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JULY 20TH, 2018

Master of Landscape Architecture Program, Faculty of Environmental Design, at the University of Calgary Receives Accreditation by the CSLA's Landscape Architecture Accreditation Council

Newly accredited program creates more opportunities for
Canadian designers seeking to tackle complex urban and regional challenges

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) Landscape Architecture Accreditation Council (LAAC) has granted the new Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design full accreditation for a three year term. The University of Calgary program is the first new professional landscape architecture degree in Canada since 1980 and the first program in Alberta.

According to Heather Cram, Chair of the LAAC:

The mission of the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Council (LAAC) is to evaluate, advocate for and advance the quality of education in Canadian landscape architecture programs. The LAAC is delighted that the University of Calgary has achieved just this, by developing a program, which will encourage experimentation and innovation in our profession.

Accreditation of the professional landscape architecture program by the LAAC means that the program meets the required standards established by the CSLA for professional practice in landscape architecture. The CSLA Accreditation process involves periodic program reviews by visiting review teams appointed by LAAC. Program self-assessment, teaching faculty credentials, and student course work are reviewed as part of Accreditation visits to promote continual program and student experience improvement. Programs accredited by CSLA through LAAC are also recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB).

The Faculty of Environmental Design MLA is a three-year program which takes students through specialized courses dealing with design theory, environmental and land-use issues, and the use of landscape construction technologies in preparation for students to become future leaders in the landscape architecture profession.

"This is a big day for the University and Alberta's design and construction industries," says Dean John L. Brown, "as we now offer accredited degrees in all three major design professions - architecture, planning, and landscape architecture. I would like to acknowledge the substantial efforts of Dr. Beverly Sandalack, Associate Dean Academic (Landscape + Planning), along with the faculty, staff and students who contributed to the successful achievement of this important milestone."

[Learn about the first graduating class of the new landscape master's program](#)

About the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary

The Faculty of Environmental Design offers three professional graduate degrees (architecture, landscape architecture, planning) and two research degrees in environmental design. A distinctive interdisciplinary educational approach cultivates strong industry partnerships well-suited to practice in this complex, urbanizing world. <http://evds.ucalgary.ca>

About the University of Calgary

The University of Calgary is a global intellectual hub located in Canada's most enterprising city. In our spirited, high-quality learning environment, students thrive in programs made rich by research, hands-on experiences and entrepreneurial thinking. Our strategy drives us to be recognized as one of Canada's top five research universities, engaging the communities we both serve and lead. This strategy is called *Eyes High*, inspired by the university's Gaelic motto, which translates as 'I will lift up my eyes.' For more information, visit ucalgary.ca/eyeshigh.

For more information, visit ucalgary.ca. Stay up to date with University of Calgary news headlines on Twitter [@UCalgary](https://twitter.com/UCalgary). For details on faculties and how to reach experts go to our media centre at ucalgary.ca/mediacentre.

About CSLA/LAAC

The **Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA)** is a professional organization with landscape architect members, associate (or intern) members and student of landscape architecture members. As the voice of the profession in Canada, the CSLA is an advocate for its members on issues such as urban design, urban renewal, sustainable development, climate change and cultural heritage.

The **Landscape Architecture Accreditation Council (LAAC)** is the body of the CSLA responsible for accrediting professional university undergraduate and graduate degree programs in landscape architecture in Canada. It is responsible for: appointing teams to undertake accreditation; recruiting and training accreditation team members; reviewing and approving accreditation reports; reviewing and approving annual reports from universities; advising the Board of its decisions; periodically reviewing applicable accreditation standards and procedures, and maintaining contact with the American Society of Landscape Architects' Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board and other accrediting bodies to ensure consistency of standards.

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