping a liveable, sustainable and resilient environment.

SEMESTER 2	9 JAN-6 MAY 2023	17 WEEKS
Instructional Period		
Week 1–Week 6	9 Jan–17 Feb 2023	6 weeks
Recess Week	18–26 Feb 2023	1 week
Week 7–Week 13	27 Feb–14 Apr 2023	7 weeks
Reading Week	15 Apr–21 Apr 2023	1 week
Examination	22 Apr–6 May 2023	2 weeks
Vacation	7 May–6 Aug 2023	13 weeks

For an up-to-date academic calendar, please refer to the following link from NUS Registrar's Office:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/calendar.html>

The following dates will be observed as University holidays during the academic year:

- (a) Hari Raya Haji 9 Jul 2022 (Sat)
- (b) National Day 9 Aug 2022 (Tue)
- (c) Deepavali 24 Oct 2022 (Mon)
- (d) Christmas Day 25 Dec 2022 (Sun)
- (e) New Year's Day 1 Jan 2023 (Sun)
- (f) Chinese New Year 22 Jan 2023 (Sun)[#], 23 Jan 2023 (Mon)
- (g) Good Friday 7 Apr 2023 (Fri)
- (h) Hari Raya Puasa 22 Apr 2023 (Sat)
- (i) Labour Day 1 May 2023 (Mon)
- (j) Vesak Day 3 Jun 2023 (Sat)

*The following Monday will be a public holiday.

[#]The following Tuesday will be a public holiday.

Please note that the official end time for classes on Chinese New Year eve (Mon-Fri) is 2pm. There will be no classes on public holidays.

The module instructor(s) will advise on make up classes, if any.

** For an up-to-date listing of public holidays in Singapore, please check the Ministry of Manpower website.

PROGRAMME GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The **Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)** is a two-year, full-time degree programme for individuals seeking advanced and cutting-edge training in landscape architecture. It is for students who have completed a BLA or its equivalent in related disciplines (architecture, urban planning, urban design).

The intensive and rigorous course engages students with the following emphasis:

Independence and excellence in design. As an advanced course, MLA provides a structured platform for students to pursue areas aligned with their own interests in depth, independent design, and intellectual inquiry.

Research as a foundation for design. Situated in a large research intensive university ranked among the top in Asia and the world, MLA emphasizes the use of research to critically identify and explore socio-ecological issues of the site. Design is envisaged as the bridge between scientific research and landscape changes arising from spatial design. Research skills are honed through Dissertation and other lecture modules and applied to design studios.

Interdisciplinary collaboration. Hosted by the Department of Architecture which has a long-standing reputation as the top Asian Architecture School and one of the top ten schools in the world, MLA takes advantage of the close partnership with other design disciplines in architecture, urban planning, urban design, and integrated sustainable design through joint studios, cross-discipline electives, and networking guided by a world-class team of academics and practitioners. Our graduates will understand that the most pressing urban challenges cannot be solved by a single discipline but require interdisciplinary collaborations across professional disciplines and key stakeholders.

Developing leadership in practice. Landscape architecture as a professional practice is constantly evolving and the roles of landscape architects are gradually expanding into new frontiers of practice. Our graduates will contribute to critical discourse and shape the practice by providing thought leadership.

The MLA curriculum is anchored by four design studios, Dissertation and ten lecture modules/electives. Of the four design studios, typically two are overseas studios

ACCREDITATION BY SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (SILA)

which provide students valuable opportunities to explore landscape design under a myriad of socio-cultural, ecological and socio-economic context in the surrounding Asian region. The studios are organized into a sequence which increases in scale and complexity, culminating in a landscape planning studio at the regional scale. The lecture modules and electives provide knowledge in geodesign, urban ecology, topical areas like landscape urbanism, water urbanism, urban agriculture, and advanced digital landscape representation and modelling.

Our **Goal** is to train the next generation of landscape architects in practice and academia, who will be stewards in shaping a liveable, sustainable and resilient environment. Our graduates are expected to be able to navigate the demands of the profession, and the dynamism and challenges the environment presents.

