Hi Everyone, thank you for joining us for today's webchat. We have students from our architecture, landscape architecture, city planning, and environmental building design programs here to answer your questions!

Q: Hi! What percentage of the incoming M.Arch class does not have a design background? How does PennDesign's architecture program create this synergy between those with design background and those without?

A: In my experience it's pretty much 50/50.

A: In the beginning of the first year the non-design background undertakes a summer program to introduce them into initial design. After that, the cooperation of the non-design and design students pretty much evens out.

A: The student body here is pretty good at teaching each other and learning from each other when the studio breaks down into their specific groups. And even different class groups share a lot of information with each other.

A: Everyone (both design and non-design background) is pretty much at the same level after the first year of the program.

A: Also, the lecturers here are sensitive to the disparity in skill level and they accommodate for that.

Q: About my financial aid letter: Would the scholarship and loan offers apply for every year of my program, or do they change every year?

A: The scholarship and loan offers will apply every year of the program.

Q: Hey. How often do international students get merit tuition waivers in the MCP program after the first semester at Penn?

A: We are a little unsure of what you're asking. Can you re-phrase your question? International students are considered for merit scholarships the same way US Citizens are.

Q: I have received a scholarship of $4000. Is it possible for me to get more financial aid in the subsequent semesters?

A: Yes you can. You have to resubmit a FAFSA every year.

A: Hello if one has not applied for financial aid for year one of the MLA can one apply again the second year.

Q: Hi, I've got a scholarship, 2000 USD. According ur comment, do i need to apply it again in Fall
2016? I'm a March PPD student.

A: Yes, the $2000 scholarship will be reapplied in Fall 2016.

Q: May I ask that are there any possibilities to win scholarships after attending Penn?

A: I know there are other outside scholarships and grants that you can apply for throughout the year. I am in the MCP program and Kate Daniels is constantly sending us information about upcoming scholarships to apply for.

Q: About wait list. I am wondering what is the possibility of my admission offer according to previous years.

A: It is hard to say. There have been years where we have admitted every applicant on the wait list, and there have been other years where we didn't go into the wait lists at all. We will know more around April 15th.

Q: If accepted, are waitlisted students eligible for financial aid?

A: Yes you will be considered for financial aid if you are admitted.

Q: Has anyone here had experience getting an apartment as a student when your main source of income is loans? Could anyone offer advice on this? Or share your experience? My loans will be dispersed in August, I am told.

A: it is possible to get an advance on your loans so that you can pay first month’s rent but I think if you need a deposit, it could be hard.

Q: What is the projected class size for the incoming M.Arch program?

A: The M.Arch class size is usually around 65-70 students

Q: If I accept my offer, how soon do I get replies from the Admission Office and the Students' Financial Services Office?

A: Hello! You will be receiving a confirmation email within a few days.

Q: What is the class size of first year MLA

A: The class size of the MLA year is about 22-25 students.

Q: I have heard that the M.Arch program at PennDesign is heavily digital based and focused on parametric design, and that it is rare to see students building big models by hand. Is this the experience of M.Arch students, and if so, what do students think about it?

A: I'm well familiar with these notions. However though, the direction of the school has changed a little bit in recent years with the changing of our Chair and the school has re-issued a culture of building

A: I think that you will find now that models have become increasingly popular now: whether its
1:1 scale models of exploratory building techniques, or a flood of pavilions that we've been producing, and even more intricate modeling for studio, models have definitely gotten more popular. Some studios are still into parametric design, especially in the first year. But the focus of the studios varies widely and changes from year to year.

A: In the past, the direction of the school was heavily digital: kind of following similar schools of thought that focused on the digitally responsive and the potential for generative design.

A: While it is true that most of the design work is software based... We do build a lot models by hand- for design studio as well as for our other classes.

Q: May I ask how many students were admitted from wait list last year?
A: We admitted almost no one from the wait list last year, but in previous years we have admitted everyone! It's really hard to say how it will play out this year.

Q: Good morning! I did not apply for the financial aid before because I thought it may have influences on my admission... so can I still apply for it now?
A: You can still apply for financial aid.

Q: What is the class size for MCP? How many international students are there? Thx
A: The class size for MCP is roughly 50-60, and the number of international students is hard to say year to year.

