Q: Can the MSD students can join in the MLA students for the elective courses?

A: The MSD program has many electives in the program structure and you would be able to take at least a few of those electives in the Landscape Architecture Department.

Q: How many students do you expect to be in MLA class of 2016?

A: We expect about 25 students in each program - the 2- and 3-year programs.

Q: For the MCP courses, would the workload be heavier for core classes or concentration classes?

A: The workload will depend on your concentration. The core classes are more reading intensive than concentration classes in Public Private Development but less intensive than Community and Economic Development.

Q: Can MLA students choose to go to GSAPP during the third semester?

A: No, we don't have a program with GSAPP with any of our PennDesign programs.

Q: How do you apply for dual degrees and certificates and how large is the possibility that I would be admitted?

A: You can apply to a dual degree or certificate once you are here in the fall. You can generally get the certificate in the same time that you're getting the MCP, but a dual degree will take longer.

Q: I'm a MCP student also pursuing the Energy Management certificate. I'm really interested in applying to the dual MBA/MCP degree within my first year. Do many PennDesign students apply for the dual MBA? Do you have suggestions for how an MCP student could strengthen their application to the MBA program? Also, what kind of careers have past dual-degree students pursued?

A: There are many students who apply for the dual MBA program but it is very competitive. You should get in touch with admissions office for the MBA program in order to strengthen your application. As it is infrequent for people to pursue the program, you could get in touch with the city planning department to find out if they can put you in touch with someone.

Q: For MCP, is it possible to have two concentrations?

A: While you cannot select two concentrations in MCP, there are times that MCP students will be in one concentration, such as Transportation, and then enroll in a certificate program, such as Urban Design or Land Preservation. It can be difficult to get all of the requirements done in the 2 year program though.
Q: Can we MSD student have a gap year or a half year between the first year and the left half year?
A: Unfortunately no. However in some cases, such as a medical emergency, our students can take a leave of absence.

Q: Is the initial financial-aid provided by the university is it on merit basis of the individual or financial status of the individual?
A: It is generally a combination of need and merit.

Q: I had a question regarding the Digi blast preparatory summer program. I noticed in 2015 the first phase of the course was scheduled for the month of June, while the second phase was held in August. Will this be roughly the same time for the scheduled program this summer as well?
A: It is on our admitted student website. I believe the program starts in mid-June and ends in mid-August. You start with Digi blast, then move on to the Summer Prep Studio.

Q: If I send my financial-aid application today how many more days will the institute take to decide on my aid?
A: It generally takes several days, up to one week.

Q: Will we MSD students have the opportunity to have a studio in New York at the last semester?
A: Ping, this has been discussed but so far it is not an option.

Q: I am convinced that Penn has the best program academically speaking for me. However, I don't know if I would be comfortable taking on the amount of debt I would need to attend Penn. What resources would be available to help offset the costs?
A: Most of our students use a combination of sources to finance their graduate education - their PennDesign scholarship (if awarded), outside scholarships, savings from past work or part-time work during the program, and loans. For outside scholarships, we keep the following webpage as up-to-date as possible: https://www.design.upenn.edu/graduate-admissions/outside-scholarships-0. As far as loans, as long as they are US federal loans, one thing that can help your debt in the long term is the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service (as long as you are working in a public service position in a non-profit, NGO, or government office).

Q: I got my admission into MEBD, but I am also interested in certain seminars and group activities which are mainly taken up by the students of MSD. So, does PennDesign provide me any opportunity to participate in inter program events or activities?
A: The program allows you to select 2 electives each semester, and usually you are provided with a list (quite long and comprehensive) of available courses. Besides that, you can include classes not included
in the list, a couple of students did that this year. I know that they just discussed that with Bill Braham before registering for the course.

Q: Do I need to take a language class if my TOEFL score is below 100?

A: If your official admission offer is not contingent upon you receiving a better TOEFL score then, no, you will not be required to take a language course.

Q: Is it required that one take both the summer prep studio and Digi blast or can one sign up for portions of the summer course offerings as they see fit?

A: If you are required to take the Summer Prep Studio, you must take the FIRST Digi blast in mid-June since you will need those skills for studio. You don't need to take Digi blast again at the end of the summer.

Q: Can we MSD student prolong our program to 2 years?

A: As far as I know, you can. You should double-check with the Director, though, Prof. Ali Rahim at alir@design.upenn.edu.

Q: I am an MSD student. Here are four questions: 1. Could MSD graduates find jobs easily? What about the rate? And jobs' kind? 2. Since that our program lasts for 1.5 years, could we extend our semester to graduate later than June, 2018? 3. Is parametric design the main body of the MSD program? Could we have the chance to learn traditional and classical? 4. Is it the fact that we are going to study in New York in third semester of MSD program?

A: From what we can tell, it is pretty easy to find a job depending on where you are looking. I don't think you could prolong your program past two years mainly for visa reasons if you are an international student. So far the third semester will be held in Philadelphia. In regards to parametric design, you do have the availability to take classes with professors that are interested in parametric design, yet it is not the norm. PennDesign has a range of professors and their interests and you are able to choose what you see fit. Questions of sustainability, systems, responsiveness, structural innovation, etc. are several other aspects that can be found when you are selecting your studios.

Q: 1.) How is the curriculum structured for the MLA II program between core studios, optional studios/electives, and research labs (if any)? 2.) What is the prioritization for students who wish to select elective studios within other disciplines (i.e. if an MLA student wishes to take several MARCH studios)

A: #1: For the first year of the program you are required to take one Landscape studio per semester, and the electives are mostly Core classes, not quite elective courses yet. For the last year, you are able to choose Architecture studios that satisfy the MLA requirements (not all ARCH studios do). For electives, the last year is more open for you to explore options within other disciplines as long as they satisfy your
requirements to graduate. I hope this answers your question. #2: when the time comes to choose studios at the beginning of the Semester, it is done with a lottery process. When you wish to take studios that are outside of your area of study, they need to be accepting of other disciplines. So for example if there's a MARCH studio that takes 3 MLA students, you are not competing for places with the MARCH Students, instead, you are competing for those 3 spots for MLA students, and the process is a lottery.