The **Objectives** of the MLA programme are:

1. To develop competencies in a wide-range of professional skills that prepare our graduates for a diversity of career options.
2. To inculcate a questioning mind, critical thinking ability, and a mindset of continuous learning that prepare our graduates for an evolving landscape architecture profession.
3. To develop well-rounded graduates, with a care for the environment and the community.
4. To develop a deep appreciation in our graduates of the critical roles of landscapes in shaping key urban development goals of sustainability, liveability and resilience in a wide range of socio-cultural and socio-economic contexts as well as linkages with other disciplines.

The NUS BLA and MLA programmes are the only university-level programmes in Singapore that qualify graduates for accreditation as a practicing landscape architect in Singapore through the Landscape Architects Accreditation Programme of the Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects.

More information on the accreditation programme can be found here:

<https://www.la-accreditation.org.sg/>

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The NUS MLA programme is a two-year full-time degree programme providing education and training in landscape architecture. The programme consists of 13 essential modules and 2 electives spread over two years: Master Preparatory Year (MLA 1) and Master Final Year (MLA 2).

Students with a Bachelor degree in Landscape Architecture recognised by the Department of Architecture and Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects (SILA), or a Bachelor degree in other related design disciplines, will be admitted to the preparatory year (MLA1) which runs concurrently with the 4th year of the Bachelor Landscape Architecture programme at NUS.

Candidates are required to pass all modules in the preparatory programme (MLA 1) with a minimum B- average for LA4701 and LA4702 and minimum CAP of 2.50 before they are allowed to proceed to the MLA 2.

Period of Candidature

The programme shall be conducted on a full-time basis lasting two years consisting of four semesters. The maximum period of candidature is limited to six concurrent semesters.

MODULES AND TUTORS

AY 2022/2023

MODULE	SEMESTER 1	
LA 4701 MLA Studio: Quarter (Concurrent with LAD 4001)	Dorothy Tang Assistant Professor dstang@nus.edu.sg	Kenya Endo Lecturer akike@nus.edu.sg
	Mayura Patil Part-time Tutor mayura2604@gmail.com	Alban Mannisi Part-Time Lecturer albanmannisi@scapethical.org
	Abby Ng Part-time Tutor meisiang14@hotmail.com	
LA 5301 Geodesign	Jessica Ann Diehl Assistant Professor akijac@nus.edu.sg	
AR5954A Topics in Landscape Architecture - Digital Landscapes Techniques	Ervine Lin Senior Lecturer akilse@nus.edu.sg	
LA 5222 Urban Ecology and Design (Landscape Architecture Elective)	Mark McDonnell Visiting Associate Professor markmc@unimelb.edu.au	
MODULE	SEMESTER 2	
LA 4702 MLA Studio: City (Concurrent with LAD 4002)	Ervine Lin Senior Lecturer akilse@nus.edu.sg	Lim Huei Lyn Part-time Tutor hueilyn.liu@gmail.com
	Alban Mannisi Part-Time Lecturer albanmannisi@scapethical.org	Anton Siura Part-time Tutor anton.siura@siurastudio.com
	Varit Charoenveingyechkit Part-time Tutor varitc02@gmail.com	
LA 5302 / LAD4003 Landscape Construction II (+Professional Practice)	Alfred Lee Part-time Lecturer Director STX Landscape Architect alfredlee@stxla.com	Jiann Bin Koh Part-time Lecturer Principal Coherean Pte Ltd jiannbin@hotmail.com
LA 5303 Urban Greening: Technologies and Techniques	Tan Chun Liang Senior Lecturer tcl@nus.edu.sg	
LA 5901 Special Topics in Landscape Architecture (Landscape Architecture Elective)	Shawn Lum Visiting Consultant Asian School of the Environment College of Science Nanyang Technological University skylum@gmail.com	

