Department of

Landscape Architecture

Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)
Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA)
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Planning and Design (BSEPD)
Welcome

At Rutgers’ Department of Landscape Architecture, our students see, study, design, plan, build, and imagine the world.

Our department is more than majors and programs — it is people, activities, and ideas. We are a closeknit community that values diversity and encourages open dialogue about pressing environmental and social concerns.

We are committed to sustainable and resilient solutions to improve human and environmental health and well-being, for now and for the future. Our interdisciplinary approach to these solutions is both analytical and creative, engaging students in art, science, theory, and practice.

Our outstanding faculty is made up of individuals with critical expertise and experience, including professional designers and renowned scholars.

Being a student in this department is a rigorous 24-7 experience that engages learning both inside and outside the classroom. Students benefit from a range of instructional approaches including lectures, design studios, field trips, and independent research.

Our student clubs offer opportunities for extracurricular engagement, such as Parking Day installations in New Brunswick and participation in professional conferences.

Blake Hall on the Cook Campus of Rutgers is our home, but our community extends into our cities, suburbs, countryside, and globally.

Grounded in Rutgers’ long history of research and extension services, our department is committed to addressing the complex challenges communities face today. Our students also enjoy opportunities to travel and study other regions of the U.S. and internationally, thanks to study abroad courses and the Roy DeBoer Travel Prize.

This brochure describes the breadth of opportunities available to you as a student and as a future professional.

At the undergraduate level, our department includes two degree programs — an accredited Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture (LA) and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Planning and Design (EPD).

At the graduate level, our department offers three options. The accredited Masters of Landscape Architecture 1 (MLA1) serves students without accredited undergraduate degrees.

The MLA2 is designed for landscape architects seeking to specialize. Our 4+1 program allows students to merge undergraduate and graduate studies.

You are welcome to visit the department to see for yourself all that is happening!
What is Landscape Architecture?

Landscape architects pay crucial attention to the human dimension of place. We command the technical skillsets that come from our strong grounding in natural processes and materials. We create transformative landscapes that impact daily lives.

Positioned within the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, we have many avenues to examine the evolution of ideas shaping the interaction of people and place, and to increase understanding of ecological communities and their integration in the designed landscape.

Learning Environment
Our undergraduate and graduate curricula are nationally accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board. Studio courses provide a one-to-one relationship between faculty and student to encourage personal growth. The collaborative studio environment promotes diverse and interdisciplinary solutions. Students apply their developing design skills by working with real clients on real sites.

Change the World
The Landscape Architecture profession expands across scales to understand the interconnectedness of human and ecological systems, positioning landscape architects as leaders in interdisciplinary teams. We use design in combination with planning, engineering, and social science to foster healthy environments that address social justice and our changing climate.

What is Environmental Planning and Design?

The Environmental Planning and Design (EPD) program at Rutgers University strives to consider our relationship with the land in an effort to foster ethical solutions to critical environmental issues.

For decades, the human population has consumed more resources than the earth’s ecosystems can generate. Clearly, this model cannot continue, and we need visionary alternatives that foster sustainability.

The EPD program promotes sustainability, regardless of location, strives for social equity, and envisions a post-industrial landscape that includes functional ecosystems.

The EDP program gives students a foundation in natural and social sciences, planning and policy, as well as design so that they have the skills needed to change the world.

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The Geomatics option and minor foster a recognition of the importance of scale and scope to environmental issues. It provides the requisite technology skills (GIS, cartography, remote sensing) needed to improve, plan, and manage natural systems.

Both the Landscape Industry and Urban Forestry options provide a focus on the empirical aspects of open space and green infrastructure with unique applied practical experience.

The Landscape Planning option provides students with an opportunity to examine the theory and principals of sustainability within the context of both social and environmental ethics. It establishes a foundation for exploring the juxtaposition of development, open space, and agriculture.

The Geo informatics option and minor foster a recognition of the importance of scale and scope to environmental issues. It provides the requisite technology skills (GIS, cartography, remote sensing) needed to improve, plan, and manage natural systems.

