



Q: Is there a credit limitation for each semester?

A: To have full time status you must be taking 3-5 course units. UPenn does course units instead of credits

Q: How is the studio culture? Are there international studio options?

A: There are international studio options. I was an interdisciplinary Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture studio that travelled to Cyprus last semester.

A: I'm an M.Arch student. Studio culture is fabulous -- we have an open space layout and all students intermingle. There are typically 6 studios in the M.Arch, for instance, yet we do a lot of studio-wide research presentations that help us all get a feel of what everyone's doing. As for summer jobs, the network with Penn is really strong. We recently had a career fair where I connected with many employers and already secured a summer internship!

Q: What is one thing you wished someone told you during your decision process?

A: The one thing I wished someone would've told me to was to look at the course work and curriculum very closely....you almost want to have a soft plan of classes and opportunities that you'll be able to fit in writing the short 2 year mark!

Q: What have you benefited from at Penn versus other programs you've considered?

A: I really enjoys the access to professors and the quality education...you can really tailor the program to best fit whatever you're trying to get out of the program...also, I really enjoy philly!

Q: How easy is it to find summer jobs and other kinds of work through your school?

A: Yes, absolutely!

Q: Are there opportunities for assistantships starting your first semester in HPV?

A: Yes, there are Research Assistantships in HSPV

Q: Are there a lot of international alum and where do alum's end up living?

A: I am sure we have many international alums, but I know off hand that many students stay in philly, go all over the northeast so DC, Boston, NYC, or go to the west coast. It varies a lot.

Q: When can students in the MCP program start applying for part-time employment/internships?

A: I would suggest asking the department about this directly: cityplan@design.upenn.edu

Q: What does the landscape look like for securing TA/RA positions? Interested in the MCP program!

A: There are TAS for first- and second-year students in the MCP program.

Q: For the MLA 3-year program: what is the typical compensation for RA/TA ships and what is the typical process to get them? how many do students tend to hold over their 3 years?

A: Each department handles their own student worker positions and the pay varies. To get a position you need to reach out to your department directly.

Q: Are there Scholarships available to apply to help with cost of traveling internationally?

A: Travel internationally is usually covered by the department. For instance, my airfare and lodging were covered for 10 days in Cyprus for myself and all the other members of the studio. It was an extraordinary experience!

Q: When can students in the MCP program start applying for part-time employment/internships?

A: If you are talking about summer, usually people start applying about now, 3-5 months before summer

Q: What student organizations exist for Architecture students at UPenn?

A: There are many! Please have a look at this page and scroll all the way down.:
<https://www.design.upenn.edu/information/graduate-students>

Q: Due to the virus condition, is there some updates considering about fall 2020?

A: So far, we are looking forward to holding classes in the fall. Currently, we are completing our semester remotely, with all classes. But we are creative!

Q: Do students in the MSAAD program have the chance to do a culminating Thesis or research driven project? do students have the opportunity to take on a collaborative project with other disciplines?

A: There isn't as far as I know. You should follow up with Professor Rahim, alir@design.upenn.edu.

Q: Is there any consideration of allowing deferrals given COVID-19?

A: Yes, we are allowing deferrals.

Q: If we are already coming in with a BArch, will we be automatically placed in year 2 of the M.Arch program or is it only based on compatible courses taken prior to entering?

A: This year they did offer advanced standing to 2 or 3 students. but this is rare and based on the applicant's portfolio.

Q: Will the final decision date (April 15th) be rescheduled/postponed due to COVID-19?

A: No, as of now we are not extending the April 15 deadline

Q: I didn't find the supplement in the check list of application system. Is that means I 'm not offered with a financial aid?

A: If your checklist did not include a 'decision letter addendum' than you are unfortunately not receiving aid. If you would like to inquire about the possibility of them reconsidering this, you will need to reach out to your department directly

Q: Can the financial aid award be increased based on need?

A: the scholarships are given out by the Chair of the Department, so you should address your inquiry to her

Q: Prospective MArch student here: how is the pedagogy of Penn unique? And how is it developing for future challenges?

A: Each critic at Penn has a different approach to architecture, so you definitely get a variety of design techniques and tools that help you get a better grasp of your personal design approach. It is definitely always looking forward to technologies and ways to evolve the discipline. For instance, we have a robotics lab that is currently being renovated and will become a part of our learning experience. We are very digitally focused and tech advanced.

Q: Because the program uses units rather than credits-could you please clarify the differences between units and credits? What is the expected workload for per unit?

A: We use course units, and there are between 4 and 5 course units per semester for fulltime students.