Q: Is it possible to speak to a financial aid officer more in depth about my specific case? (after this webinar)
A: You can give us a call or email us at admissions@design.upenn.edu.

Q: When should the concentration in MCP be decided? Is it possible to change the concentration I chose in the online application?
A: Honestly you do not have to commit to a concentration until that day you graduate if you wanted. As long as you cover the requirements before graduation you have time to decide, you can also change once you've committed.

Q: I'd like to know, for a long term, like 10 years, Does the RA license really matter for international students who would like to stay in US? Because I've heard without the license I could only use the title DESIGNER but not ARCHITECT. Being graduated from PPD, without NAAB accredited, is there some way that could fix this thing? I'm really worried about this.
A: We do not necessarily need a license to work in the US after. Also, MARCH PPD is post professional, meaning we usually have a professional architecture background. Also, the way we start working after graduating is through the OPT. And they do not need any previous license for that.

Q: I do have a professional background but not in US which means I don't have the NAAB
identification. After graduate, I still don't have it/ that's why I’m super worry about this.

A: So, to my understanding, NAAB Accreditation is required to get a professional degree. Since you already have one, the masters does not need to be NAAB identified. I am an international student too with a similar background and it does not create a problem.

Q: I would like to ask that the UD concentration of MCP program is design-based or policy-based?

A: I am in the UD concentration of MCP and it is heavily design-based. With the basic MCP classes you receive more policy-based design and if you are interested in that it is possible to take classes that are aimed towards that, but generally its design-based

Q: How many international students on average are in the MLA class?

A: I would say perhaps 1/4 are international. In the 2nd prof more, and in the 1st, fewer.

Q: Class size of MLA (22-25) means total size including second professional program? I'm wondering about class size of second professional of MLA

A: This is for the 1st Prof degree. For the 2nd prof degree, it will be 15 to 20 or so.

Q: Are there merit based scholarships available to students after a semester?

A: No, unfortunately you are considered every year for scholarships.

Q: I am curious about the environment of the studios. Would you say it's more competitive among students or collaborative?

A: This is for the 1st Prof degree. For the 2nd prof degree, it will be 15 to 20 or so.

A: Thanks so much. That's one of my main concerns about the Ivy League environment; I've heard that many studios are secretive and competitive. I've heard that Penn is different so I'm glad to hear from someone who currently attends!

Q: Is it very hard for international students in MCP to find jobs in US?

A: it's not any harder for international students to find jobs or internships. There is a lot of opportunities to work with the faculty on their research or other firms in Philadelphia while in school as well.

Q: I found links to external scholarships on UPenn's website, but all applicable ones have passed. Are there any others that are notable to apply for now, or after matriculation? I've done numerous google searches, and found a fellowship, but not much else.

A: It's true that many deadlines have passed. You can get a TAship, though, from the department for each semester and you also could check out being a GA in the dorms. Many of our students do this, it pays for your room and sometimes you get free meals and/or a stipend.
Q: I still have not received my pennkey, when will I receive it? Can I start applying for housing as soon as I received my pennkey?

A: There are a few different offices that work together to process new students. Once you accept our offer, we will send your information into the student record system. This process will take a few days, even a couple of weeks. Once you're in the student record system, you'll receive an e-mail with a pennkey set up code.

Q: Is each student assigned one desk/space at studio or per studio. Could not make it to open day yesterday.

A: The set up for all the studios, Arch and Landscape, is similar: one large room thats divided into informal bays depending on which lecturer you get assigned. In each bay each student is given their own desk and locker.

Q: Where can I access placements of international alumni in the community and economic development concentration?

A: The city planning office has a record of alumni where they are located, this can be a little out of date as people move from job to job but there should be plenty of connections for you to make.

Q: How difficult is it to get into the MARCH/MBA program? What is the application process like? I've heard that you have to take lots of tests and that it is near impossible to get in.

A: It is very difficult to get into the Wharton program! Not impossible, but you do know that Wharton is very competitive and being enrolled in the School of Design doesn't seem to make a difference in your favor. That being said, we HAVE had students from PennDesign be accepted into the MBA as well!

Q: HI! Does the ARCH Summer Preparatory Design Studio have any effect on your GPA?

A: The course is for 2 Course Units, so it does count towards your GPA.