MODULE	SEMESTER 1	
LA 5701 MLA Studio: Country (Local / Overseas)	Jessical Ann Diehl Assistant Professor akijac@nus.edu.sg	Evi Syariffudin Part-time Tutor evi.syariffudin@googlemail.com
	Melissa Yip Part-time Tutor melyip36@gmail.com	
LA 4007 Political Ecology and Landscapes	Jessical Ann Diehl Assistant Professor akijac@nus.edu.sg	
LA 5742A Dissertation Prep***	Puay Yok Tan Associate Professor akityp@nus.edu.sg	Dorothy Tang Assistant Professor dstang@nus.edu.sg
	Jessical Ann Diehl Assistant Professor akijac@nus.edu.sg	Anuj Jain Part-time lecturer & tutor anuj@biomimicrysingapore.net
	Tan Chun Liang Senior Lecturer tcl@nus.edu.sg	Yazid Ninsalam Part-time Tutor yazid.ninsalam@rmit.edu.au
MODULE	SEMESTER 2	
LA 5500 Pro Seminar	Tan Chun Liang Senior Lecturer tcl@nus.edu.sg	
MODULE	SEMESTER 2	
LA 5702 MLA Studio: Region (Local / Overseas)	Victoria Marshall Senior Visiting Fellow marshall@nus.edu.sg	Maxime Decaudin Senior Lecturer maximedecaudin@gmail.com
LA 5201 Policy of Landscape	Dorothy Tang Assistant Professor dstang@nus.edu.sg	
LA 5742B Dissertation***	Puay Yok Tan Associate Professor akityp@nus.edu.sg	Dorothy Tang Assistant Professor dstang@nus.edu.sg
	Jessical Ann Diehl Assistant Professor akijac@nus.edu.sg	Anuj Jain Part-time lecturer & tutor anuj@biomimicrysingapore.net
	Tan Chun Liang Senior Lecturer tcl@nus.edu.sg	Yazid Ninsalam Part-time Tutor yazid.ninsalam@rmit.edu.au

STUDIO AND OTHER OVERSEAS TRIPS*

Over the two academic years, students will have the opportunity and be expected to travel to regional countries for studio work. Typically, two of the four studios are overseas sites, which require students to spend 7-10 days at the study site to undertake field data collection, and consultation with local communities, practitioners, NGOs or other stakeholders. Overseas studio is a critical part of MLA, designed to expose students to the relevance and meaning of landscapes across diverse socio-cultural, socio-economic and geographical contexts. Occasionally, in some academic years, the number of overseas studio trips deviate from the norm. In addition to studio trips, overseas trips may also be undertaken as part of teaching modules when suitable opportunities are available to expose students to the regional context, challenges, and best practices encountered in these sites. The Department endeavors to secure sponsorship or partial funding to offset student travel costs for overseas trips, as well as makes travel arrangements to keep travel costs as low as practical. However, financial support is not always available and students must be prepared to self-finance overseas trips.

* OVERSEAS STUDIOS ARE SUBJECT TO NUS TRAVEL POLICIES.

DISSERTATION AND PUBLICATIONS

As a research-centric programme, Dissertation is an important part of MLA training to enhance research skills and critical analysis. More importantly, it allows students to investigate an area of individual interest. Dissertation preparation commences in Semester 1 MLA Year 2, with data collection, presentation, and final submission in Semester 2. Students will be assigned supervisors to guide students through the process of defining research questions and objectives, use of appropriate methodology, analysis, and final report writing.

Students are encouraged to publish their works with the supervisor. This also applies to essay-based assignments. In the event that said publication is not produced after a year, supervisors can use materials produced for publications with the prior consent of students as a co-author.

RETENTION OF STUDENT WORK

All students should note that, pursuant to NUS Statutes, any work prescribed to be done by a candidate in the course of his or her study for the Master of Landscape Architecture may be deemed as the property of the University. Since the Department may be required to retain selected student work for exhibition, archiving and other reasons, students should make their own copies or records of their work for job interviews, competition entries, and other purposes.

GARDENS BY THE BAY SCHOLARSHIP

Offered to candidates who are passionate about Horticulture and possess a keen interest in pursuing a long-term career in this field. The Gardens by the Bay will support NUS BLA/MLA Scholars in embarking on their tertiary journey, with challenging and rewarding career paths and job rotations. Scholars can expect a rewarding experience – where passion is inspired and expertise is nurtured.

ELIGIBILITY

- Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident (SPR).
- GCE 'A' Level, local Polytechnic Diploma or equivalent.
- Mid-term undergraduate or post-graduate students, or mid-career individuals with relevant industry experience are also welcome.
- Record of excellent academic results.
- Impressive co-curricular activities record.
- Strong leadership qualities.
- Strong interest in a horticulture career.
- Not currently in receipt of any other scholarship

TO APPLY, PLEASE CONTACT:

scholarship@gardensbythebay.com.sg.

