

# MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN THE FIELD OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

Students in the master of fine arts (MFA) program in the field of interior architecture learn about habitable environments ranging from residential interiors to larger, more complex commercial and institutional spaces. With projects focusing on current design issues as well as lectures and visits from professionals to enhance assignments, the curriculum is a carefully sequenced series of courses building on theoretical, technical, and creative competencies. Students explore theory and research as they build toward a culminating final project.

Because of the program’s location in Washington, DC, students benefit from viewing exhibitions at the National Building Museum, pursuing research at the Library of Congress, attending trade shows such as NeoCon East, attending lectures offered by the Washington Design Center, and visiting organizations such as the U.S. Green Building Council. Taking advantage of these offerings moves learning outside the classroom and into the industry with practicing professionals in interior design.

This program is for candidates who have completed undergraduate work at an accredited institution in an area of study other than interior design, interior architecture, or architecture.

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

## ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines:	Fall – April 1 (February 1 for applicants applying for assistantships/fellowships)
	GRE is not required.
	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.
Standardized Test Scores:	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 MFA program.

Recommendations required:	Two (2) letters of recommendation must be provided on business letterhead and each recommender is required to sign their respective letter. Letters written by family members, friends, or acquaintances will not be considered. Previous professors, instructors, and employers are strongly encouraged to write letters of recommendation on behalf of the applicant.
Prerequisite requirements:	A bachelor’s degree in a field other than interior design, interior architecture, or architecture, including a minimum of 30 credit hours of liberal arts and science courses.
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 Interior Architecture Program?
Additional requirements:	Please submit a portfolio that shows interior design and or architecture projects with diagrammatic process work (such as sketches) from undergraduate assignments as well as projects undertaken as a professional are welcomed. Creative projects (i.e., photography, sketches, and fine art) may be included.  Portfolios must be uploaded to your online application. Digital portfolios must be submitted as one document.

The MFA in Interior Architecture is a first professional degree and not open to students with an undergraduate degree in Architecture or Interior Design.

**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:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#regulationsgraduatetext>).

60 credits in required courses.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
CIAR 6100	Studio 1–Graduate	
CIAR 6125	Graphic Communications	
CIAR 6150	Sketching Architecture and Design	
CIAR 6200	Studio 2–Graduate	
CIAR 6220	Interior Design History and Culture	
CIAR 6250	Digital Drafting and Modeling	
CIAR 6300	Studio 3 (Graduate) (8-week session)	
CIAR 6320	Interior Materials and Color Theory	

CIAR 6350	Sustainability and the Built Environment (6-week session)
CIAR 6400	Studio 4 (Graduate)
CIAR 6425	Lighting and Acoustics
CIAR 6450	Research Seminar for Studio 5
CIAR 6500	Studio 5–Grad
CIAR 6525	Practicum
CIAR 6550	Structures and Building Systems

Optional MFA courses:

CIAR 6560 Advanced Topics in Interior Architecture: Interested students can enroll when the department offers a study abroad program or a unique topic as an elective.

CIAR 6570 Independent Study can be taken on a topic approved by a faculty member. Enrollment is highly selective.