# LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE PLANNING UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

International Student Handbook 2016-17



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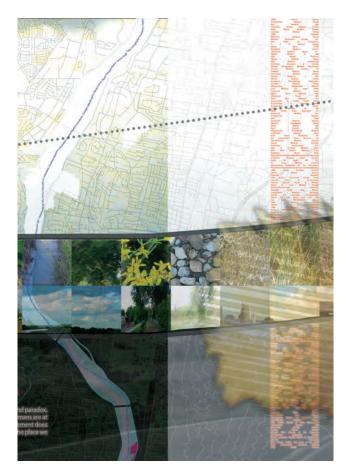
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# The Master of Landscape Architecture Program

The Master of Landscape Architecture degree program (MLA) at the University of New Mexico is committed to the investigation of principles and theories of Landscape Architecture, their application as tools for critical thinking and their synthesis in design and practice. The program prepares students to apply these tools in a larger world context of social, cultural, environmental and evolutionary influences on the landscape.

The Master of Landscape Architecture program has strengths in:

- Art and Ecology
- Site Design
- Urban Design
- Sustainable Design
- Representation
- Historic Preservation

#### **Program Requirements**

Students entering the program with non-design majors are required to complete 87 credit hours. *This will nor-mally require three years of study.* 

Students entering the program with pre-professional or professional degrees in Architecture or closely related design disciplines are normally required to complete 57 credit hours. *This will normally require two years of study.* 

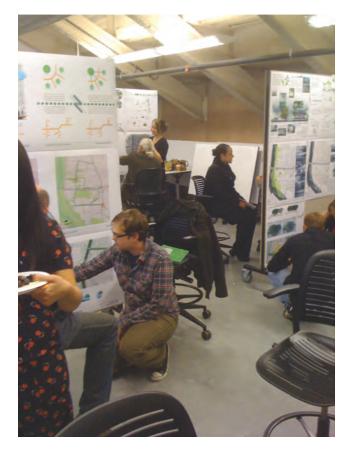
Students entering the Program with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree (BLA) will complete a minimum of 48 credit hours of study. *This will normally require two years of study.* 

All applications are reviewed by the Program Director who determines possible advanced standing on a caseby-case basis

#### Studio 0

All students entering the program must enroll in Studio 0 - a one month pre-semester design and skills studio usually beginning in mid July.

For more information, check our website http://saap.unm.edu



# Admissions

## **Application Deadline: February 15**

Our on-line application will allow you to upload all your necessary documents for application to the program of your interest. Within the application, make sure to click the Application Instructions to see program specific requirements.

### The University of New Mexico on-line application.

• A \$70 application fee payable on-line. Please make sure to keep your reference number for fee payment.

• A letter of intent outlining the applicant's interest in the discipline of landscape architecture and the reasons for seeking admission to the program

• Letters of reference from three individuals under whom the applicant has worked and/or studied. Two of the letters shall normally be from teachers or academic advisors who can comment on the applicant's prior undergraduate and/or graduate performance;

• A resume (curriculum vitae)

• A portfolio of creative work. The portfolio should provide examples of creative thinking and creative approaches. Portfolios are to be submitted as a PDF.

• A unofficial copy of transcripts for each institution you have attended.

# International Students also need to submit the following:

- An attested copy of your diploma
- Official TOEFL scores that must meet the University of New Mexico minimum of 79 on the IBT TOEFL or 6.5 on IELTS
- Official transcripts
- A copy of your passport

Mail these to: International Admissions 2120 Mesa Vista Hall MSC06 3850, 1 University of New Mexico Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

#### NOTES:

• Applicants cannot be fully admitted or nominated for scholarships until all official documentation has been submitted to International Admissions

• Once an applicant is admitted to the program they must send in a \$250 deposit to confirm a place in the program. This should be sent





# Please submit questions to:

Beth Rowe, Graduate Advisor 505 277 1303 erowe@unm.edu as a cheque or money order, and will be credited back to the student's UNM account upon their arrival.

