

Study guide
pre-master
Urbanism
& Landscape
Architecture



Amsterdam
Academy of
Architecture

Contents

PRE-MASTER URBANISM & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 5

Learning objectives 7

Prior education 7

Admission 7

Registration 7

Timetable 7

Programme 9

Assessment 21

A Master's degree after your pre-master? 21

Facilities 23

Contact 27



PRE-MASTER URBANISM & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

This pre-master offers students the opportunity to get to know the study programmes Urbanism and Landscape Architecture at the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture in an active manner. Through a strong interaction between theory and practice, the Academy trains both conceptual and realistic designers. This formula is also applied to this pre-master. In addition to making designs, the programme is characterised by: research, experimentation, discovery, interviews and excursions. Moreover, the Academy of Architecture goes further than the traditional pre-master, because we explore different disciplines and apply various research and design techniques. In this way, this varied programme stimulates the independence and curiosity of the students, gives the students a clear insight into both fields of study and enables the students to experience what a study programme at the Academy of Architecture entails.

The pre-master is suitable for students from art academies or other relevant study programmes and professionals. If the pre-master is successfully completed, you will be better prepared for any Master's programme at the Academy of Architecture. A unique aspect of this pre-master is that we combine the fields of urbanism and landscape architecture. The Academy believes that it is important that urbanists, landscape architects and architects think and work in an interdisciplinary manner.

Course details

study load: 15 ECTS

period: End of August - January and January - June

language of instruction: English

coordination: Jean-François Gauthier en Ania Sosin

registration: via the website

Learning objectives

During the pre-master Urbanism & Landscape Architecture, you will work on various learning objectives:

1. Basic knowledge of the landscape
 - History and landscape architectural features of gardens, parks, estates and large green areas.
 - The relationship between the structure of the landscape and the subsoil
 - Human impact on the formation of the landscape, types of landscape
 - Overall knowledge of planting and ecology
 - Operation of water systems
 - Relationship between landscape architecture, urbanism and architecture
2. Knowledge of the fields of urbanism, physical planning and public housing
 - Urban morphology and the history of urbanism
 - Housing types, living environments
 - Public space typologies
 - Knowledge of traffic systems
 - Programme such as amenities and work areas
 - Knowledge of land utilisation, density and ratios
 - Relationship between landscape architecture, urbanism and architecture
3. Design skills – technology and design
 - Become aware of the design process
 - Working with dimension and scale
 - Designing with zoning map, profiles and details
 - Use of plants and shrubs
 - Deploy the programme strategically
 - Parcelling, zoning and dimensioning plots
 - Learning to design with time)
 - Learning to create effective presentations and portfolios

Prior education

You can register in one of the following cases:

- You have completed a higher professional education degree programme (*hbo-opleiding*) at an art school in the field of spatial design.
- You are a professional with a completed Bachelor's degree who would like to do the Master in Urbanism or Landscape Architecture, but you lack important professional knowledge or design skills in your prior education.

The language of instruction for the pre-master is English.

Admission

For admission to the pre-master Urbanism & Landscape Architecture, you must send us your CV, your motivation letter and your portfolio. Based on this, we will assess whether you are suitable for the pre-master.

Registration

Registration is possible via the online application form at www.bouwkunst.ahk.nl. You have until autumn 2024 to register for the second semester 2024-2025. You have until spring 2025 to register for the first semester 2025-2026. For the precise deadline, please visit www.bouwkunst.ahk.nl

Non-EEA/EU students may only participate in the pre-master in the second semester from January to June due to visa regulations. The pre-master will go ahead in the event of a minimum number of eight participants. You will know whether the pre-master will definitely be going ahead no later than six weeks before the start of the pre-master.

Timetable

The pre-master Urbanism & Landscape Architecture starts with a four-day workshop, with class hours from 9.30 to 16.30.

The pre-master has fixed lesson times each week:

Tuesday from 19:30 - 22:30

Thursday from 19:30 - 22:30

Friday from 09:30 - 16:30

In addition, we occasionally organise activities at other moments in the week.

DESIGN

The workshops and studios stimulate creative and intuitive design. *Learning by doing.* You will get to know all elements of the design process by drawing, making scale models, presenting and engaging in discussion with each other. Experienced lecturers will stimulate your design skills and challenge you to push the boundaries. The examples and inspirations from lectures, excursions and exercises will be used in design studios.

