

King Saud University  
College of Architecture and Planning  
Department of Architecture and Building Sciences



**المركز الوطني للتقويم والاعتماد الأكاديمي**  
**National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation**

# Program Handbook

College of Architecture and Planning  
Department of Architecture and Building Sciences  
Postgraduate Study Programs  
2021

The Department of architecture and building science has established postgraduate study programs intended to upgrade the students' professional abilities, to better serve the community and the future of the country. Since the year 1983<sup>84</sup> a Master degree in architecture sciences has been offered successfully, and in a Doctor of Philosophy degree program was established.

The Deanship of Graduate Studies (DGS) was established in 1973 to specifically address the needs of the current and prospective graduate population. As the University has always aspired to make available specialized higher education so as to meet the needs of the Kingdom of qualified graduates holding high academic degrees, in 1978 the University Council approved, the establishment of the College of Graduate Studies. Afterwards, in 1997, name was amended to the Deanship of Graduate Studies to further support the graduate population. This was due to an increased interest in providing services designed for current and prospective graduate students. DGS's profile has expanded to include more full-time masters and doctoral students.

DGS at King Saud University (KSU) administers all graduate programs and implements regulations and executive procedures relating to these programs. It communicates the benefits of the graduate education within and beyond the KSU community. The DGS fosters collaborations with industry, government, national universities, and world-class universities to insure that: high academic standards for graduate studies are maintained; diversity across graduate programs and graduate students is valued and respected; new graduate programs that are in line with the academic needs, keep pace with scientific and technical progress, and address social issues are initiated; policies and procedures related to graduate education are fair and consistent; creativity and innovation are encouraged; serving the comprehensive national development plans is sought; and providing graduate education and serving graduate students are integral parts of the university mission.

KSU aspires to achieve excellence and innovation. Hence, the DGS has established its strategic ten-year plan to complement the University's strategic initiatives specifically in the areas of enriching graduate educational experiences and to meet current and future

The undertaking of the DGS requires leadership based upon strategic visioning of the Kingdom's needs for a graduate-educated citizenry and workforce, wise stewardship of King Saud University's human, physical and financial resources in behalf of delivering outstanding programs. The strategic objectives and initiatives that follow, derived from an analysis of the current status of graduate studies at KSU, amplify these ideas.

- 1- Provide and foster internationally competitive graduate and professional programs that support interdisciplinary inquiry, intellectual development, knowledge and skill acquisition, and student success.
- 2- Attract, nurture and retain graduate students of high caliber, ability and passion.
- 3- Foster innovative and high quality research.
- 4- Promote cross-program/college collaborations and increased opportunities for interdisciplinary programs.
- 5- Develop strategic and active national and international partnerships in graduate education.
- 6- Expand and strengthen the infrastructure and financial base needed to propel and sustain progress in graduate education.

## 7- Enhance administrative the infrastructure of the Deanship of Graduate Studies

### **KSU's Admission requirements:**

#### Master's Programs

A score of at least 70 in the General Aptitude Test, except for students on external scholarships and (executive / medical education) programs.

#### PhD Programs

A score of at least 45 in the TOEFL-iBT test, 4 in the IELTS Academic test, or 60 in STEP; the concerned department may require a higher score.

A score of at least 70 in the General Aptitude Test, except for students on external scholarships.

### **Admission requirements as per the Unified Law of Graduate Studies:**

1. Applicant must be a Saudi citizen or, if non-Saudi, on an official scholarship.
2. Applicant must have a university degree from a Saudi university or any other accredited university.
3. Applicant must have a record of good conduct and be medically fit.
4. Applicant must submit two letters of recommendation from professors who have taught him.
5. Applicant, if an employee, must provide his employer's approval for studying.
6. PhD applicant must enroll as a full-time student, otherwise approval of KSU's Council shall be needed.
7. The department may require that the student pass some complementary courses from a previous university stage.