Q: How many students find employment in a related field within 6 months of graduation?

A: The Penn Career Services have complete statistics and survey reports on students getting employed, firms as well and timeframes, by the year for all the separate disciplines. http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/reports.php#grad.

Q: I noticed that an internship is required between the first and the second year in MCP, so students should find internship opportunities on their own? Or it’s offered by PennDesign?

A: It is up to the student to find their internship, but PennDesign is incredibly helpful with resources and opportunities.

Q: How difficult is it to register for Wharton statistics classes (or Wharton classes in general)?

A: It is difficult but not impossible. Our PennDesign Registrar works with our students to help them
with this. Students pursuing the Real Estate certificate also can take some Wharton classes (we are guaranteed a certain number of slots).

Q: Hi! I'm wondering whether the March.2 students can also join the summer program about Rhino and Grasshopper? As we join the March.2 program what is the first workshop mainly about?

A: There is a separate summer program (DigiBlast) that provides an introduction to the design software we use such as rhino and grasshopper for PPD or March 2 students.

Q: I want to know, if admitted from waitlist, is there still opportunity to get merit-based or need-based scholarship? Also I want to know, if the chance of getting TA/RAship get lower if I admitted later than April 15?

A: There is still an opportunity to be considered for merit-based and need-based scholarships. If the departments do go into the waitlists, you will be reconsidered depending on how much aid they have left.

A: Also, there is still a chance for TA/RAships. You will have to contact your department chair for more information on the opportunities available.

Q: Is it difficult to apply for scholarship in MCP program? What requirements should I satisfied with?

A: The MCP program scholarships are competitive but there are plenty of opportunities, also check our website.

Q: I would be a dual MCP MARCH candidate. I definitely want to start the MCP program first. Would there be any possibility of switching over to MLA from the MARCH program? I am interested in site design, and would like to get to know the MARCH and MLA programs better in the first year to see which would better fit my interests. I'd just like to know if it is a possibility.

A: Yes you can switch, I believe you would have to reapply to the MLA dual program.

Q: What jobs are available after graduation for MCP students? How do I get more information about previous job placements?

A: What is nice about the program is that you must have an internship during summer so usually that is a nice connection after graduation, but you can get the previous job placement information from the office, specifically from Kate Daniels.

Q: I want to know how to apply for TA in MCP?

A: You should contact Professor John Landis. He can put you on his list for TAships.
Q: In terms of academic concentration, which subjects PennDesign MLA program specifically pursue these days? Like a digital landscape or ecology or etc.

A: Unfortunately, we don’t have a representative from the landscape program here at the moment. However, we recommend contact Yuan Fan, one of our current MLA students. Her information is on our website: https://www.design.upenn.edu/admissions/meet-student https://www.design.upenn.edu/admissions/meet-student.

Q: Is there any way I can contact the other admitted students for the MCP program? Like a Facebook group?

A: PennDesign makes a Facebook group for all admitted students and sometimes admitted students make Facebook groups for their disciplines and post it on that group for students to join.

Q: Will materials from yesterday’s open house be posted for those who could not attend?

A: Our material is pretty much paper...but if you email us, we can scan and send you material.

Q: Do I still have chance to apply dual degree? How to?

A: Yes, you can reapply next year. We will be able to use your information from your application and apply it for the added degree program next Fall 2016.

Q: I am curious about TAships as well. My admissions letter says I have received Federal WorkStudy - would this be a TAship? Or are there various positions this would be?

A: Getting work study means that you are applicable for TAships, however, it is up to the individual lecturers to assign that position and sometimes there are open applications for certain positions. There are other GA (Graduate Assistant) positions as well that fall under the umbrella of work study: fabrication lab operators, IT department and office assistants, etc.

Q: Is there a page or avenue through which accepted MArch students can discuss? I was unable to attend admitted students day and would like to ask around about roommates, etc.

A: There is a Facebook page that is open to admitted students. This is a great way to connect with other accepted M.Arch students and find roommates!

Q: I was admitted by MCP, and I also interested in MLA program, can I apply for dual major and how and when to apply?

A: To apply for a dual degree it is the same admission process and the fee is waived. I just had a friend who recently applied and was accepted into the dual, good luck!

Q: I would like to know more about the studio travel week. Do students have a travel week all 3 years of the program?

