

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.

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 United States Green Building Council. Taking advantage of these offerings moves learning outside the classroom and into the industry with practicing professionals in interior design.

The program is for candidates who have completed undergraduate work at an accredited institution in an area of study other than interior design or a related field, such as architecture. Students explore theory and research as they build toward a culminating final project.

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

ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall - February 1: Priority consideration for admission and funding; April 1: Guaranteed review for admission and consideration for funding, if available. (Applications for admission will continue to be accepted after April 1, when space remains available in the program.)

Standardized 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 MFA program.

Recommendations: (2) recommendations on business letterhead. required:

Prerequisite requirements: A bachelor’s degree in a field other than interior design 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: A portfolio that shows creative work (i.e., photography, sketches, and fine art) is required; an interview may be requested. Please note that the inclusion of interior design projects within the portfolio is not required nor expected. The objective of the portfolio is to see your artistic and design-related pursuits.

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/#degreeeregulationtext>).

60 credits in required courses and a 120-hour internship.

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 60 credits in required courses.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Required | | |
| First year, fall semester | | |
| CIAR 6100 | Studio 1–Graduate | |
| CIAR 6125 | Graphic Communications | |
| CIAR 6150 | Sketching Architecture and Design | |
| First year, spring semester | | |
| CIAR 6200 | Studio 2–Graduate | |

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| CIAR 6225 | Interior Materials and Color Theory |
| CIAR 6250 | Digital Drafting and Modeling |
| First year, six- and eight-week accelerated summer sessions | |
| CIAR 6300 | Studio 3 (Graduate) (8-week session) |
| CIAR 6325 | Interior Design History and Culture (6-week session) |
| CIAR 6350 | Sustainability and the Built Environment (6-week session) |
| Second year, fall semester | |
| CIAR 6400 | Studio 4 (Graduate) |
| CIAR 6425 | Lighting and Acoustics |
| CIAR 6450 | Research Seminar for Studio 5 |
| Second year, spring semester | |
| CIAR 6500 | Studio 5–Grad |
| CIAR 6525 | Practicum |
| CIAR 6550 | Structures and Building Systems |

Optional MFA courses:

CIAR 6560 Selected Topics (Interested students enroll when the department offers a study abroad program or a unique topic as an elective.)

CIAR 6570 Independent Study (On a topic approved by a faculty member. Enrollment is highly selective.)