For more info about about tuiton: http://bursar.unm.edu/docs/2016FallTuitionandFee.pdf

# Funding

# Amigo Scholarship

International students are eligible for an Amigo Scholarship, a competitive scholarship from the University of New Mexico. Applicants for all graduate programs are considered for the limited number of scholarships. These scholarships allow students to pay tuition at in-state rates for four semesters ( a value of more than \$10,000 per year). Students may not hold an assistantship with the Amigo scholarship. To be eligible for an Amigo Scholarship applicants must have:

- $\bullet$  The equivalent of a U.S. 3.0 college grade point average (GPA) as determined by UNM
- Admission to a full-time UNM graduate degree program
- Recommendation by the graduate department to receive the scholarship (contact your department to ask if they will nominate you)
- NO other UNM assistantships.
- Non-immigrant visa status (F1 or J1)
- NO previous attendance in the current UNM program

Because Amigo Scholarships are issued on a first-come, first-served basis to students who qualify, apply as soon as possible (well before February 15) for best consideration for the scholarship.

# Assistantships

International students who do not receive an Amigo Scholarship *may* receive a Graduate Student Assistantship from the Landscape Architecture Program for the duration of their program, to a maximum of three years, *if funds are available*.

Students can also look for an assistantship in another department at UNM if he/she qualifies. Some assistantships and graduate job announcements are posted on the Office of Graduate studies (OGS) website. OGS assists with paperwork and information that students will need when getting an assistantship on campus.





**For more information:** http://geo.unm.edu/admission/ graduate/scholarship

# Things to Know

- Apply for your visa
- Check these websites

US Consulate http://usembassy.state.gov/ GEO https://geo.unm.edu/continuing\_visa.html

**Prior to arrival** http://geo.unm.edu/students/coming\_unm/gradu-ate\_degree/

You should plan to bring the following with you to the US (do not pack these documents in your luggage!):

- Passport with entry visa
- I-20 or DS-2019 form (in most cases this will be enclosed in an envelope that the US Consulate has given you)
- Proof of finances to support your stay in the US (if you are supported by the department you should bring the department's offer letter)
- Money to cover initial costs (approx. \$4,000 in Traveler's Checks or accessible cash via an ATM; do not bring more than \$500 in cash)
- Transcripts
- International and home country driver's licenses

**NOTE:** Remember, you must bring all your original documents with you to the U.S. It is recommended that you also bring certified copies of your birth certificate and any national identification card.

# On arrival

#### •Airport Pick-Up

UNM student groups will sometimes provide airport pick-up and/or temporary home-stays for new students. You can contact students from your home country through one of the country/ culture group representatives on the UNM Student Activities website at http://sac.unm.edu to see if this service is being offered by a group from your country. This website is taken Down in summer and winter breaks, so please reference it now to see if there is a group from your country and take note of the contact information.

• Temporary Housing

Students need to arrange housing before arriving in Albuquerque. Below you will find temporary, short-term housing options. Once classes begin, you will need to find permanent housing.

International Student Inc. (ISI) offers three day temporary housing options. Please email: isiabq@isionline.org to arrange temporary housing.





# Searching for Housing

Talking with people at UNM (students, staff at GEO and/or people in your academic department) is one of the best ways to find housing and get an idea of the different types of housing near campus. Another good resource for finding housing is the internet, e.g. organizations that provide online information on rental listings, neighborhood information (crime rates), and other community insights.

For more information: http://geo.unm.edu/students/life\_unm/housing

## After arrival

Once you arrive at UNM, come in or call the GEO office to sign up for a check-in session. Bring your passport, visa, I-20 or DS-2019, and I-94 (arrival/departure card you receive on the plane when you enter the US).

After the check-in the registration hold on your account will be removed so you can register for classes. You will be informed about requirements you must complete before classes begin.

Check-in can be done from August 1 - August 11, starting at 9:30 am each day, at the Global Education Office (GEO) 2120 Mesa Vista Hall

#### Check-in Requirements

- Immigration documents (passport, I-20/DS-2019, I-94 and visa)
- Proof of health insurance
- Tuition and Fees payment
- Sign up for a UNM email account
- Provide your local residential address

Graduate international students must attend:

- New student CHECK-IN session
- New student ORIENTATION (full-day long)



# **Important links**

• MLA Curriculum and general information https://saap.unm.edu/academic-programs/landscape-architecture/ourlandscape.html

• School of Architecture + Planning Graduate Student Advisor Beth Rowe (erowe@un.edu)

• For general UNM information www.unm.edu

 For International students application process Beth Rowe (erowe@un.edu)
GEO advisors (geo@unm.edu) http://geo.unm.edu/staff\_page1.html

# **Contact International Students in the MLA Program**

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