

# MASTER 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 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;

or - TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based;

or - 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: Two (2) recommendations on business letterhead required.

**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 MA 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](mailto:ciarc@gwu.edu). Digital portfolios must be submitted as one document.

**International applicants only:** Please review International Applicant Information (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants>) (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences - Office of Graduate Studies  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107  
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/>) page.

Contact:

askccas@gwu.edu  
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 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.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Fall semester</b>		
Required		
CIAR 6800	Studio A	
CIAR 6825	Advanced Visual Communications Methods	
CIAR 6850	Architectural Design Theory and Criticism	
Elective		
One approved 3-credit Corcoran School course. See example courses, below.		
<b>Spring semester</b>		
Required		
CIAR 6900	Studio B	
CIAR 6925	Psychology of the Built Environment	
CIAR 6950	Leadership in Design	
Elective		
One approved 3-credit Corcoran School course (see below).		
<b>Sample elective courses:</b>		

Interior Architecture	
CIAR 6225	Interior Materials and Color Theory
CIAR 6325	Case Studies from Bauhaus to Bilbao
CIAR 6350	Sustainability and the Built Environment
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	
CMST 6302	Museum Exhibition Design

CMST 6403 Museums and Technology

CMST 6701 Museum History and Theory