A: For studio travel week: that is for the final year of study since in the last year, for both semesters, the chosen site is typically outside of Philly and can range from a place in North
America or more international places (I went to Tokyo this semester). Every summer there are study abroad opportunities as well though that adds 1 credit to your GPA and those are pretty fun (I took the Scandinavia and Sustainability course 2 years ago)

Q: The studio travelweek sounds a lot of fun! Do you get to choose which studio/which place you would like to go? Also, I heard that students are assigned to studios instead of choosing the one to attend in the first year. How does this work and what is the assignment based?

Q: How many students do you have for MEBD per year?

A: We usually have 10 - 15 students on an average for MEBD every year.

Q: I want to know, that as an international full-time student, is it advised to get a GA/TA/Student Work position in the first year? I mean, is the work load overwhelming?

A: The first semester is a large workload, but you can still apply for a GA/TA/Student Work position, just not “work-study”.

Q: Can you please tell, how many students are admitted to MS in Architecture Program and approx. how many are waitlisted? Is it usual that they call from waitlist or is it completely uncertain?

A: The program is such a small program. We admit around 4-6 students. There are currently 3 candidates on the waitlist. They will know around April 15th if they will be selecting off the waitlist.

Q: Is it possible to apply for GA or TA positions for the first semester?

A: it is VERY difficult for first year architecture students to hold down a job! I would not recommend it.

Q: How do I contact Kate Daniels?

A: Kate Daniel's contact information is katf@design.upenn.edu

Q: Do you know its exact name of the Facebook account by any chance?

A: Joan will be setting up the Facebook page soon and I'm sure she will let admitted students know once it is live.

Q: Since UPenn landscape department is extending projects to even wider scales and scopes, will we work on some practical regional or even global projects?

A: Unfortunately, we don’t have anyone from Landscape Architecture here. You can go to our Meet a Student page and ask one of the students there.
https://www.design.upenn.edu/admissions/meet-student

Q: I'm from the 3-yr MLA program. Is it possible to begin a dual degree after I entered the 3-yr MLA program? I mean can I applying for a dual degree in the first or second year of my program, because I can have more time to get to know different programs and choose what I like.
Q: Thanks @JoanWestonAdmin. So would you recommend I don't accept the Federal WorkStudy offered in my admissions letter for the first year?

A: You can accept it if you want but I don't think you would be able to earn the full amount. You can replace it with loan (ie GradPlus) if you decline it...

It is known that PennDesign’s MArch Program focuses on digital and non-linear design. What if I have no interest in these fields and rather learn something more traditional? Will PennDesign offer me some studio other than digital? Thx a lot:

Q: So GA/TA/Student Work positions are available annually?

A: Yes they are available annually.

Q: How much do TA/RA/GA positions pay per month?

A: Typically 1,500-2,000 a semester.

Q: And also, the same with THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM. Can I apply for it in the 2nd or 3rd year?

A: You can apply for it your 2nd or 3rd year, although the sooner you apply for it, the more flexibility you'll have in your program going forward.

Q: What courses does David Gouverneur teach for MCP or MARCH students (not MLA)?

A: Gouverneur teaches the contemporary urbanism class which I am in right now, I believe that along with his studio is all he will be teaching right now

Q: Hi, I have just completed my first year MARCH at another school and was wondering how the process of accepting any of my coursework I’ve done this year. I don't mind tackling on another year and starting in the first year (I would actually prefer this) but I would hate for all of my work this past year to go unnoticed.

A: We don’t accept transfer credit. However, it is possible to waive out of some of the first year courses in the M. Arch program, but you can't waive out of the credit. You would need to fill the credits with elective courses.

Q: How early can you apply for a certificate program?

A: you can apply in October of your first semester here.

Q: I find that MCP students traveled to cities other than Philly, even to other countries, for studio, so is it eligible to any student? If not, what determines these travel opportunities?

A: It depends what studio you choose to take, there are usually 5-6 options for studios and you rate which one you would like to join and that typically determines where you travel

Q: My fin aid letter says federal work study $2700. Is this per year or per semester? All other numbers are per year on the fin aid letter.
A: you can earn up to $2700 per year.

Q: Is there financial aid available for the summer study abroad programs?

