PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY

MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The M.S. in Interior Architecture program meets the needs of prospective students who hold a non-design undergraduate degree and seek to obtain a comprehensive professional-level education. It also offers up to one year of advanced standing for those already in the field who are interested in refining their knowledge and skills at the graduate level. So whether you are seeking an introduction, or want to build on your previous academic and/or work experience, this program will prepare you to reach your full potential and to join firms specializing in many areas of practice including corporate, residential, healthcare, hospitality, retail, and education.

The M.S. in Interior Architecture program provides a balance between theory and application, and immerses students in the use of current technologies and sustainable practices. The curriculum ensures that you will be fully prepared to join the profession immediately upon graduation, and assume roles in design, production, management, or principal positions during your career. In addition, it incorporates an international perspective and will prepare you to do projects across international boundaries and to work anywhere in the world.

The outlook for the profession, according to the Occupational Handbook of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, projects that the employment of professional designers of interior environments will grow 19 percent through 2016 alone — considerably faster than other areas. Following graduation and after completing your internship, you will be qualified to sit for and pass the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) certification exam, which is recommended throughout the United States and Canada, and is a prerequisite for licensure in many jurisdictions, and for membership in professional associations such as the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and the International Association of Interior Designers (IIDA).

AREAS OF STUDY
Areas of study include: foundation two-dimensional and three-dimensional design, advanced spatial/interior design, analogue and digital representation techniques, programming, sustainable design, building structures, construction methods and technologies, building systems and lighting, color theory, design detailing, materials, finishes, codes, barrier free design, universal design, professional practice, and ethics. The name Interior Architecture is a further reflection of the program’s underlying educational philosophy and pedagogy, emphasizing the design of the entire interior environment encompassing all parts of the interior volume, and acknowledging the continuum between architecture and interiors.

CURRICULUM SEQUENCE
The full program is designed as a 69 credit curriculum and can be completed in two to three years depending on the previous education and experience of the student. The Program Director reviews each applicant’s academic and work history to determine specific placement in the program. The curriculum contains five educational tracks: Core Studios, History & Theory, Technical/Support, Graphic Communications, and Practice. Courses are offered in two 15-week semesters per year, as well a required study abroad term in the summer between year two and year three. In addition to traditional coursework, students are required to complete a structured internship during their last semester, under the supervision of an academic advisor and a professional mentor at the host firm.

To learn more about this program, please contact Graduate Admissions at 215.951.2943 or 800.951.7287 or by email at gradadm@PhilaU.edu.

www.PhilaU.edu/MSIA
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Before matriculation in the fall semester, students seeking advanced standing will be reviewed by the Director of the MS in Interior Architecture program, who will evaluate each applicant's academic and work history to determine the student's specific course of study. Following evaluation, students may be admitted into the program for the full three-year sequence, or be required to take only select courses from the Year 1 curriculum, or be permitted to enter starting at Year 2.

ADMISSIONS
Applications to the program are submitted to the Philadelphia University Office of Graduate Admissions. The program requires a bachelor's degree, and all applications must include official undergraduate transcripts, a current resume, two letters of recommendation and a personal essay. The submission of a portfolio is optional, though it is highly recommended that students seeking advanced standing submit a portfolio of relevant work.

CURRICULUM

FALL SEMESTER – YEAR 1  
(Required for those with unrelated undergraduate degrees)
- IARCP-501 Design I for I.A. 4 credits
- IARCP-503 Graphic Representation 3 credits
- IARCP-505 History of Design I for I.A. 3 credits

SPRING SEMESTER – YEAR 1  
(Required for those with unrelated undergraduate degrees)
- IARCP-502 Design II for I.A. 4 credits
- IARCP-504 Visual Communication I 3 credits
- IARCP-508 Presentation Techniques 3 credits

FALL SEMESTER – YEAR 2  
(Required)
- IARC-601 Design IIIA for I.A. 4 credits
- IARC-603 History of Design II for I.A. 3 credits
- IARC-607 Technology I for I.A. 3 credits
- IARC-610 Textiles and Materials 3 credits

SPRING SEMESTER – YEAR 2  
(Required)
- IARC-606 Design IV for I.A. 4 credits
- IARC-608 Technology II for I.A 3 credits
- IARC-610 Materials & Textiles 3 credits
- IARC-604 Visual Communication II 3 credits

SUMMER – YEAR 2  
(Required)
- IARC-701 Design V for IA (abroad) 3 credits
- IARC-702 History of Design III for I.A. 2 credits

FALL SEMESTER – YEAR 3  
(Required)
- IARC-701 Design VI for I.A. 4 credits
- IARC-707 Technology III for I.A 3 credits
- IARC-708 Professional Practice & Ethics 3 credits
- IARC-709 Research & Programming 2 credits

SPRING SEMESTER – YEAR 3  
(Required)
- IARC-791 Internship 1 credit
- IARC-710 Thesis for I.A. 6 credits
- Elective 3 credits

Year 2 + Year 3 subtotal 49 credits
Total credits required for graduation 49-69

STUDY ABROAD AND INTERNSHIPS
A key feature of the program is a required study abroad component. The MS in Interior Architecture program has partnered with the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS) in Copenhagen, Denmark. Philadelphia University students join design students from across North America and spend six weeks at DIS doing both studio and field work in design and history studies.

A structured and monitored internship in Year 3 is also required. A faculty advisor assists students in finding an appropriate internship placement with companies and organizations that are well-known and highly respected in the field. Students are expected to complete a minimum of 240 hours (two eight hour days a week for 15 weeks) in their internship and to make a significant contribution to their employer.