### **Additional requirements as per concerned programs as follows:**

Tuition fee in Saudi riyals			
	Higher Diploma	master	PhD
 Humanities Programs	30,000	70,000	100,000
 Scientific Programs	40,000	80,000	120,000
 Health Programs	50,000	100,000	150,000*
 Joint Master Program in Environmental Sciences	×	90,000	×
 Joint Master Program in Renewable Energy	×	80,000	×

The tuition fee must be paid before registering for courses in equal semester installments at the beginning of each academic semester (or at the beginning of each academic year if the program follows an annual study plan) as per the minimum period allowed to gain the academic degree according to the study plan of the program.

In case the student exceeds the regular minimum period (two semesters for higher diploma, four for the master's degree, and six for the doctoral degree), an additional fee must be paid according to the number of additional semesters as follows:

Additional Semester Fee (in Saudi Riyal):

Programs	Higher Diploma	Master's	PhD
Humanities	3000	4000	5000
Scientific	4000	5000	6000
Health	5000	6000	7000

The study unit fees for complementary courses, if required, are as follows:

Study Unit Fee (in Saudi Riyal)	Master's			PhD		
	Humanities	Scientific	Health	Humanities	Scientific	Health
	1000	1200	1300	2000	2400	2600

#### Tuition Fee Remission Policy:

The tuition fee remission can be provided according to the official university academic calendar as follows:

1. Before the end of the second week of the commencement of the academic semester.
2. Within three working days of the issuance of the university ID number if issued after the end of the second week of the commencement of the academic semester.
3. 70% of the tuition fee can be refunded in the event of dropping or withdrawing from the semester after the end of the second week up to the end of the fifth week of the commencement of the academic semester.
4. The tuition fee cannot be refunded after the end of the fifth week of the commencement of the academic semester.

English tests accepted and equivalent scores:

STEP	IELTS	TOEFL	
	Academic	Internet-based (IBT)	Paper-based (PBT)
100	7	94	587
97	6.5	79	550
83	6	61	500
75	5.5	53	475
67	5	51	466
64	4.5	48	458
60	4	45	450
56	3.5	39	425
52	3	32	400

**Note:**

In the event that you sit for the required test without using the KSU code and that it was not possible for the Deanship to verify the result of the test, this may impede the completion of final admission procedures. The IELTS Academic only shall be accepted; other tests, including IELTS Indicator shall not be accepted.

**Important Notice:**

Applicants will have to acknowledge that all of the information provided and all of the documents uploaded are true and accurate and that the university is entitled to reject applications and subsequently terminate admission into programs without prior notice; in addition, all legal procedures will be taken against applicants if any concerned information and documents were proven to be fake.

**Departmental Admission Requirements**

MSc in Architecture and Building Sciences, Architecture and Building Sciences:

1. Applicant must hold a full-time bachelor’s degree in architecture from KSU or any university accredited by Ministry of Education with a minimum of an “Above Average” (3.25/5) GPA or equivalent.
2. Applicant holding a bachelor’s degree in urban planning, urban design, environmental architecture, interior design, or interior architecture from KSU or any university accredited by Ministry of Education with a minimum of an “Above Average” (3.25/5) GPA or equivalent may be accepted.
3. Providing a statement of purpose for the study.

PhD in Architecture and Building Sciences, Architecture and Building Sciences:

1. Applicant must hold a full-time master's degree in architecture from KSU or any university accredited by Ministry of Education with a minimum of a "Very Good" (3.75/5) GPA or equivalent.
2. Applicant holding a master's degree in urban planning, urban design, environmental architecture, interior design, or interior architecture from KSU or any university accredited by Ministry of Education with a minimum of a "Very Good" (3.75/5) GPA or equivalent may be accepted.
3. Providing a statement of purpose for the study.

## Master of Architecture and Building Sciences

### Description of the Program

The department of Architecture and Building Sciences offers a Masters' of Architecture and Building Sciences Degree program. This program is intended to upgrade the professionals in both their theoretical and technical aspects.