Programma

Workshop Connection

Learning objective: Learning by doing. Go through the design steps of a project by means of making scale models and discussions.

Assignment: Anyone who has ever been to London has been able to experience what the significance of a fragmented city is. Different neighbourhoods of varying origins have barely any connection with each other. In this assignment, we will examine the theme of connection. Various fragments from the city will be connected with each other by means of an object.

Planning: The workshop takes place during four days from 09:30 to 16:30. Thursday afternoon the final result will be presented.

End result: The design process is approached from different roles and themes. This challenges students to explore all possible schools of thought in a design process. In doing so, they practise with the way in which imagination and communication play a role in the design process.

Required material: It is not necessary to purchase materials before the start of the workshop. This can be done on-site and arranged in consultation with the lecturer.

Credits: 1 ECTS (all contact hours with the lecturer)

Lectures 1

Learning objective: The main focus of the Lectures 1 is building up theoretical knowledge about the fields of urbanism and landscape architecture. On the basis of examples, the development of the Netherlands in terms of urbanism and landscape architecture is explained in chronological order. In response to the lecture, an excursion is made to an example of a time period during Exercises. No report is expected from the lectures. The knowledge gained can be used in the studios and the exercises.

Landscape Architecture lectures

The main question for the lectures about gardens and landscapes is: why do they look the way they do? In addition to examining the formal aspects of the designs, attention is devoted to the historical, cultural and technological context.

The lectures include roughly 3 periods:

- Classical antiquity – AD 1750
- AD 1750 – 1900
- AD 1900 – present

Urbanism lectures

The main question for the urbanism lectures is: how did cities develop over time? According to Kenneth Frampton (architect and author of various classical studies on architecture and urbanism) Amsterdam is THE textbook example for international developments in the field of urbanism. In the urbanism lectures, the history of the development of the city and the different time layers of urbanism in Amsterdam will be considered within the context of political, economic, social and technical developments. Subjects are Medieval Amsterdam, the Canal Ring of the Dutch Golden Age, Berlage's Plan Zuid, the Amsterdam Extension Plan by Van Eesteren, new urban extensions, such as IJburg.

Planning: Lectures will be given on Tuesday evenings at 19:30.

Credits: 1 ECTS (all contact hours with the lecturer)

Exercises 1

Learning objective: In Exercises 1, ideas from landscape architecture and urbanism are explored by means of exercises and excursions.

The excursions are interrelated with the material handled in the Tuesday lecture. The different scales of landscape architecture and urbanism are dealt with in the exercises. From garden to landscape and from building to city. Exercises and excursions are the inspiration for the studio.

Planning: One week urban planning is the subject of the lecture, excursion and exercise, the other week it is landscape architecture.

Required material: Scale ruler, crêpe-tape, roll of sketching paper 30 cm wide, Edding 1200 permanent marker, Edding 1200 permanent marker, Staedler fineliners 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7 (cheap version is Pilot fineliner), Pentel Sign pen black and red, B to 4B pencils.

Credits: 2 ECTS (of which 18 contact hours with the lecturer)

IMAGINATION

In addition to inspiration and a design, you need imagination in order to talk about your ideas and make them visible. During these months, you will learn how to make scale models, drawings, photos, collages and booklets in order to communicate your ideas.

Studio 1 – Landscape Architecture

Learning objective: The main focus in the studios is the skill of designing. In Studio 1, conceptualisation, fascination and stance are practised in particular and the translation hereof into words and images. Studio 1 is a landscape architectural assignment.

Assignment: This studio focuses on the relationship between urban dweller and nature. The assignment consists of the design of a new connection between city and landscape.

By means of analysis and design, hidden layers in the landscape are uncovered. The landscape is examined as part of a larger spatial system. The consequences of a changing use are visualized with a spatial design.

Method: On the basis of photos, sketches and working models, work is carried out on the translation of the assignment. This occurs both individually and during brainstorming sessions with the lecturers. The work is also briefly presented in the group in the interim period.

Result: The presentation form will be determined in consultation with the lecturer. The final presentation is an individual oral explanation of the interpretation of and the answer to the assignment. The final presentation must contain the following design steps: research into fascination, analysis, concept and translation into a spatial design. The spatial design is represented with a profile, detail, reference image or imagination.

