

# MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE FIRST-PROFFESIONAL

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Master of Architecture program is a NAAB accredited professional degree program in the area of architectural design. It is intended for individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree with a major other than one of the design professions, (typically requiring three years of residency at USC); or, with advanced standing, for those individuals with a pre-professional undergraduate degree in architectural studies (typically requiring two years of residency at USC).

+3: Individuals who have completed a four-year Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree, or its equivalent, with no prior degree in architecture, are eligible for admission to the three-year professional degree program. A minimum one-semester college-level course in physics or calculus is required. Preparation in the visual arts such as drawing, sculpture, graphics and/or basic design is strongly encouraged. Courses in the humanities, ecology, history of art, and architecture are strongly encouraged, although not required.

+2 Advanced Standing: Students seeking advanced standing must have a four-year architectural studies degree from: a U.S. school with an accredited professional architecture program; a U.S. school that is accredited by a regional accrediting body, without an accredited professional architecture program; or an international program that is deemed equivalent. Students with advanced standing are required to complete a minimum two year residency, or 4 semester units of study at USC.

*Applicants will only be considered for the track for which they apply. Students wishing to apply to more than one track must apply to each track separately.*

## HOW TO APPLY

Applying for Graduate Admission to the USC School of Architecture is a multi-step process. So that you do not miss any important requirements, please make sure that you read all the information in the application instructions below.

**STEP ONE: USC Graduate Online Application ([USC CAS](#))**

Start your USC online graduate application [here](#).

Once you have created your account and logged in, add your graduate program/s of interest under the "Add Program" tab. The USC Graduate Application consists of four quadrants (Personal Information, Academic History, Supporting Information, Program Materials) and you must complete each section in full before you can submit the application.

For help videos, visit the Office of Graduate Admissions website [here](#).

**STEP TWO: SLIDEROOM APPLICATION VIA USC CAS**

All applications materials must be uploaded to your SlideRoom application. You will access the SlideRoom application under the "Programs Materials" (quadrant four) of the UCS CAS application. In order to ensure that your USC CAS and SlideRoom applications sync properly, it is important that you access SlideRoom via USC CAS only.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

### → TRANSCRIPTS

Make sure to upload a copy of your university-issued transcripts (i.e. issued on official letterhead) under the “Academic History” section of the USC CAS and the SlideRoom applications. Please note unofficial transcripts from university student portals are not acceptable. International applicants may visit [USC Graduate Admission’s “Country Requirements”](#) page for details on required documents.

Please click [here](#) for detailed guidelines for sending your official transcripts to USC.

All applicants, domestic and international, are required to take the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Scores are considered valid only if earned within five years to the month of your intended first term at USC. Only electronic scores received directly from the testing service are considered official. USC ETS School code: 4852 (no department code is required).

Please submit a copy of your GRE score report on SlideRoom for preliminary reviews.

### → RESUME AND/OR CV

Please upload this document detailing your employment, education, extra-curricular collegiate and community activities, honors, awards, publications, professional organizations, hobbies, travel, and any other relevant information you would like to include directly into SlideRoom

### → STATEMENT OF INTENT

Please clearly describe your study intentions and interests. Upload this document directly into SlideRoom. There are no minimum or maximum length requirements.

### → THREE (3) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Applicants are required to submit three letters of recommendation from academic or professional references. Applicants who have been out of school for several years may request letters from employers or mentors who can evaluate their professional abilities and academic potential. Recommenders will receive instructions via email once the applicant has designated their recommenders and inputted their email addresses through the online application. Letters of recommendation must be submitted through the SlideRoom system. We will not accept letters of recommendation through postal mail or via email.

## → PORTFOLIO

### ADMISSION WITH NO PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION: +3

The portfolio submission is an opportunity for you to tell us about your creative experiences. Candidates may demonstrate design aptitude by submitting examples of freehand drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic design, furniture, product design, etc. The portfolio will help us understand your visual and spatial thinking skills, aptitude for design, and a capacity to think and design in three dimensions.

