MAJOR OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

The master of arts in interior architecture program is designed for students who have received an undergraduate degree in interior design, interior architecture, or architecture, and who wish to continue to challenge themselves in an academic setting.

The program aims to create ethical, socially conscious design thinkers and leaders in the industry of the built environment. Emphasis is on conceptual thinking and the design process, community engagement, and leadership in the profession. The core of the program comprises a consecutive studio sequence that challenges students to solve a problem by creating a spatial design solution. Students work collaboratively, focusing on global design issues, serving clients of varied income and diversity spans, and community involvement.

This program is offered on a full-time basis only.

Visit the program website (https://corcoran.gwu.edu/interior-architecture-graduate/) for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall – April 1 (February 1 for applicants applying for assistantships/fellowships)

Standardized Test Scores: GRE is not required.

Test Scores:

- The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 6.0 with no individual score below 5.0;
- TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based;
- PTE Academic: 53

Students who are admitted with the requirement to take an English for Academic Purposes course must be available to take this course in the summer preceding enrollment in the MA program.

Recommendations required: Two recommendations on business letterhead.

Prerequisite: A bachelor’s degree in either interior design or architecture. The MA in Interior Architecture is a post-professional degree and is only open to students with an undergraduate degree in architecture or interior design.

Prior academic records: Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

Statement of purpose: In an essay of 250 - 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application.

In addition to the statement of purpose, applicants must submit answers of approximately 75-100 words to the following questions:

1. In your own words, how would you define the profession of interior design?
2. What current designers influence you and why?
3. What are some considerations that an interior designer must adhere to while designing interior architectural space?
4. How will your undergraduate degree and any previous work experience contribute to the MFA in Interior Architecture Program?

Additional requirements:

A portfolio that shows interior design and/or architecture projects from undergraduate work as well as projects undertaken as a professional are welcomed. Creative projects (i.e., photography, sketches, and fine art) may be included; an interview may be requested.

Portfolios must be uploaded to your online application or emailed to ciarc@gwu.edu. Digital portfolios must be submitted as one document. You may also mail your portfolio directly to the Interior Architecture Program:

500 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
International applicants only: Please review International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

For more information on the admission process, please visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions page.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences – Graduate Admissions Office
The George Washington University
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 215
Washington DC 20052

Contact for questions:
askccas@gwu.edu ~ 202-994-6210 (phone) ~ 202-994-6213 (fax)
8:30 am - 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 30 credits, including 24 credits in required courses and 6 credits in elective courses.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fall Semester</strong></td>
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<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIAR 6800</td>
<td>Studio A</td>
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<td>CIAR 6825</td>
<td>Advanced Visual Communications Methods</td>
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<td>CIAR 6850</td>
<td>Architectural Design Theory and Criticism</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td></td>
<td>One approved 3-credit Corcoran School course (see below).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Spring Semester</strong></td>
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<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIAR 6900</td>
<td>Studio B</td>
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<td>CIAR 6925</td>
<td>Psychology of the Built Environment</td>
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<td>CIAR 6950</td>
<td>Leadership in Design</td>
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Elective

One approved 3-credit Corcoran School course (see below).

Example elective courses:

**Interior Architecture**

- CIAR 6225 Interior Materials and Color Theory
- CIAR 6350 Sustainability and the Built Environment
- CIAR 6325 Case Studies from Bauhaus to Bilbao
- CIAR 6425 Lighting and Acoustics
- CIAR 6525 Practicum and Internship
- CIAR 6550 Structures and Building Systems

**Art History**

- CAH 6213 Islamic Art and Architecture
- CAH 6220 Proseminar in Italian Art and Architecture of the Thirteenth Through Fifteenth Centuries
- CAH 6221 Proseminar in Italian Art and Architecture of the Sixteenth Century

**Exhibition Design**

- CEX 6011 Spatial Representation and Making I
- CEX 6012 Spatial Representation and Making II
- CEX 6014 Materials, Detailing, and Fabrication/Installation
- CEX 6100 Lighting, Acoustics, and Design for the Senses
- CEX 6110 Materials, Detailing, and Fabrication/Installation
- CEX 6210 Special Topics in Exhibition Design
- CEX 6230 Art and Design Writing

**Fine Art**

- CSA 6512 Photography: Altered Landscapes
- CSA 6612 Video: Remixing the Archive
- CSA 6913 Painting Off the Wall
- CSA 6915 Public Spectacle in Socially Engaged Art
- CSA 6951 Creative Photovoltaics
### Museum Studies

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMST 6302</td>
<td>Museum Exhibition Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMST 6403</td>
<td>Museums and Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMST 6701</td>
<td>Museum History and Theory</td>
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Students also participate in the CIAR MFA/MA Design Dialogue Series. This monthly series brings together all CIAR graduate students to discuss various topics related to the field, led by rotating faculty. Students do not earn credit for their participation.