Credits: 3 ECTS (of which 21 contact hours with the lecturer)

Lectures 2

Learning objective: In the second series of lectures, the contemporary practice of landscape architecture and urbanism will be the main focus. In addition to a number of lectures about the themes that are currently playing a role in the field of landscape architecture, the current practice of urban design assignments at this time will be explained further.

For example, attention will be paid to the development of the Dutch landscape, the way in which climate change is providing new assignments for the landscape architect, and the way in which biodiversity can be incorporated into assignments.

In the case of urbanism, major transformation assignments will be explored further, as well as designing in context and designing with urban typologies.

Planning: Lectures will be given on Tuesday evenings at 19:30.

Credits: 1 ECTS (all contact hours with the lecturer)





Exercises 2

Learning objective: In Exercises 2, basic knowledge about the building blocks of design in landscape architecture and urbanism will be explored by means of exercises and excursions.

Attention will be devoted to the layers in the landscape, layers in the urban construction, a short introduction of plant sciences, urban typologies, construction of public space underground and above-ground.

Planning: On the Friday morning an excursion will be organized following the themes of the lecture. In the afternoon the exercise will be made.

Required material: Scale ruler, crêpe-tape, roll of sketching paper 30 cm wide, Edding 1200 permanent marker, Edding 1200 permanent marker, Staedler fineliners 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7 (cheap version is Pilot fineliner), Pentel Sign pen black and red, B to 4B pencils.

Credits: 2 ECTS (of which 18 contact hours with the lecturer)

Studio 2 – Urbanism

Learning objective: In Studio 2 the emphasis is on working out a concept, using the urban toolbox.

Assignment: Based on a given program you will make a design for the transformation of a piece of existing city.

Method: Using the techniques learnt in Workshop Connection, Exercises 1 and Studio 1, students will work towards a plot plan – the place of the building in the public space – and a design for the public space in relation to the type of building.

Result: At least two panels containing all steps of the design: analysis, concept, plot plan, design of public space and planting scheme or structure, crucial detail, sections and visualisations/reference images. Each student presents his/her story on the basis of these panels.

Credits: 3 ECTS (of which 21 contact hours with the lecturer)

Final Project

In addition to the lessons, the student will work in his/her own time on the final test. This homework assignment is of a design-based nature, but knowledge elements are incorporated herein based on the gaps, which are established for the student in the first half of the minor. The assignment made by the student is presented to the coordinator (and possibly a visiting critic) and assessed just like the studios on the basis of the Academy of Architecture's assessment forms. During the presentation, a statement of a problem, formulated assignment, analysis, design, plus an important profile or detail must be shown. The manner of presentation is free.

In the case of the students with a preference for urbanism, that will mean an assignment in the city, urban fringe, neighbourhood or public space. In the case of the students with a preference for landscape architecture, that will mean an assignment on a regional scale, a park, square or garden. The type of analysis-argument must tie in with the specific assignment of the student.

During the presentation of the final test, the student will be asked to summarise the other components of the course in a portfolio.

Credits: 2 ECTS (of which 18 contact hours with the lecturer)

Assessment

The students' skills will be assessed during the pre-master at a number of moments. The assessment will be done on the basis of an assessment form on which the feedback from the lecturers is specified.

Assessment will be given for: Studio 1, Studio 2, Exercises 1, Exercises 2, Final project. Compulsory attendance applies to all programme components.

There may be circumstances as a result of which you are not able to attend a lesson. It is important to pass this on to the coordinator and the lecturer. A way to catch up with the lessons will be examined in consultation with the coordinator.

A Master's degree after your pre-master?

Have you successfully completed the pre-master Urbanism & Landscape Architecture and received a positive recommendation from the lecturers? In that case, you will have a very good chance of being directly admitted to the Master in Urbanism or Landscape Architecture at the Academy of Architecture.

Facilities

Academy premises

During term time, the opening hours of the premises are:

- Monday to Thursday: 09:00 - 23:30
- Friday: 09:00 - 19:30

Everyone must have left the premises no later than fifteen minutes before closing time. The premises are closed during the Christmas holiday and for three weeks during the summer holiday.