### ADMISSION WITH ADVANCED STANDING: +2

The design portfolio is a compilation of one's own work, which demonstrates past creative and graphic ability. It should include drawings and photographs of models from past architecture design studios, professional work, or any other artistic/creative activity.

Format: The portfolio submission should consist of a minimum of 10 and up to 25 digital image files uploaded online. Images (up to 5MB each), Video (up to 250MB each) and Models (Sketchfab). You may also link to media from YouTube and Vimeo.

Other electronic formats or CD/DVD submissions will not be accepted. Please do not send original or bound materials. We do not accept hard copies. Please do not send more than one online submission for the same program. You may only submit a digital portfolio through SlideRoom.

### APPLICATION FEE:

Non-refundable USC Graduate Application fee of \$90 and SlideRoom fee of \$20 applies. Fee Waivers: USC offers several options for graduate application fee waivers. Please review these options before you submit your application, so you can make the appropriate selection to request a waiver. In order for you to apply with a fee waiver, the Office of Graduate Admission must approve your request before you can submit your application. Please click here for more information.

### OBTAINING YOUR USC ID:

You will receive your 10-digit USC ID number via email within two to three business days after you submit your online application. It is important to remember that this ID number is different from the one that appears on your USC CAS application. Please keep this ID on record and make sure to include it in all your communication with USC. You will also need to include it when mailing any documents to the university.

# M.ARCH FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS ONLY

In addition to the items listed above, International applicants must also submit the following items:

## → ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

International applicants must demonstrate adequate English-language proficiency by submitting either TOEFL or IELTS scores by the listed deadlines found on the department website. Scores are considered valid only if earned within two years of your intended first term at USC.

(For example, no earlier than August 1 two years prior if applying for the fall term.)

The School of Architecture is interested in reviewing scores above the university's minimum requirements. The following scores are the department's minimum requirements.

## TOEFL: 95 OR ABOVE, WITH 20 OR ABOVE IN EACH SECTION

The scores must be submitted electronically to USC from ETS to be considered official. Photocopies or paper copies of scores are not acceptable as official submission.

USC Institution code: 4852  
(no department code is required).

Information may be obtained from TOEFL, Educational Testing Service:

<https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about>

## IELTS: 6.5 OR ABOVE, WITH 6 OR ABOVE ON EACH BAND

The scores must be submitted electronically to USC from the testing service to be considered official. Photocopies or paper copies of scores from the testing service are not acceptable. Select "University of Southern California" from the list of available institutions when you register to take the IELTS test. Alternatively, provide this information to your testing center after you have taken the test. Contact information for the USC department to which you are applying is not required.

In addition to the above submission requirements, upload a copy of either your TOEFL or IELTS score to the graduate online application for preliminary reviews.

Information may be obtained from IELTS:

<https://www.ielts.org/>

**IMPORTANT:** To avoid a delay in the processing of your application, you are encouraged to take all required exams at least one month ahead of the application deadlines. It takes time for ETS or IELTS to send to the university and USC Admissions Processing to upload to your applicant file.

## → FINANCIAL DOCUMENT(S) AND PASSPORT COPIES

Admission to the School of Architecture is based on merit rather than ability to pay. The U.S. government, however, requires that all international applicants provide proof of adequate financial support and passport copies for you and any applicable dependents before a formal letter of admission and an I-20 or DS-2019 can be issued. To learn more about our costs, financial document submission guidelines and immigration procedures, please click [here](#).

It is not necessary to submit your financial documents and a copy of your passport for your program to review your application. However, doing so early in the application process will help prevent possible delays in processing your I-20/DS-2019 after you certify your intent to enroll.

It is possible that you do not need an F-1 or J-1 visa to attend USC. Please click [here](#) to determine if you are exempt from these visa categories.