Q: What facilities, digital fabrication tools, Hardware, and software are provided to students of the MSAAD program?

A: We have a fabrication lab that includes a woodshop with wood and metal cutting machines, 3 laser cutters, 2 CNC machines, and powder printers.

A: I don't study in that program. But we have a cage that offers projectors, cams, mics, etc. and we have a number of software's such as rhino, z brush, Maya, 3d max, etc.

Q: What's your most important advice for new students?

A: I would say try to learn about the different resources that Penn offers and take advantage as much as you can. It is easy to be overwhelmed by all the resources available and get caught up in your course work. I would also develop good communication with a professor with particularly interesting research for you. They can help with getting jobs and conducting research!

Q: Which organizations do MCP students generally find employment in?

A: For employment, the opportunities vary. there are folks who go onto the private, public, nonprofit, consulting, etc. sectors. depending on your concentration, there are usually a good handful of

employers who are always looking for Penn students. our department also constantly sends out internship/job opportunities!

Q: Which firms/organizations are associated with the MSD-EBD studio?

A: We have research institutes like the CEED, and Kleinman center for Energy that does work corresponding with the EBD program. We have faculty from Kieran Timberlake and Atelier 10 who do this sort of work.

Q: Within the MSAAD program, what is the likelihood of working with Ferda Kolatan, and in general, how are students assigned a professor? Do we as a student choose, and if so, are we limited to taking studios with professors within the MSAAD program?

A: If Ferda is teaching then you have a good chance of studying under him. To be honest, I don't know how the studios' instructors are assigned. I'm sure Ali Rahim could tell you that. I'm sorry that we don't have an AAD student here today!

Q: I'm very interested in the dual degree for M.Arch / MBA - Could you please provide more insight into the process for application and the flexibility for architecture students to take electives in Wharton?

A: To apply to the dual degree for M.Arch/MBA you must apply to each school separately (Weitzman and Wharton) then, if you are admitted to both programs you can choose to pursue the dual degree. You usually spend one year with one program, the second year with the other program and then your final two years with a mix of both programs

Q: Student living. What neighborhoods do students live in, and (when you were commuting and barring driving/parking) have you ever felt that your commute was burdensome because of distance, transit failure, etc.? when is the ideal time to start apartment-hunting?

A: Students are usually split between living in Center city (downtown) Philadelphia and West Philly. We are blessed in Philly with a compact city and good transportation, so it is very easy reaching campus. I bike, walk, and take the trolley from west philly to campus every day and it never takes more than 20 minutes!

A: I secured my apartment (in Rittenhouse) in June to move in August 1. Apartments can be had anywhere from a few months ahead of time to one month ahead. Depends on the neighborhood and if you need time to find roommates

A: The students are generally split between west philly and center city. Penn provides buses for the commute at night. I live in west philly, about a mile from campus and the walk is only about 15 mins. Many students also bike or take the trolley

Q: What is securing funding for a fifth year of PhD work in history and theory contingent on?

A: Usually our PhD students get teaching assistantships or have other jobs during their fifth year.

Q: How long is the 3.5 program in June with intensive Summer Design Studio?

A: The 3.5-year program begins in mid-June and the Summer Design Studio runs from mid-June through mid-August, then the normal 3-year program starts at the end of August.

Q: How are students assigned advisors? Is it based on concentration?

A: You will be assigned an advisor based on a few factors.... concentration, interest area, etc. it will be a professor within your program and concentration, however, there almost all professors are happy to serve as informal advisors

Q: How many students are accepted to the PhD Arch program? and how many of them are self-funded?

A: Usually only 2-4 PhD candidates are admitted each year to Architecture and City Planning. We don't keep statistics on how many are self-funded, but I would say MAYBE one per year, if any.

Q: What would be considered the main focus and strategies of UPenn's MArch program in regard to designing and problem solving?

A: I think exposure to different design techniques and thinking about the same problem from different angles is a strong suit. As a first-year student, I had two radically different professors for each semester, and learned so much about how to solve an architectural problem. One was very socially conscious and approached the project from a research-intensive perspective, while my current professor is very detail oriented and is encouraging us to use intensive modeling techniques. By and large, Penn I'd argue is very influenced by current events and we take the role of the architect seriously in socio-political situations.

Q: Could you tell me how many students from the M. Arch program are typically admitted into the dual MBA program? As architecture students, are provided opportunities to take electives from Wharton?