Canteen

The canteen is open on:

- Monday to Thursday: 17:30 - 23:00
- Friday: 09:00 - 19:00

Library

The library has a specialised collection in the fields of architecture, urbanism and landscape architecture. The material consists of books, maps, DVDs and magazines.

The opening times of the library are:

- Monday to Thursday: 16:00 – 21:00
- Friday: 09:00 – 18:00

Workshops

The model workshop is fitted with basic equipment and is in the first instance intended for students who want to get to work, but do not have the space or the equipment to do so at home. It is therefore not only a classroom but above all a workshop for the individual student. Students can also work on individual projects here. Students are only allowed to make use of the facilities of the workshop after they have received training. This training is scheduled in the curriculum. Certain machines can only be used under the supervision of the coordinator of the workshop. Please note the official opening times. This also applies to working with plaster.

Model workshop

The model workshop of the Academy is open on:

- Monday to Thursday: 09:00 - 22:30
- Friday: 09:00 - 19:00

On Fridays, an employee is present in the workshop for supervision and instruction, and work can be carried out with the heavier machines and in the plaster room. An appointment can be made to work in the plaster room with practice instructor Martijn Troost via 06 51298911.

Working with new technologies

There is another workshop located at the Marineterrein in Amsterdam: the AHK MakerSpace. This workshop offers students the possibility to experiment with the newest technologies and machines, such as 3D-printers and laser cutters, in order to build, among other things, scale models, models and installations. Students gain access to the workshop with their student ID card after they have received training about the use of machinery and equipment, as well as about company emergency response (BHV). An instructor is present during the day.

AHK MakerSpace

The opening times of the MakerSpace are:

- Monday to Friday: 8:00 – 00:00
- Saturday: 9:00 – 18:00

Instructors are present:

- Monday and Tuesday: 09:00 – 21:00
- Wednesday and Thursday: 09:00 – 19:00
- Friday and Saturday: 9:00 – 17:00

Room schedule

The Academy works with the Iris application for scheduling lessons and rooms. The schedule can be viewed by all lecturers and students via the Iris app and by asking at reception. It is possible to reserve a particular room in advance. This can be done via reception during the day or via the caretaker's department in the evening. Study components may take place at other locations than on the Academy premises.

AHK account and email

The information for activating the AHK account will be sent to the email address that the student submitted at the registration for the minor. The student will receive this email no later than two weeks before the academic year begins (probably around mid-August) or, if applicable, two weeks before the second semester begins (probably December or January). If the AHK account is not activated via this email, the account will not work. For questions about the AHK account or to report a problem, please send an email to helpdesk@ahk.nl or call +31 (0)20-5277752. All communication from the AHK and the Academy is via the AHK account. Please ensure, therefore, the account is activated before the study begins.

MyAHK

MyAHK (www.myahk.nl) is the primary means of communication to keep students informed about the day-to-day affairs at the Academy and the AHK.

Educator student information system

The student monitoring system Educator is available via MyAHK. Students can view their study progress and results in this system. The assessment forms can be seen at the end of each quarter in Educator.

Stages

The digital learning environment Stages is the online support for education at the Academy. Staff, students and lecturers are in contact with each other through this study platform in which all information regarding education is organised. Within Stages, students can build and design their own portfolio site in the form of a fully-fledged autonomous (WordPress) website.

AHK card

The AHK card is used as an access pass to the premises and as a library card. It is possible to pay for the coffee machine with a bank debit card.

Contact

Are you doubting whether you meet the admission requirements for the pre-master? Have you got questions about registering? Do you have any other questions? Please look on our website www.academyofarchitecture.nl or contact avb-studiesecretariaat@ahk.nl

Academy of Architecture,
Waterlooplein 211-213
1011 PG Amsterdam
T +31 (0)20 5318218
www.academyofarchitecture.nl

Do you more questions about the organisation and/or the Master's programmes? Please see the online study guide via: www.academyofarchitecture.nl

Colophon

Publication

Amsterdam Academy of Architecture
September 2024 (subject to amendment)

Editor

Esther den Hertog

Final editing

David Keuning

Photography

Mirjam Koevoet, Michelle Mol, Brandeis fotografie,
Ahmed Ibrahim, Maud Aarts

Design

Studio Sander Boon



20



Academy of Architecture
Amsterdam University of the Arts