Only shortlisted applicants will be notified for the selection interviews.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION:

2-3 weeks after the release of 'A' Level results

AWARDS

GARDENS BY THE BAY SCHOLARSHIP

This cash prize of \$1000 is awarded in each academic year to the top graduate with the highest Cumulative Average Point (CAP) in the MLA programme. Student has to complete the programme with the minimum CAP of 4.5 to be considered.

DESIGN SINGAPORE SCHOLARSHIP

DesignSingapore Scholarship is for individuals with creativity, drive and passion for design. The scholarship will groom designers to become designer leaders who will use strategy and innovation to make things better by design. Our scholarship holders may come from different fields of design, but they share one uncommon trait – they are game changers and aspire to contribute to Singapore and the design sector. We are on the lookout for talented individuals with creative flair, the drive to push boundaries; and a heart to serve Singapore.

ELIGIBILITY

- Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Have completed National Service (for male applicants)
- Have successfully gained admission to a full-time undergraduate or postgraduate design-related course in a reputable Singapore or overseas institution
- Applicants who are applying for postgraduate studies and have at least 3 years of professional working experience, would have an advantage.

For further queries or clarifications, please visit the DesignSingapore Scholarship page or email MCI_Dsg_Scholarships@mci.gov.sg.

MLA provides semester-long exchange programmes with overseas universities to enrich our students' learning experience. Thus far, students have gone for exchange programmes at Cornell University, University of Oregon and University of Florida. Student exchange typically takes place in Semester 1 of MLA 2. Opportunities for student exchange with University of Michigan and University of Washington are also available, but subject to further arrangements. New exchange opportunities are being explored with other universities. Students on overseas exchange programme need not pay tuition fees of the receiving university but will have to cater to living, transport and other associated expenses on their own. Note that students eligible for exchange are nominated in the preceding semester based on CAP scores.

LA 4701 MLA Studio: Quarter[†]

This studio-based module develops higher level skills in landscape design and marks the first of four subsequent master-level core studios in landscape design. Projects of city quarter scale are undertaken to explore issues of context, programme and socio-economic considerations. Projects will cover sites with different functions, e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, educational, health and recreation. Civic spaces like roadsides, highways, plazas, parks and city squares will also be tackled. There is an emphasis on sustainability and tropical design.

LA5222 Urban Ecology and Design

Urban ecology is the study of ecosystems that include humans living in cities and urbanizing landscapes. It is an emerging, interdisciplinary field that aims to understand how human and ecological processes can coexist in human-dominated systems and help societies with their efforts to become more sustainable. It has deep roots in many disciplines including sociology, geography, urban planning, landscape architecture, engineering, economics, anthropology, climatology, public health and ecology, which will be described in this class. The course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental principles of urban ecology so they can better integrate ecological principles in their future designs.

LA 5301 Geodesign

Geodesign is a design and planning method which tightly couples the creation of design proposals with impact simulations informed by geographic contexts. This module focuses specifically on developing the knowledge and techniques of site analysis and planning that are essential for sustainable landscape architecture. Topics include site inventory, site and landscape assessment, landscape and vegetation modelling, scenario techniques, and interactive 3D visualization. Geographic information system (GIS) software is used as the platform for the development of advanced techniques in analysing, evaluating, managing, and modelling.

AR5954C Topics in Landscape Architecture – Digital Landscape Representation

From the invention of the axe to surveying tools like the graphometre, technological advancements have always influenced how we document, understand, design and modify our landscapes. Perhaps the most influential was Geographic Information System (GIS) technology which allowed the convergence of topological, ecological and even social data into the discourse of landscape architecture. However, unlike the two dimensional nature of GIS, landscapes are inherently three dimensional. The course thus explores the various advances that allow landscape architects to operate within a 3D environment with data collected from reality, studied and modified through computational thinking, enriched through information modelling and tested through simulations.

LA 4702 MLA Studio: City[†]

This studio-based module develops an appreciation for design skills in tropical landscape design as applied on a large city scale and marks the second of four subsequent master-level core studios in landscape design. Interdisciplinary requirements from planning guidelines, architecture design, engineering limitations; as well as understanding existing natural land and urban systems will be introduced into the design process. Project sites will be larger in scale with more complex urban design issues, with projects ranging from peripheral nature conservation sites to mix-use urban centres. There will be an emphasis on deriving innovative design solutions using ecological and sustainability principles.