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Unique opportunities at Rutgers

Travel and Study Abroad
There is only so much you can learn about places from text books. You have to see them, experience them. Every year, the Roy DeBoer Travel Prize funds the best individual student proposals to travel in the U.S. and abroad. We also offer a 5-week summer studio abroad that is taught by our faculty, in collaboration with partner institutions. These programs take place in Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan and other countries. SEBS scholarships are available to support international study.

Student Clubs
A close knit community supports the learning experience. Student clubs organize field trips, travel to conferences and special educational sessions. Most of all, they provide opportunities for students to develop their own voice, work collaboratively on self-directed projects, and socialize outside of class. Student Clubs advance initiative and leadership skills.

Independent Research
The Master’s Thesis in the MLA program is the capstone of our graduate education. Topics include creative site design projects, innovative planning approaches, and research in history and theory. Our faculty further supports individual undergraduate research via the George H. Cook Scholar Program and welcomes student participation in faculty research projects.

Travel and Study Abroad
Munich / Germany

Travel and Study Abroad
Barcelona / Spain

Travel and Study Abroad
St. Croix / U.S. Virgin Islands

Travel and Study Abroad
La Pietra / Italy

The Office of Agriculture and Urban Programs (OAUP)
Our students are actively engaged in community outreach in New Jersey cities, suburbs, and rural areas. OAUP supports campus outdoor learning labs, including our student farm where students can learn about urban agriculture and community food security. Under the umbrella of OAUP, the Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES) integrates design, sciences, and engineering to bring innovative solutions for open space, resilience and habitat issues to New Jersey’s urban communities.

Rutgers Gardens
The Gardens are, in many ways, our extended outdoor classroom where we can study the horticulture collections throughout the changing seasons. The grounds are used for design-build projects, providing hands-on student learning while improving the experience for garden visitors. We also offer Rutgers Garden internships and a Public Garden Management course taught by the Director of Rutgers Gardens.
**BSLA Timeline**

**FRESHMAN YEAR**
- Drawing
- Architectural design
- Environmental planning

**SOPHOMORE YEAR**
- Design studio
- Materials and grading
- Plants
- Environmental planning studio
- History of Landscape Architecture
- Ecology
- Parks

**JUNIOR YEAR**
- Site design studio
- Geographic information systems
- Computer graphics
- Open topic studio
- 3D-computer drawing
- Garden design
- Society, culture & design
- Site design studio
- Geographic information systems
- Computer graphics
- Open topic studio
- 3D-computer drawing
- Garden design
- Society, culture & design

**SENIOR YEAR**
- Urban design studio
- Construction details
- Electives
- Open topic studio
- Site design studio
- Geographic information systems
- Computer graphics
- Open topic studio
- 3D-computer drawing
- Garden design
- Society, culture & design

**GRADUATE STUDIES**
- Landscape Architecture offices, large and small
- Interdisciplinary engineering firms
- Community design centers and land trusts
- Parks departments, from city departments to the National Park Service
- Real estate development companies

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**For more information:**
http://landarch.rutgers.edu/BSLA

**Study abroad during summer break**
- Düsseldorf, Germany
- Kyoto, Japan

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**Our graduates speak:**

**April Maly**
BSLA Class of 2013
"...RULA teaches you how to think through complex problems in a way that pushes you out of your comfort zone. You’re forced to ask questions like ‘Why is this?’ or ‘Is this even possible?’..."

**Maria Torres**
BSLA Class of 2013
"...RULA gives you the necessary tools to break out of your comfort zone and take on new challenges, preparing you for any job you step into..."

**Jimmy Brosius**
BSLA Class of 2010
"...I always felt challenged in a way that pushed me to be a better designer (...) I received the individualized attention and feedback from professors that I needed to help develop my designs and work through my ideas..."

**Ty Triplett**
BSLA Class of 2010
"...the Rutgers Landscape Architecture department allows students to tackle a wide range of landscape issues from urban to agricultural, giving students the full breadth of ways Landscape Architecture can affect positive change for our future..."