Q: If one applied to the joint MARCH/MLA and was only admitted to one, can they re-apply in their second year and are admitted, can they still be on track to complete both within 3-years?

A: Yes, you can re-apply in your second year. However, if admitted it will add an extra year to your studies; meaning it would take you 4 years to complete both, not 3

Q: Will there be research opportunities/research assistant positions? Are there research institutes/centers under PennDesign? Or teaching assistant?

A: Yes, you can find research assistantship positions in PennDesign as well as other schools (such as Medicine and Wharton). Yes there are a few more such as Kleinman Center of Energy Policy and PennPraxis. You can find more information here - https://www.design.upenn.edu/research/centers

Yes, there are teaching assistant positions within all departments; if interested you should contact the director of your program. However please be aware that some programs do not allow teaching assistantship during the students first year

Q: A yearly budget of $69,680 is provided on the website, is this all the money that a student requires for his living in Philadelphia & take up a Master Degree Program at Penn? If this doesn’t account for the whole cost of living, then what might be the other set of activities that might add to the cost?

A: The budget of $69,680 is estimated for your tuition, fees and living expenses. However; if you decide to live ON campus this amount will be higher as it generally cost more for housing to live on campus

Q: I have been accepted by both MSD and ML2 program. Which program should I begin first? And how long will the program be if I accepted both?

A: You must start in the MSD program first.

Q: What is the prioritization for students who wish to select elective studios within other disciplines (i.e. if an MLA student wishes to take several MARCH studios)

A: When the time comes to choose studios at the beginning of the Semester, it is done with a lottery process. When you wish to take studios that are outside of your area of study, they need to be accepting of other disciplines. So for example if there's a MARCH studio that takes 3 MLA students, you are not competing for places with the MARCH Students, instead, you are competing for those 3 spots for MLA students, and the process is a lottery.

Q: Is MLA program a STEM program?
A: MLA is not a STEM program. Penn has a large network of employers and connections you could take advantage of.

Q: Can I transfer my undergraduate credits in Environmental System to Penn?

A: If you have an architecture degree, you can probably waive out of some required technology courses if you have taken them as an undergraduate and fill them with elective courses.

Q: I have got admitted to MEBD and have a question regarding the electives 1). I have studied the list of electives provided in 2015-16. Is the same list going to be continued for the upcoming academic year? 2). While choosing the electives will guidance from faculty be available? 3). Will there be an introductory information session for the above listed electives?

A: Yes, I am pretty sure the list will be comparable. Maybe there will be some minor change that I am not aware of, but similar to what said before, feel free to explore all the other available courses and then discuss those you are considering with Bill. Professors are always available, if you are not satisfied by the course introduction you can contact them before registering asking for more information, usually by email... and some courses are presented too! There will be a dedicated panel about new electives at the beginning of each semester...

Q: Is MSD program a STEM program?

A: No, unfortunately the MSD is not a STEM-eligible program. The only two degree programs that we currently have at the School of Design that are STEM-eligible are the M.S. in Historic Preservation and the Master of Urban Spatial Analytics.

Q: Where and when would be the study trip of the first semester for MSD students?

A: To our knowledge we don’t think that the location for the study trip has been decided on yet. Please feel free to reach out to Ali Raheem directly though; he may have more information for you.

Q: If I’m planning to take a dual degree, do I need to apply again next year or talk to program director?

A: You must formally apply to the second degree program that you wish to pursue the dual degree. However, you would not be required to re-submit materials you have already submitted, such as official transcripts and/or WES evaluations and test scores. Also, we provide fee waivers for our current PennDesign students that are applying to a dual degree program.

Q: What is taught in the summer boot camp for MCP students?

A: There are around 5-6 courses offered for a period of two weeks. As far as I remember, last year there was a course on GIS, macroeconomics, graphic design and statistics.

Q: I was wondering how is Penn's tuition calculated. Per credit or per semester?

A: We are a full-time school so you get billed for a full course load each semester.
Q: How many credit per semester is considered full-time? Will there be a fee if I go beyond that?

A: You are charged full-time if you take 4 or 5 course units per semester. You must take 5 cu's at least for your first three (core) semesters. Yes, your tuition will increase if you go beyond that.

Q: Is there a limit for how many credits per semester?

A: Yes there is a limit; you may enroll in up to 5 course units per semester (most courses are 1 course unit but studio courses are 2 because they take more time). In certain cases you can be approved to take a 6th class, but that would usually mean you need to pay more in tuition so most students just stick to 5 course units.

Q: So are we just able to choose courses in the design apartment or we can choose courses in other schools such as Wharton School?

A: There are a lot of different electives you can take in the architecture department, but also in the other departments at PennDesign such as landscape, city planning, fine arts etc. You can also take classes outside of PennDesign, although they might ask you to fulfill some requirements first, but not necessarily. While most students choose to take their elective courses within the Architecture department or at least within the other academic departments within the School of Design (Landscape Architecture, City Planning, Historic Preservation, etc.), you do have the opportunity to take courses at other Penn graduate schools, such as Wharton.

Q: Does the 69,000$ dollar budget include all the basics for an Off-campus living including food?

A: Yes, that budget includes all the basics for off-campus housing including food.

Q: Does that mean for most students, $69000 would be a reasonable budget for 1 year?

A: The $69,000 budget is reasonable for most students for 9 months, not 1 year.