



Web Chat Transcript: November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Q: Everyone comes from different financial backgrounds, is this something that is apparent in the studio culture? (Aka terms of quality of work) Thank you

A: 1. When I was a prospective student last year, this too was one of my concerns. I wasn't worried about studio in particular, but an overall ability to connect with my peers regardless of financial backgrounds. A design degree to an extent is a rather privileged degree in the sense that it is an expensive degree and one that may not land us a job where we make a ton of money. My undergraduate experience was in a very affluent setting and I often had a hard time connecting with my peers, as I did not come from an affluent background myself. One really nice thing about graduate school is that the people who are here, really want to be here and are passionate about what they are learning. Just by looking around the CPLN cohort people come from all kinds of financial backgrounds, use all kinds of computers (new and old) and present themselves from casual to some much more formal. I think you will find a good mix here, and an understanding environment where everyone acknowledges that we are graduate students operating on tight budgets.

2. I am a first year architecture student. So far I have only spent money to purchase materials for a few models. We have a larger project, done in a team, which simply due to scale requires a lot of material and so costs a bit more. Generally in terms of expenses it is really up to you to decide what you are willing to purchase or use.

Q: Urban/City Planning Students do you feel the program is tailored to any specific concentration with in the field, or do the professors have a passion or encompass a wide range of experience in all aspects of planning?

A: The program is very wide ranging in its breadth of concentrations. There is great focus as well as overlap within the concentrations. Each professor has their own passions and there are at least two within each concentration that are focused on the different coursework. Do you have an idea of which concentration(s) you are interested in? I can provide more detailed information depending on which you are looking at.

Q: One of the pressing questions I have is what to expect in terms of working during the semester while pursuing the MArch1 or MArch 2 program?

A: We actually don't have an M. Arch 2 program anymore, however we do have a Post Professional Degree Program. As an M.Arch I student, I would not recommend working during your first two years because the structure of the program is very strenuous, and there is not much time during the week, especially, to take an office job. However, I have worked on Fridays this year (I am now a third year student) because I do not usually have class on Fridays

Q: Post-graduation/ summer, are students normally working in Pennsylvania?

A: It think it varies. However, I have quite a few friends who graduated last year who have stayed in Philly. But there are also are very large number of students who relocate to New York (primarily), given its proximity to Philly, and the numerous amounts of opportunities there.

Q: Do a majority of the MLA students have design backgrounds?

A: If you are looking at the 3-year program, the students have a great mix of backgrounds. This year there is about a third of the class does not have a design background. The year prior it was closer to half and half.