A: Yes there is, there are loan breakdowns for the 2 regular semesters and for the summer. When I took a summer program I easily got a loan for the time I needed.

Q: I just want to confirm - there is only one design studio, which is during the second semester, correct? And does the MEBD design studio do projects with other depts like MARCH?

A: That is correct that we have only 1 design studio for MEBD in the spring and currently it is a integrative studio with MARCH1 second year students. Also, classes are all integrative with all other disciplines

Q: What kind of computer do students usually use for the March program? I currently have a 13" MacBook air and want to start making sure I have everything I need.

A: We have computer purchasing guidelines here:https://www.design.upenn.edu/student-computer-purchasing-guidelines

A: The computer you need also depends on the studios you take. In the first semesters the workload for your computer will be pretty light but as the projects get more complex computers take quite a beating. In my experience, no one keeps the same computer for the entire 3 years: they either bought a computer in the 1st year (preferably a desktop) that is enough to last the 3 years or half-way through when the work gets more heavy-handed, if they had a computer previously, they would get a more powerful system then. A lot of my classmates recommend iBuyPower to build your own computer but to answer your question: you can wait until you arrive before you make that investment.

Q: I’m sure large student loans are a big concern for many students; do you have any recommendations for keeping these as low as possible? It sounds like it could be difficult if first-years aren’t recommended to work.

A: The good thing is that the cost of living in Philadelphia is just about the lowest on the east coast (besides Baltimore). Housing can be as low as $450/month. So i think it's reasonable to keep your loan costs down if you're careful with your money. THat being said, you are likely going to be taking out some substantial loans (about 60% of our students do).

Q: Is it possible for march student to do research work for department other than architecture like city planning?

A: The MArch program does put a focus on digital and parametric design tools, however, in most cases you are not required to use a specific software. There are some assignments that require certain programs and the Visual Studies classes, in particular, puts a focus on teaching certain programs such as Maya and Grasshopper. For the most part, studio professors will let you choose the software you want to work with. However, there are some studios that focus on using specific software. For example in my first semester here, one of the studio primarily used Maya to design.

A: it is possible for M.Arch students to do research work for another department. A friend of mine
is doing research for a professor in the landscape architecture program. However, I would say you have to make an effort to seek out these types of opportunities.

Q: About the dual degree, so can I still use my old portfolio and recommendation letters?

A: Yes you can still use your letters of recommendation and old portfolio, the office just needs to transfer it.

Q: For housing, I want to find a place close to PennDesign. Is the housing offered on campus (Samson) my best option?

A: On-campus housing is really the closest but tends to be the most expensive. You can live close to campus and take advantage of a number of transportation options, from walking escorts to bus loops to door to door service at night.

Q: I intend to live in the west of University City, is there safe to live especially in evening?

A: I live in west Philadelphia and I've found it to be very safe, if you are worried about walk late, there is great public transit and the PennBus can literally pick you up from Meyerson and drop you off at your house if you need.

Q: While it looks like work is discouraged for first year MArch, is it common for MArch students to become involved in any sort of research during their time at Penn?

A: While the first year is pretty demanding in terms of the workload, there are some students that do get involved with research.

Q: How many students hold outside jobs, and approximately how many hours do they have time to work?

A: I know a couple of students in the MCP department that hold jobs, just they are usually 2-3 days a week, so its hard to say how many hours, but I would not recommend it your first semester, try to get accommodated first.

Q: I am coming to visit in a few days and am looking to check out some neighborhoods. Which neighborhoods are most highly recommended for Penn Grad students? Which are the most affordable?

A: The range is pretty wide: most students I know either stay within University City (as far west as 40-45th street) or in Center city (as far east as 20th street). The places very close to the campus are more expensive obviously, but none within that range is very far from school at all.

Q: Could you provide us the recent data of the graduates from PPD for how much of them could get a full time job and what kind of companies likely to hire them? Or where can we find these
data?

A: We recommend contacting the architecture department directly at arch@design.upenn.edu to find out about what their alumni are up to now. There is also information on Career Services website: http://www.vpul.upenn.edu

Q: Admission committee typically send admission to all students accepted off the waitlist on a same day? or in order?

A: How you receive notification will vary among department.

Q: What is the size of the class for MEBD program?

A: Mostly the student class size for MEBD is 10 - 15 students on an average per year.