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For more information:
http://landarch.rutgers.edu/4plus1

"To learn more about the 4 PLUS 1 PROGRAM, please go to http://landarch.rutgers.edu/4plus1"
Aaron D’Addio  BSEPD Class of 2013

...my experience in Blake Hall significantly prepared me for my career through its comprehensive curriculum, knowledgeable instructors, networking with industry professionals, and practical internship opportunities. I owe my success to my solid foundation built at Rutgers...

Sarah Moran  BSEPD Class of 2010

...the program opened my eyes to all of the analysis and technology that goes into planning for things that most people take for granted, such as welcoming public spaces or highway ramp configurations...

Brandon Rogers  BSEPD Class of 2015

...I learned that in the field of Environmental Planning and Design, mapping is an incredibly powerful tool to convey information and ideas in a complete and concise way...

Eliot Nagele  BSEPD Class of 2016

...the Department of Landscape Architecture taught me that true knowledge lies in your ability to address real world scenarios. This program has empowered me to develop strategic solutions to environmental problems within my own community...

For more information: http://landarch.rutgers.edu/BSEPD
Jennifer Burkhalter
MLA Class of 2015

...The MLA program has been a tremendous asset to my life and work. It absolutely fortified my resolve to pursue a career in Landscape Architecture... I have been inspired and enlightened by the challenges and opportunities of the profession and continue to dream of the future of landscape architecture."

Miloni Mody
MLA Class of 2015

...The RU LA graduate faculty is broad in its interests, but deep in its commitment to teaching and training students. It’s a lot of work, but a great profession..."

Andrew Op’t Hof
MLA Class of 2015

...the program offered opportunities that combined my interests in environmental and sustainability challenges under the guidance of some of the most knowledgeable professors and most interesting teaching assistants in the country. I would not have been able to or even consider pursuing a career in landscape architecture without this experience and the hard work that I put into my degree..."

David Hanrahan
MLA Class of 2013

...the program offered way more than I expected. It set me on the best track for pursuing my career researching environmental and ecological challenges under the impact of urbanization. The excellent and caring faculty ensured a rewarding experience as an international student. These were the best three years of my life..."

For more information:
http://landarch.rutgers.edu/MLA
Some of our distinguished alumni

Andrea Cochran  FASLA
Principal Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture
Class of 1976

“Landscape architecture has been a pathway for me to be an ‘artist of the land.’ It has been a way for me to combine my interests and craft a career in the arts and the environmental sciences.”

In 1998, she founded Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture in San Francisco. Her projects include corporate headquarters, hotels, urban redevelopment, wineries, public spaces and parks, and high-end residential designs.

Andrea and her team have won over 15 national and international prizes.

acochran.com

E. Timothy Marshall  FASLA
Principal ETM Associates, LLC
Class of 1983

“There’s a general recognition that more needs to be done with fewer resources. What’s not clear is how to do it.”

ETM Associates was formed in 1997 and specialized in public space design and management. The firm is concerned with all aspects of public space and sees design, implementation and ongoing management as a continuum of related professional activities.

As former Deputy Administrator and Vice President for NYC’s Central Park Conservancy, Timothy was involved in the development and implementation of the park’s restoration and management plan.

etmassassociatesllc.com

Kenneth H. Klipstein
Director Watershed Protection Programs NJ Water Supply Authority
Class of 1988

“New Jersey is a great place to practice Environmental Planning because of the state’s population density and the complexity of its ecology and geology. My passion for the field, and in particular Watershed Management, has been challenged and more than fulfilled by my career path.”

Ken began his career in public service in 1988. He has served as an Assistant to the NJDEP Commissioner, Bureau Chief in the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program and Bureau Chief of the Division of Watershed Management. Ken is now the Director of Watershed Protection Programs for the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.

raritanbasin.org

Tara Kenyon  AICP/PP
Principal Planner Somerset County Planning Division
Class of 2004

“My degree in Environmental Planning and Design has given me the opportunity to marry traditional planning practice with sustainable, healthy, efficient, and vibrant concepts and designs. This career truly allows you to see the positive mark you have made on the natural and built environment.”

