

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING AND DESIGN (URPD)

Graduate Degree Program
School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Abstract

The School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation offers a Doctoral Program, the Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning and Design. Participating programs include Urban Studies and Planning, Architecture, Historic Preservation, Landscape Architecture, and The National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education. The program prepares students to teach at the university level in departments of Urban Planning, Architecture, Historic Preservation, Real Estate Development, or Landscape Architecture, as well as qualifies graduates to conduct research and participate in high-level decision-making in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Intimate and highly competitive, the Ph.D. program offers students a tailored Ph.D. experience and the flexibility to bridge a number of disciplines related to the built environment, including urban planning, design, historic preservation, and real-estate development. Our nationally renowned faculty, the affiliated National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, and proximity to the architecturally rich, historically significant, and diverse urban fabric of the Mid-Atlantic region make the University of Maryland an exciting place to study urban planning, design, and historic preservation.

Financial Assistance

The School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, and other research labs together anticipate a few research assistantships available to Doctoral students. Compensation for assistantships includes tuition assistance for up to 10 credit hours per semester, plus a stipend. For more information contact the Doctoral Program. Students may also find financial support on faculty research projects and teaching possibilities in the undergraduate and master's programs.

Contact

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School of Architecture, Planning, & Preservation

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Website: <https://www.arch.umd.edu/programs/phd> (<https://www.arch.umd.edu/programs/phd/>)

Courses: ARCH (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/arch/>) HISP (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/hisp/>) RDEV (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/rdev/>) URSP (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/ursp/>)

Relationships: National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG) (<https://www.umdsmartgrowth.org/>), Environmental Finance Center (EFC) (<https://arch.umd.edu/research-creative-practice/centers/environmental-finance-center/>)

ADMISSIONS

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume
- Portfolio PDF Upload (optional)
- Writing Samples (two required, up to one more optional)
- Description of Research/Work Experience (optional)
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (optional)
- Master's degree in a related field.

The program is highly selective and individualized. Approximately five students will be admitted each year. Students admitted to the Ph.D. program will be expected to have completed a Master's degree in a related field, including but not exclusively urban planning, architecture, historic preservation, or landscape architecture. Students are expected to enter the Ph.D. program with two semesters of graduate-level quantitative research methods. These courses can be taken after the entrance to the program and prior to their advanced methods course.

Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	January 9, 2026
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	January 9, 2026

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Program Website: <http://www.arch.umd.edu> (<http://www.arch.umd.edu/>)

Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

REQUIREMENTS

- Urban and Regional Planning and Design, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/>)

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