

What is Landscape Architecture?



Landscape architecture is the profession concerned with the design, planning, management and stewardship of the land.

When you look around your city or neighbourhood, landscape architecture is everywhere.

Landscape architects work on design projects such as city parks and playgrounds; urban streetscapes; active transportation corridors; conservation and restoration of natural spaces; drainage and stormwater management; nature-based solutions for climate adaptation; university campuses; and health or therapeutic landscapes, to name a few. All outdoor designed spaces have benefited from the work of landscape architects.

Landscape architecture is recognized as a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) discipline. Landscape architects deal with both natural and built environments. They combine their knowledge of ecological systems, sustainability, and spatial analytics to design public spaces that are safe, enhance biodiversity, promote equity and inclusion, and bolster community health and well-being.

Landscape architects work in design firms (big and small), for municipal, provincial and federal governments, as well as non-profit organizations.



How can I become a landscape architect?

A university education is necessary to acquire the skills and knowledge required for landscape architecture. This education can be obtained at the undergraduate (BLA) or graduate level (MLA).

In Canada, there are currently six accredited universities where you can get a degree in landscape architecture:

- » **UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL (MLA)** | Montréal, QC
- » **UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (MLA)** | Vancouver, BC
- » **UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY (MLA)** | Calgary, AB
- » **UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH (BLA/MLA)** | Guelph, ON
- » **UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA (MLA)** | Winnipeg, MB
- » **UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (MLA)** | Toronto, ON

Note: **DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY (BLA)** currently offers an unaccredited degree at the Agricultural Campus in Truro, Nova Scotia.

After your degree, professional work experience, and in some cases passing an entrance exam, is necessary to meet the requirements to become a landscape architect. The requirements vary depending on the province in which you plan to practice.

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) is a professional organization for landscape architects, associate (or intern) members and landscape architecture students.

For more information on landscape architecture, visit our website:

csla-aapc.ca



Images: Various projects from the CSLA Awards of Excellence