

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Studies BA(LS)

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Landscape Studies curriculum has five types of courses which are taught using distinct learning modes.

All courses are 6 credits courses with the exception of the Design Studios which are 6^{Note} or 12 credits. The Design Studio, and Visual Communications courses are assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment. Courses on History and Theory, Technology & Science, and Electives, are assessed through a combination of continuous coursework assessment (ranging from 40%-100%) and examination (ranging from 0% - 60%).

Landscape Design courses

(6 credits Design Studio courses requiring approximately 120-180 hours of student learning activities per course, and 12 credits Design Studio courses requiring approximately 300 - 360 hours of student learning activities per course).

These courses engage students in practical problem-solving design exercises in landscape architecture under staff guidance and supervision. The projects are closely related to concurrent course work and seek to develop student's knowledge of key landscape theories and concepts, as well as giving them practical experience in technical issues. In addition to major projects, sketch design problems are set to teach students to produce and express landscape designs with reason, imagination and sensitivity.

Teaching is conducted in two to three four-hour design studio sessions per week (total 48-72 contact hours for 6 credits Design Studio courses, and 96-144 contact hours for 12 credits Design Studio courses), and involves working on projects in both group and individual formats. Work is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions. Site visits, data research, field trips and practical workshops are required.

Assessment is 100% continuous coursework assessment of drawings, diagrams, photos, renderings, animations, physical models, prototypes and project presentation (up to 5,000 words for the whole course).

Note: The 6 credits Design Studio courses are applicable to students admitted in the 2019-20 academic year and thereafter.

Landscape History and Theory courses

(6 credits requiring approximately 120-180 hours of student learning activities per course).

Collectively these courses examine the theories and practice of landscape architecture through a comparative study of the history of landscape architectural design and urbanism, in various geographic and cultural contexts. Key issues are explored in more detail through the work of contemporary practitioners and current trends are assessed to see where the future of landscape architecture might lie.

Teaching is conducted in lectures / workshops / tutorials / review sessions (36-48 contact hours per

course) and the course work includes reading of critical texts, site visits, research, case studies and the preparation of assignments, essays and reports. Work is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions.

The courses may be assessed through a combination of examination (0%- 60%) and continuous coursework assessment (40%-100%). Continuous coursework assessment is usually by various methods including PowerPoint Presentation, reports (up to 10,000 words), short essays (1,500 – 2,000 words), quizzes, projects and/or sketch books.

Landscape Technology & Science courses

(6 credits requiring approximately 120-180 hours of student learning activities per course).

These courses explore issues of materials, construction, structures and environment as they relate to the built environment. The courses establish key technical concepts and knowledge that underpin students' architectural design work. Much of the course relates to projects undertaken in the design studios. Teaching is conducted in lectures / workshops / tutorials / review sessions (36-48 contact hours per course), and activities include site visits, case studies, practical demonstrations, detailed design exercises and the preparation of assignments and reports. Work is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions.

These courses also explore the hard science behind landscape architecture and give students a thorough grounding in the knowledge that underpins their design work. Students learn the basics of plants, including their physiology, ecology and design application, together with the related soil science and planting technology. They also gain an understanding of hard landscape including the principle and application of site grading, drainage, structures, and the properties and uses of materials in landscape construction.

The courses are assessed through a combination of continuous coursework assessment (40%- 100%) and examination (0%- 60%). Continuous coursework assessment is usually by various methods including homework, group work, quizzes, group projects, assignments, integrated coursework, presentation, and individual study. The usual output mainly comprises annotated diagrams and short written descriptions (up to a total of 5,000 words for the whole course).

Visual Communications courses

(6 credits requiring approximately 120-180 hours of student learning activities per course).

These courses introduce students to the essential tools of design communication, and teach the fundamentals of graphic design as a means to describe space visually. They investigate approaches and techniques to manage, manipulate, and envision information, using various computer software to link photography, drawing, and video media.

Teaching is conducted in lectures / workshops / tutorials / review sessions (36-48 contact hours per course), and activities include case studies, practical exercises, demonstrations, and the preparation of assignments and reports. Assessment is 100% continuous coursework assessment of drawings, diagrams, photos, renderings, animations, physical models, prototypes and project presentation (up to 5,000 words for the whole course).

Electives in Landscape Studies

(6 credits each, approximately 120-180 hours of student learning activities per course)

The BA(LS) curriculum requires that BA(LS) students complete elective courses, totaling a minimum of 24 credits. Guidance will be provided by Programme Staff to ensure appropriate elective selection within the BA(LS) curriculum or other courses within the University.

The elective courses within the BA(LS) curriculum explore advanced issues in landscape technology, landscape representation, landscape history, landscape theory, digital media and fabrication in landscape architecture and sustainability in landscape architecture. Specific topics and offerings will vary based on the instructor's discretion.

Teaching is conducted in lectures / workshops / tutorials / review sessions (36-48 contact hours per course), and activities include the examination of critical texts, research, writing, direct engagement in the design and physical construction of built landscape works under the guidance of a Registered Landscape Architect or teacher in the programme. Electives are assessed through a combination of continuous coursework assessment and examination in accordance with the descriptions of individual courses. Continuous coursework assessment includes written essays, research exercise, site visits, study reports, practical exercises, oral presentation, prototyping and fabrication. Written format assessments may range to a total of 5,000 words for the whole course. Overseas study trip may be required by some elective courses.

In lieu of one elective course, students can also do either an independent field study (36-48_contact hours) or an independent research project (36-48 contact hours) as an "independent study in landscape studies", on a topic of their interest, with approval from the Programme Director. These courses are assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment by various methods including research reporting, progress presentations and the final report submission (up to a total of 5,000 words for the whole course).