### The Goals of the Program

- 1) Compliance with the continuous development of the profession and market requirements for new technologies and their implication on the field of Architecture.
- 2) Allowance for exploring new methods and techniques for superior qualities of the built environment not forgetting the cultural aspects of the Muslim communities.
- 3) Prepare Thesis and researches both Theoretical and practical on a Master's level that allow for further graduate studies.

### Rules of Acceptance in Program

Holders of Bachelor of Architecture and Building sciences degree or equivalent are accepted, grades as required by department.

### Requirements of Program

The program is offered through courses and thesis.

A minimum of 36 credit hours, distributed on 30 credit hours of courses and 6 credit hours in the research thesis.

### Program Schedule

Level	Course Code	Course Title	Required or Elective	Credit Hours
Level 1	ARCH 501	Integrated Architectural Workshop	Required	4
	ARCH 580	Design Methods	Required	2
	ARCH 590	Research Methods	Required	3
				<b>9</b>
Level 2	ARCH 503	Advanced Design Research	Required	4
	ARCH 596	Computer Applications in Building Technology And Management	Required	3
	ARCH 599	Special Topics in Architectural Research	Required	2
				<b>9</b>
Level 3	ARCH 513	Special Topics in Architectural Theory and History	Required	3
	ARCH 521	Principles of Facility Design	Required	2
	ARCH 571	Integration of Building Sub-Systems	Required	2
	ARCH 576	Special Topics in Building Economics and Project Management	Required	2
				<b>9</b>
Level 4	ARCH 538	Special Topics in Environmental Design	Required	3
	ARCH 600	Master's Degree Thesis	Required	1
				<b>4</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours for The Master Program</b>				<b>31</b>

### Course Description

#### Arch 501: Integrated Architectural Workshop

This course looks at the factors affecting the architecture design and the construction of buildings. Emphasis on contemporary and future architecture areas of interests shall be made; in order to help each student formulate a background understanding about his own expected research work.

**Arch 503: Advanced Design/Research**

Applications on design and research concerned with the built environment. Depending on each student area of interest. The course is introduced in the form of oriented research work.

**Arch 513: Special Topics in Architectural Theory and History**

A selected topics related to the theories and history of architecture, in order to develop a moor deep understanding about architecture. That well allow students to Handel contemporary technical needs without violating the religious, historical, and the symbolic features of urban areas.

**Arch 521: Principles of Facility Design**

Both criteria and factors affecting the design of facility buildings , together with new developments, theories and related philosophies, will be studied. A deep look at the interrelation between theories and application is in the scope of this course.

**Arch 538: Special Topics in Environmental Design**

Subjects related to; thermal, visual and acoustical performance shall be studied. Emphasis on problems that represents an immediate concern for community will be made. The course adopts a study approach depending on, research groups and seminars.

**Arch 571: Integration of Buildings**

**Sub-systems**

This course looks at; the comprehensive building systems and the analysis of its secondary supporting systems such as; structure, contents and services.. Etc.

**Arch 576: Special Topics in Building Economics and Project Management**

Feasibility analysis, cost planning, running cost control and other investment theories related to building economics, together with subjects concerned with the construction and site management are in the scope of this course.

**Arch 580: Design Methods**

Methodologies and related design methods and processes, shall be examined in this course. This will includes design representation techniques and decision making methods.

**Arch 590: Research Methods**

This course introduces to students the principals of the scientific research methods and techniques. The course will also cover different approaches to research design, testing of hypotheses, data collection and analysis.

**Arch 596: Computer Applications in Building Technology and Management**

Computer applications in the field of architecture and construction industry will be offered. Students shall investigate the capabilities of computing in a verity of areas, using a wide range of computer programs and packages.

**Arch 599: Special Topics In Architectural Research**

This course is intended to develop student research skills, through discussing and analyzing a selected published research works.

**Arch 600: Thesis**

Each student shall submit a thesis in a selected area of specialization.

He factors affecting the economics of the overall building systems will be in the core interest of this course.