LA 5303 Urban Greening: Technologies and Techniques

Driven by global urbanization trends, landscape architects are increasingly called upon to sensitively and creatively introduce landscapes in highly urbanized settings. To achieve this, fundamental knowledge of the challenges that the urban environment poses, solutions to these challenges, as well as the use of R&D to develop innovations are important in the skill set of landscape architects. This module introduces students to contemporary and emerging technologies and techniques that have become essential components of urban greening design and practices. It traces the origins of such technologies and techniques as responses to challenges and opportunities in creating a green and ecologically-balanced urban environment, explains their scientific underpinnings, and illustrates with examples of real-life applications. It emphasizes the role of R&D in a continual process to improve the performance of greening in areas of sustainability, ecological health, and liveability of the built environment. Topics covered include metrics used to measure greenery, technologies used to integrate greenery with the grey and blue elements of the built environment, and plants as the basic building blocks of functional landscapes. The module is conducted through lectures, class discussions, and site visits demonstrating real-life applications as well as R&D in progress.

LA 5302 Landscape Construction II & Professional Practice

This module covers advanced landscape construction techniques, detailing and professional practice. The emphasis is in the integration of details in terms of performance and coherence of the overall design. Consistency in the use of materials and adaptation of detailing to develop thematic strategies to carry design conceptual ideals are explored. The interrelationship and interdependence of parts and whole, between near and far, and between small and large scales are engaged. Current examples of local and international designs are presented and discussed. The second component of the course focuses on professional practice, which includes an understanding of the emerging role of the professional landscape architect, office and project management, construction administration, ethics, and others.

LA 5901 Special Topics in Landscape Architecture**Tropical Forest Ecology**

The practice of landscape architecture requires a working knowledge of ecology. The distribution of plants and animals is dependent on environmental conditions of a site, land use history, local and regional habitat and species distribution, and a number of other factors. As building and design can transform landscapes and the habitats and wildlife that live on them, holistic practice involves understanding ecological characteristics of a site prior to development. In addition, the ability to make realistic assessments of potential outcomes on site ecology after development and designing toward desired ecological outcomes are indispensable skills for the successful landscape architect. The ecological understanding of practitioners is particularly challenging in the tropics, which feature some of the world's most diverse and complex ecosystems. This module aims to equip students with the foundational knowledge (ecological principles; vegetation types; habitats) and basic skills (plant identification, literature reviews) to recognise habitat types, interpret ecological properties of a site, and to be able to design and critique landscapes from an ecological perspective.

* MLA PREPARATORY YEAR, CONCURRENT WITH BA (ARCHITECTURE) YEAR 4 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE TRACK.

[†] MORE DETAILED DESIGN BRIEF AND SCHEDULE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE START OF SEMESTER.

LA 5701 MLA Studio: Country[†]

This studio-based module investigates the sustainable issues surrounding land development of large scales and marks the third of four subsequent master-level core studios in landscape design. Methods to balance economic and human development with ecological aspects are highlighted and discussed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The module focuses on tropical design issues in the urban context of Singapore and other tropical countries. Think global, act local forms the topical framework of design content.

LA4007 Political Ecology and Landscapes

Landscape architecture is not shaped just by environmental and aesthetic considerations, but also by the process of social engagement, social hierarchies, and power structures in society. This module introduces students to key concepts and frameworks of political ecology, which is a broad field of study and research that focuses on socio-environmental conflicts and their origins. Through a variety of teaching and learning modes, students examine landscape case studies representing different contexts, scales, and histories to uncover diverse human-environment interactions. There is an emphasis on applying different tools and methods to conduct and communicate political ecology research.

LA5500 Proseminar

In this proseminal, students will be introduced to a range of topics on urban environments and their implications for research and practice in landscape architecture. The themes of urban climate, resource extraction, habitat loss, health and culture, water, social and environmental justice, as well as big data and technology will serve as foundational knowledge for further discourse and exploration in future semesters. The key learning objective is for students to cultivate an appreciation of different perspectives relating to the landscape architecture practice, drawing relation to issues of concern and urgency. The proseminal provides an avenue for exchange between guest speakers and students through presentations and roundtable discussions. Students will work in be evaluated on their critical assessment of the curated themes, via weekly reflection essays, seminar presentations and a final written essay.