Q: I am pretty interested in the summer bootcamp that begins on August 11th, how do I apply for it? When will more detail about it be announced?

A: More details should be out within a month, I believe I just applied through an email, it was super helpful I recommend going!

Q: Thank you. Last question; I will be moving to Philly with my wife and just want to know if the neighborhood is safe? And would you be able to give me an approximate rent rate for a 1-bedroom apt. close to campus?

A: The neighborhood is safe. Usually studio apartments are $700-900 and can be as low as $550 too at a 6-7 block radius..

Q: What is the average studio size for the March program?

A: The typical size for the studios are around 80 or so: its 6 studio groups with roughly 10-12 students each.

A: However, there are fluctuations like when students who defer will return or students who take years off leave or return, but typically it can range from 80 to 100 based on that.

Q: I got some questions about the tuition and fees. Is there any kind of fees can be waived such as Student Health Insurance or Clinical Fee? What is General Fee, does it included the fee for some field trips?

A: You can waive out of Student Health if you can prove that your insurance is equivalent to Penn's. There is a formal process for this. Otherwise, the other fees are required. General fee is a university fee which covers a number of services that you’ll receive as a Penn student.

Q: What is the scope of opportunities for work upon completion of the course?

A: There are a lot of work opportunities after completion of the course. There is a lot of information about it on the career services page.

http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/reports.php#grad
A: It really depends year to year. I would say a pretty good chance!

Q: Will accepted students be notified of the FB group and other details via email?
A: Yes accepted students will be notified about the facebook group via email

Q: Will there be on campus placements upon course completion?
A: Hi, we do have career connection days organized by Career Services where a lot of firms come in for us to meet with them and look through.

Q: From the previous years' reference, can you tell me if there is any student selected later from the waiting list in MS Program?
A: Also a good chance of being admitted from the wait list. It is very small this year so if they do go into the wait list, you have a good chance of being admitted.

Q: Do the studios put an emphasis on concepts during the design processing?
A: Studios vary but I typically find that there is a strong emphasis on concept during all stages of the design process.

A: As it pertains to that kind of design methodology: the studios range a lot when it comes to that. In the first year I find there is a lot of emphasis on concepts since the available information on actual architecture is limited within the class (especially since there are a lot of non-design backgrounds) so as an introduction into the Penn way of designing there are a lot of concept-heavy studios. In the second year, where there is more of an emphasis on tectonics and building, the concept stage is still important but accelerated for the purpose of moving the project along. In the last year, the research studios, concept becomes important again but in a very unique way based on studios. Typically when presenting your project some lecturers are really into concept while some are into process while some are into final results... there is always quite a range and you can easily find a studio that fits you.

Q: How do we join the Facebook group?
A: You will receive an email when the Facebook group goes live, with directions on how to join.

Q: Hi, I'd also like to know is it recommended to live in a shared apartment in iHouse for MArch student since we may have different life styles from others. Also, what is the difference between living in Samson and iHouse?
A: I would say it depends on the individual's comfort level. There are options of getting single rooms too. As for the difference between sansom and Ihouse, the previous is campus housing for all graduate students at UPENN whereas iHouse is for international students only.

Q: How much choice do students have in terms of the types of research they can do? Is it based on what professors are currently researching? For example I'm interested in Healthcare & Education Architecture, and would love to research these fields specifically.
A: I would say that the type of research you do in studio is directly related to the topic of the
studio and your professor. You can't pick your studio in the first year, however, in your second and third year of the program there is a lottery for studios.

Q: What is your favorite part about studying at PennDesign?

A: My favorite part of PennDesign has been how multidisciplinary it is, I've had so many opportunities to work and study with other areas of design.

Q: When do you receive a 'pennkey'?

A: You will be receiving your PennKey within the next week. There was a short delay with our new application system.

Q: Hi may I ask what concentration you are in? Have you taken any transportation classes? Personally I wish to get more quantitative training to be able to do research in the future, have students been able to register for statistics/engineering classes smoothly? Thanks

A: I am in the urban design concentration, I haven't taken any transportation classes but both of my roommates are in the concentration. There is a requirement for all planning students to take quantitative analysis, but if you are interested in that I would recommend contacting Eric Guerra, he has a lot of research opportunities for students.