A: We usually have one or two people each year or every other year. Both the M. Arch and the MBA are very competitive programs, on top of that it takes a certain type of student to be interested in that dual degree, so we do not have too many. Yes, our M. Arch students are able to take elective classes at Wharton. We even have a real-estate certificate that our students can apply for, if admitted you would have required coursework at Wharton

Q: Are teaching assistantships only offered to students in the final year of their program? Is there a maximum number of hours to work if given a TA position? Is a tuition award included, or is it just salary based? What are some numbers in the past of salary amounts and number of positions offered?

A: There are teaching assistantships available to students in their final year. It is usually a stipend, and there are limited hours.

Q: MLA 2: typically, how many students are admitted each year

A: We have a class of about 15 in the MLA 2 year, and 25 in the MLA 3 year

Q: Do students find scholarship awards mid-course through third-party organizations?

A: Yes! there are always opportunities for 3rd party scholarships! Check out our 'Outside Scholarships webpage on our site.

Q: Is there a career fair? how does the school assist and promote students in the professional realm?

A: Yes, we have a career fair each spring term for current students to meet with employers for internships and jobs. We also have a dedicated staff member at the School who works with employers, firms, etc., to connect them with our students for jobs. This is all in addition to the support and resources provided by Penn's Career Services office. We also bring in alumni for mock interviews and resume/portfolio

Q: Can you share Roslynne's (MCP) email address? Is the virtual open house for the master's programs and PhD?

A: Her email address is roslynne@design.upenn.edu. The virtual Open House is more for master's degree students in that there is no breakout session for PhDs. But you're welcome to join!

Q: How many students are admitted to the MSAAD program every year?

A: There are about 40 AAD students each year.

Q: Are there opportunities for GA or TA positions for MLA students?

A: Yes! there are opportunities to both research with professors and help as a teacher's assistant for a course!

Q: Website says MCP students have 6 credits of electives left after core/concentration requirements are completed. How many of those have to be taken within the Weitzman School? Are there limits on taking courses in other 'schools' at Penn?

A: On course credits, there is a specific amount of course units that must be taken within the school of design. I cannot quote the exact amount, but yes, a portion of your total course units must be CPLN. however, it is very encouraged to take other courses outside of CPLN. I've taken courses in historic preservation and the ed school. a lot of people use their electives for other schools. as long as you follow the rules!

Q: Are there many opportunities for students to be involved in the McHarg Center or Penn Praxis?

A: yes, there are opportunities for this!

Q: Will the Summer Design Studio be intensive? If I'm going to take those courses online for fulfilling prerequisites. What about the conflicts

A: Yes, the summer Design Studio will be intensive, if possible, we suggest completing prerequisite work before the summer studio, however, we have had students fulfilling prerequisites while taking Summer Studio

Q: With in the MSAAD program, what are the technical skills expected from students, and how can we best prepare for the semester? are there Technology seminars and instruction on specific computational

software within studio curriculum?

A: I would suggest that you reach out to the Program Director, Ali Rahim, about the specific technical skills, but students begin their program early in August for a 10-day advanced digital workshop to bring everyone up to speed on the technology used.

Q: MCP: What's the involvement/accessibility of the alumni network while in the program and after? Are they mostly focused in Philly or in any other major cities (in the US/internationally)?

A: Alum is very easy to reach Penn wide. We have our own Penn alum networking website called quakernet where there is a log of people and which firms/industries they have worked in.

Q: Does the Summer Design Studio be affected by the COVID-19?

A: Unfortunately, we are not sure yet

Q: MSD_RAS: What will be the focus of topic in the following year?

A: Since this is a new program, we don't have any students here to answer your questions! But you should email Rob Stuart-Smith at rsmith@design.upenn.edu. He'll be happy to respond.

Q: What's the typical cohort size for the program?

A: The cohort size varies based on applicants and acceptances. in the past, sizes have been about 50+...my class was about 70+ and I know the class after me was closer to 100

Q: What do you wish you'd known before joining the MCP program?

A: One thing I wish I knew more was to negotiate for financial aid! You should push for more money from your department once you get in!

Q: Who was eligible to take Wolf D. Prix's studio? and will he be teaching at UPenn in the future?

A: The studios are determined by a lottery process. Unfortunately, we don't always know who will be teaching elective studios each year. You could reach out to the Architecture Department to see if they know if they will be bringing Wolf back for future studios.

Q: Is there an online equivalent course for the history of architecture requirement?

A: Here is the online course that we have pre-approved as meeting the History of Western Architecture prerequisite: <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/learning-to-look-at-western-architecture-online>

Q: Is there any thinking yet on how Fall courses might be altered based on the COVID-19 situation?