LA 5742A Dissertation Prep

LA 5742A is a preparatory course for LA 5742 (Dissertation) and is for students who will also take LA 5742 (see course description below). This module will cover essential topics as foundational knowledge for completion of a research-based written dissertation, including research process, research methods and basic statistics for data analyses. The final deliverable of LA 5742A is a written dissertation proposal that prepares students for the next stage of dissertation in Semester 2.

LA 5702 MLA Studio: Region[†]

This studio-based module marks the last of four subsequent master-level studios in landscape design, and students can choose to work on a range of important landscapes issues in Southeast Asia, especially related to the fast-growing urban agglomerations of this region. The studio integrates ecological, social and economic thinking in the course of generation of designs that form optimistic futures for the region.

LA5201 Policy of Landscape

Following the Convention on the Protection of Biodiversity (CBD), the New Urban Agenda (UN Habitat) and the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations landscape architects will increasingly called upon working on a more strategic, a more ecological and on a broader scale level. This is to provide a critical review of contemporary landscape practice locally, regional and globally and to provide guidance for landscape strategies (e.g. legislative and spatial). This module presents a review of current topics in landscape architecture and planning considering economic, social, urban, and environmental issues through lectures, readings, and discussion. A broad survey of strategic, comprehensive regional design and landscape planning as well as impact assessment issues is provided and students are challenged to critique current practice and to reflect on the relevance of landscape policies to society.

LA5742 Dissertation

The dissertation project engages the student in a research project aligned to the academic interests of the student and is conducted under the guidance of a supervisor. It presents an opportunity for the student to investigate in depth, a subject area of intellectual curiosity or of practical relevance to the professional practice of landscape architecture. The emphasis of the module is on adopting a scientific process of developing a central question or proposition, collecting evidence, and producing a structured presentation of arguments in relation to the questions being investigated. This process of self-directed inquiry and learning culminates in a substantial piece of written work that demonstrates a critical analysis of the pertinent issues and the use of scholarly methods in the presentation of arguments and perspectives. Such dissertation projects complement the research-oriented focus of the MLA towards the teaching of tropical landscape architecture.

[†] MORE DETAILED DESIGN BRIEF AND SCHEDULE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE START OF SEMESTER.

Students' performance will be assessed through various modes of continuous assessment. All work done within the Studio modules will be assessed. The DOA Board of Examiners will govern all assessments.

Grade and Grade Point Equivalent

Assessment can be based on tutorials, laboratories, projects, reports, as well as midterm and final examinations. A student's final grade in a module will be based on absolute and relative performance. Accordingly, there may not be direct correspondence between particular marks in continuous assessment and the overall module grade.

Grades released to students will be in the form of letter grades: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D+, D, F.

The grade and grade point equivalent shall be in accordance with the University regulations as follows:

GRADE	GRADE POINT	DESCRIPTION
A+	5.0	EXCELLENT
A	5.0	
A-	4.5	VERY GOOD
B+	4.0	
B	3.5	GOOD
B-	3.0	
C+	2.5	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	
D+	1.5	PROBATIONARY GRADE
D	1.0	
F	0	FAIL

Cumulative Average Point (CAP)

Academic progress is tracked by the CAP, which is the weighted average grade point of all modules taken by the student. Therefore, a student's CAP is the sum of the module grade points multiplied by the number of module credits (MCs) for the corresponding module, divided by the total number of MCs. This is represented as follows:

$$\text{CAP} = \frac{\text{SUM (MODULE GRADE POINT X MCs ASSIGNED TO MODULE)}}{\text{SUM (MCs ASSIGNED TO ALL MODULES)}}$$

Modules with no assigned grade points and associated MCs are excluded from the calculation of CAP.

An online CAP calculator is available at:
https://inetapps.nus.edu.sg/capcalc/cap_calculator.aspx

The CAP simulation is based on the entries made by you for individual module grades. As such, NUS will not be held responsible for any misuse, mistakes or wrong decisions made arising from the use of this Online CAP Calculator.