Tara is a Principal Planner at the Somerset County Planning Division, and Administrator of the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board. Her role includes a focus on farmland preservation, Right-to-Farm, community outreach, and implementation of sustainability initiatives and projects.
...reuse and reconstitution of land, soil, materials and water are strategic practices that confront the question of original authorship in architecture...

Landscape Architecture is at the forefront of mastering the ever-increasing environmental challenges through creative and meaningful designs at sometimes unexpected places...

The ultimate test in design or environmental planning is a vibrant, competent ecological function within the urban context. Urban forestry programs link design to execution and long-term management planning...

...bringing new impulses to research and teaching in the field by bridging the gap between landscape history and contemporary practice...

...how can restoration ecology of urban and degraded habitats mesh with Landscape Architecture design?

...landscape is common ground to create connections between people within studio, link to communities, create bridges with clients, and gather together artisans and contractors...

...dedicated to serving the Blake Hall community...

...technology should facilitate, never encumber, the design of our environment. And even though virtual environments often seem to be close representations of reality, those are still only abstractions of where we live our lives...

...our lives occur in a landscape imbued with cultural and environmental significance. Design has the potential to enable good choices as well as delight...

...studying ways to apply geographic information science (GIS) to creating healthier and more sustainable communities through both teaching and research...

...Landscape Architecture has the opportunity and ability to utilize design in order to problem solve in myriad ways; it is a field in which one can both create and give back...

...EPD offers a rich selection of career paths and encourages students to explore the professions of their choice...

...human spatial experience is the essence of the art of Landscape Architecture, but how can it be explored and expressed in an age of sustainability and high technology?

...an incredibly rewarding profession that remains exciting and challenging for more than 37 years...

...if sustainability is truly a human goal then the development of a functional land ethic must be possible within the paradoxical context of the urban environment...

...landscape is where life is lived...

...landscape is simply the by-product of people working and living, and sometimes coming together, sometimes staying apart, but always recognizing their interdependence...

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Admission

The Landscape Architecture Department’s website provides links to both the undergraduate and graduate school requirements for admission to Rutgers.

In addition to the University’s application requirements, graduate program applicants must also submit a portfolio that contains samples of original work. Recognizing that many MLA 1 students may not have any art or design background, applicants are challenged to use this opportunity to organize a small collection of work of any kind that expresses creativity.

More information and all links are available at landarch.rutgers.edu.

Tuition

Full-time undergraduates who are residents of New Jersey can expect to pay approximately $17,500 for tuition and campus fees annually. Non-resident undergraduates can expect to pay approximately $34,500 annually. On-campus housing costs vary, but are likely to add $6,000 or $7,000 per year. Meal plan costs vary widely and represent an additional expense.

In-state annual tuition for graduate students is about $20,000 and for nonresident graduate students, about $32,000. Housing and meal plans are available and represent additional expenses. Detailed information is available at student actu.rutgers.edu/tuition-and-fees.

Financial Support

Awards, internships, research and teaching assistantships, and financial aid are available through the Department of Landscape Architecture, the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University, and from external organizations. Descriptions of many of the department awards are available at landarch.rutgers.edu/awards.html.

A list of graduate fellowships is available at gradstude.rutgers.edu/financial/fellowships.

Located between the metropolitan areas of New York City and Philadelphia — and just 35 miles away from the Jersey Shore — Rutgers University is a hub of knowledge exchange and cultural diversity.

As a research institution with deep ties to communities, businesses, and alumni in the surrounding areas, Rutgers also serves as an incubator of innovative ideas and a resource for career opportunities.

Rutgers’ location offers access to a great variety of natural and urban landscapes to explore and experience. Students can visit the preserved coastline at Island Beach State Park in New Jersey, a restoration project at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, or the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge adjacent to the Philadelphia International Airport.

Surrounding Rutgers is a vast array of gardens, parks, and arboreta including Central Park, Longwood Gardens, Liberty State Park, and the NYC Botanical Gardens.

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