

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Studies BA(LS)****CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

(Applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2025-26 and thereafter)

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

All courses are 6-credit courses with the exception of the Design Studios which are of 12 credits. The Design Studio, and Disciplinary Elective courses are assessed through 100% continuous coursework assessment. Courses on Landscape History and Theory, Ecology and Technology, Landscape Media, and a Faculty Interdisciplinary course are assessed through a combination of continuous coursework assessment (ranging from 50%-100%) and examination (ranging from 0%-50%).

The total student learning hours are between 3600 and 4860 hours, and the total contact hours are between 1116 and 1584 hours for the 162 credits of Professional Core in Landscape Studies.

Landscape Design courses (12 credits each)

(12 credits each, requiring approximately 300-360 hours of student learning activities per course)

These courses, known also as ‘studios’, engage students with a variety of guided, problem-based design exercises that address key issues in the field of landscape architecture. Landscape Design studios prepare students for innovative, effective and responsible action at site, community, environmental and regional scales. Studio projects encourage students to synthesize design skills with their development knowledge of landscape architectural theory, environmental analysis and technical issues.

Teaching is conducted in two to three four-hour design studio sessions per week (96-144 contact hours for Design Studio courses), and involves working on projects in both group and individual formats. Work is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions.

Assessment for the courses 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).

Landscape History and Theory courses (6 credits each)

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

These courses examine the theories and practice of landscape architecture through a comparative study of the history of environmental design and urbanism across diverse geographic and cultural contexts.

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 are assessed through a combination of continuous coursework assessment (50%-100%) and examination (0%-50%). 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.

Ecology and Technology courses (6 credits each)

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

These courses explore issues of climate, geomorphology, hydrology, plant physiology, and ecology as they relate to landscape architectural planning, design, implementation, and management. Across the courses, a strong emphasis is placed on principles of environmental sustainability and ecological design. The courses also establish the essential technical, material and structural knowledge, along with scientifically-ground concepts, that underpin the landscape architect's professional expertise and practice. 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.

The courses are assessed through a combination of continuous coursework assessment (50%-100%) and examination (0%-50%). 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).

Landscape Media courses (6 credits each)

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

These courses introduce students to the essentials of design communication, and teach the underlying principles and up-to-date techniques behind effective representation, data visualization, mapping, and graphic design as a means to visualize and materialize concepts, research and designs in time and space. Students learn how to freehand, 2D and 3D drafting, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and physical model-making. They investigate approaches and techniques to manage, manipulate, process, create and visualize site and information using an array of digital and analogue tools.

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. The courses are assessed through a combination of continuous coursework assessment (50%-100%) and examination (0-50%). Continuous coursework assessment of drawings, diagrams, photos, renderings, animations, physical models, prototypes and project presentation (up to 5,000 words for the whole course).

Disciplinary Elective courses (6 credits each)

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

Outside of the four curricular subject areas, Disciplinary Electives are advanced or specialized courses that are part of the Professional Core intended to expand and deepen knowledge in particular areas of interest. The disciplinary elective courses offered within the BA(LS) curriculum explore topics in:

- i. History and Theory

- ii. Technology and Construction
- iii. Digital Media and Fabrication
- iv. Environment and Sustainability
- v. Practice and Management

These disciplinary electives may be taken in either the third or final year of study. Students may seek guidance or advice in selecting courses according to their specific area of interest. It should be noted that not all courses would be offered every year and that new courses may be introduced in any year.

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 100% continuous coursework assessment. 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.

Architecture Faculty Interdisciplinary course (6 credits)

The 6-credit Architecture Faculty Interdisciplinary Course comprises 150 hours of student learning activities, including lectures and tutorials (24-36 contact hours), as well as independent study. Assessment is through 70% coursework (individual assignments and a group project) and 30% written examination, with total output requirement of up to 4500-5000 words.