Q: So do I need to wait till april end for the results or it comes sooner than that?

A: We may know as soon as mid-April...and as late as June!

Q: have been admitted to the MUSA program. Will it be possible for me to apply for a dual degree? And how?

A: There are no dual degrees really with MUSA except MCP. Which other degree program were you considering?

A: It is possible to apply for a second during while you're in the MUSA program. I think MCP is the only other program that you could pursue the dual degree with. Any other degree you would end up pursuing after graduating from the MUSA program. Contact Amy Hillier for more details: ahillier@design.upenn.edu

Q: If I live in the Sansom Place can I still stay there in summer vacation or Xmas vacation?

A: You can contact them for more information on your stay here http://cms.business-services.upenn.edu/sansom-place/.

Q: Can we apply for housing without Pennkey? Still don't receive it and worry about it.

A: You will need your PennKey! This will be happening very soon. We are still working on uploading new students into our Student Records System.

Q: Can I take other classes within PennDesign courses such as elective course of Fine Art and Architecture?
A: You have some room to take classes in any department in PennDesign as long as you get the instructors permission.

Q: Are the procedure for visa and for registering to school be different if I decide to join?
A: It is the same, you can register as soon as you have your pennkey, even if the visa isn’t done.

Q: when and how should I apply for Teaching assistantships or research assistantships??
A: Mostly, for TA/RA positions, we email the professors directly and if they require to fill such positions, they usually select based on our competency in that subject.

Q: I currently use Mac system. Is MicroSoft system required during the study?
A: Macs are very popular here. It does have a few issues to integrate your personal mac into the system here since the IT department is predominantly PC but no one who uses a Mac (and there are quite a lot) has ever had a problem.

Q: Are there any financial grants for international students?
A: did you apply for financial aid? We do give some scholarship monies to international students.

Q: In the MFA interdisciplinary arts program, Josh told me I am eligible for a TA position as well. Do I need to formally apply for this?
A: Yes you should pursue this with Joshua.

Q: From the past reference, if there is any student selected later from the waiting list in MLA Program? What is the scope of selection?
A: We have admitted students from the MLA wait list, it really varies year to year how many and when.

Q: I heard Sansom Place is very run down. Does anyone know about that? I just hope the bathrooms are clean.
A: I don’t think they are run down. I know a few people staying at Sansom Place and I haven’t heard of any such complaints. But you can always try looking for off-campus housing.

Q: when does class registration start?
A: You can register for classes as soon as you have your pennkey. We recommend contacting your department first though to make sure you are registering for the right courses!

Q: When can I apply for MCP as a dual degree?
A: You can apply throughout the year for a dual degree, but the deadline is end of September, early January, the same as regular admission.

Q: And can I ask how many people are in the wait list in total?
A: you can contact us at admissions@design.upenn.edu for more information on waitlist numbers. However, there is currently no ranking.

Q: Do MFA students collaborate on projects with other Penn Design students?

A: There are only a few students who will dual degree MFA with MARCH, but other than that there aren't many. We share the same facilities as far as being a PennDesign collective: we use the same fabrication lab; we use each other's exhibition spaces for critiques and presentations, but not much else. The school does encourage a lot of inter-disciplinary exchange but it doesn't traditionally extend to MFA, although there has always been the possibility for more collaboration.

Q: Will MCP students have advisors to do research with or consult on course selections?

A: Students can join advisons on research, I know Eric Guerra involves his students in his research, but you can always reach out to any of the faculty.

Q: Is there any possibility to apply for financial grant at this stage?

A: It is not too late to apply for aid.

Q: Would public health insurance suffice as a substitute for Penn's health insurance?

A: That is a question best answered by student health services. View the New Student Checklist for their contact information here: http://www.design.upenn.edu/sites/default/files/New%20Student%20Check%20List%202015.pdf

To our chatters, we are going to shut down in about 5 minutes. I can see from the volume that we will need to schedule another chat. Stay tuned, we'll send information about the next one soon!

Q: Is it possible to apply for UD certification when I am in MCP program?

A: Yes you can apply for the UD certificate throughout the year, highly recommend it!

Thank you for joining us!

Q: For additional questions, who should we email? (MCP?)

A: You can email us with questions at admissions@design.upenn.edu. Thanks for joining us!