Progression and Graduation Requirements

For continuation requirement to MLA Year 2, students must achieve a minimum B- average for LA4701 and LA4702 and minimum CAP of 2.5

For graduation, a student must complete 80 MCs of 13 essential modules and 2 electives. To graduate, students have to fulfil the additional requirements of:

- Minimum CAP of 3.00 and
- Minimum grade B- for both LA5701 and LA5702

Academic Warning, Probation and Dismissal

To continue in a Master programme at NUS, a student may not have:

- CAP below 3.00 (but ≥ 2.50) for three consecutive semesters; or
- CAP below 2.50 for two consecutive semesters.

For any semester in which the student's CAP falls below 3.00 (but ≥ 2.50), that student will be issued an academic warning. If, in the following semester, the student's CAP again falls below 3.00, s/he will be placed on probation. If the student's CAP remains below 3.00 for the third consecutive semester, the student will be issued a letter of dismissal by the Registrar and denied re-admission.

For students whose CAP falls below 2.50 for two consecutive semesters, they will be placed on probation for the first semester, followed by dismissal in the second semester.

Such a student may appeal the dismissal if there are extenuating circumstances. The appeal must be submitted to the Education Office within two calendar weeks of the last day of the release of the semester's examination results. Generally, a student is allowed only one dismissal appeal per candidature. If the appeal is rejected, the student will not be readmitted. If the outcome of the appeal is positive, the student will be given one semester in which to achieve the minimum CAP required for continuation and graduation.

Award of Degree

The minimum CAP for fulfilment of the degree requirements for award of Master of Landscape Architecture is 3.0.

If there are any circumstances, academic or otherwise, which have adversely affected a student's academic performance during the course of semester or examination, the student can submit the form *Application for Special Consideration* together with supporting documents, if any, within the stipulated deadline.

If candidates do not achieve a passing grade in a module, they are permitted to retake the module in accordance with the prevailing NUS regulations under the modular system.

PLAGIARISM WARNING

All students share the responsibility to uphold the academic standards and reputation of the National University of Singapore. Academic honesty is a prerequisite condition in the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. Academic dishonesty is any misrepresentation with the intent to deceive or failure to acknowledge the source or falsification of information or inaccuracy of statements or cheating at examinations/tests or inappropriate use of resources. There are many forms of academic dishonesty; plagiarism is one of them. Plagiarism is generally defined as 'the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own' (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The University does not condone plagiarism.

Students should adopt this rule:

You have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is being presented as entirely your own work.

This is a minimum standard. In addition, we hope the following guidelines will provide you with some assistance:

1. When using the ideas, phrases, paragraphs and data of others in work presented for assessment, such materials should be appropriately credited and acknowledged, so that it is clear that the materials being presented are that of another person and not the candidate's own.
2. The amount of detail required when referencing and acknowledging a source will vary according to the type of work and norms of the discipline.

3. Supervised exams will require less detail in referencing and acknowledgment.
4. Papers written other than under exam conditions will require a full citation of the source. While a particular style of citation is not prescribed, the citation should provide enough information for the reader to locate the source.
5. Research materials (including texts, graphics and data) obtained from the internet or other electronic resources should be treated in the same way as research materials obtained from traditional sources. This includes research materials used for design studio.

Any student found to have committed or aided and abetted the offence of plagiarism may be subject to disciplinary actions in accordance with the Section 1(l) of Statute 12 (Discipline) of the National University of Singapore. In addition, the student may receive no mark/grade for the relevant academic assignment, project, or thesis; and he/she may fail or be denied a grade for the relevant subject or module.

A student may not knowingly intend to plagiarize, but that should not be used as an excuse for plagiarism.

Students should seek clarifications from their respective tutors, lecturers or supervisors if they are unsure whether or not they are plagiarizing the work of another person. The Centre for Instructional Technology also provides a service to students to help detect and prevent web-based plagiarism.

More information at:

<http://cit.nus.edu.sg/plagiarism-prevention/>

Updated July 2022

Should there be deviation between information contained in this handbook and the relevant NUS websites, the information in NUS websites should be treated as the more updated and correct information. Information in this handbook is updated annually.