A: So far, we are assuming we'll be having in-person courses. We are teaching remotely now, but I am figuring that we will know more in a few months.

Q: What is the boot camp like? Are the topics covered here, revisited in coursework?

A: The bootcamp courses often change based on the incoming class. it would be best to follow up with the MCP department to find out specific plans.

Q: Does the school Invite professionals or hold a lecture series available to students? where can I find a list of future lecturers?

A: Yes, we have lectures almost every week with people from the top firms and universities in the world. They are available to the public and students are always encouraged to go, even sometimes for class!

You can find some of them in the Press Room of the design website:

<https://www.design.upenn.edu/press/weitzman-school-fall-2019-lecture-series-features-pioneers-design-and-arts>

Q: Are credits from other programs accepted? For example, a Planning Theory course and an introductory Preservation seminar?

A: Are you asking if we accept transfer credits? if so then the answer is no, but if you have taken courses that we require there is a process to waive that course and take an elective instead

Q: I wonder if the summer institute would be postponed because of the coronavirus?

A: Right now, we are planning to hold all of the summer institutes.

Q: If the Summer Design Studio is affected by COVID-19, what's the plan for those 3.5 years program students

A: I know there is a lot of uncertainty but for now we are still planning to hold it.

Q: What do you think makes the Penn MCP stand apart from other MUP/MCP programs offered elsewhere, e.g. Harvard or MIT? Also, what is your favorite aspect about the Penn culture/community as an MCP grad student?

A: I would say Penn stands apart because it is much more professional. There is a greater emphasis of technical and design skills through studio and workshop. I think we are set apart because of the emphasis of different software, career development, and our tendency to be in both the professional and academic worlds. One thing that I think sets Penn apart is the environmental organizations and Penn praxis, the consulting wing, that students have an opportunity to work at and gain more professional experience. In planning too, the vibe is not as competitive, and students look out for each other if they have previous connections in an industry or a firm.

Q: I was admitted into the program, but lack Physics and History of Architecture, Can I take those classes at Penn over the summer?

A: Yes, right now we are assuming that we can hold our summer courses, and we offer both the Physics and History of Architecture courses for admitted M.Arch students that need to fulfill the prerequisite.

Q: If summer institute happens on campus but we don't get our visa in time (visas are not being issued right now), what would we do

A: We will be granting deferrals if this happens. Normally we have a strict policy against deferrals, but this is a new situation and we are planning to be flexible

Q: How much does tuition tend to increase each year, and is it possible to renegotiate aid in the second year?

A: Tuition tends to increase by about 3-4% each year, and generally no, you cannot renegotiate scholarships after you enroll. However, the program does offer TAs and other opportunities to receive stipends.

Q: How does Penn help in providing internship/ job opportunities?

A: Penn has a career services department, there are careers fairs for the design school. Apart from that, there are firm crawls organized by Penn Alumni association, Penn women in design and the EBD department. so, there are quite a few opportunities/ platforms for you to get exposure to many firms.

Q: How would we register for those summer courses?

A: You will be getting directions from your Department. Probably in late April.

Q: Where/when can we access Panorama?

A: There is a digital version online here: <https://www.design.upenn.edu/city-regional-planning/graduate/work/panorama-2019>

Q: What are the specifics on the stipend and hours for the teaching assistantships in MARCH?

A: To be honest, I'm not sure. I do know that they only give TAS to second- and third-year students. You can follow up with the Department for more details. They can also tell you how many positions they typically have per year.

Q: I received conditional admission and the condition is to attend the ELP workshop. Is there any possibility that the conditional ad couldn't change to the unconditional one?

A: That would be up to the program - please contact the Chair, Frank Matero. His contact information should be in your decision letter.

Q: Could you please tell; normally how many students are admitted in MUSA program?

A: The MUSA class has steadily increased in size over the years, but is still a small, tight knit program. This year there are 29 of us!

Q: Do many M.arch students apply into the MLA program for a dual M.arch/MLA within their first year at the school? If so, are they typically accepted into the second program? Is the application process/acceptance rate any different for students who are already enrolled in one Weitzman program?

A: I would say this is the most common dual degree that we offer. Most apply from the beginning, but some apply during their first year. There is a pretty good acceptance rate.

Q: How big is an M.Arch I incoming class generally? Thanks!

A: Usually about 70 students start the M.Arch. program each year. It's our largest program.

Q: MSHP- Since it is not a NAAB accredited course, will it prove to be a problem when we seek employment post-graduation?

A: The NAAB only accredits architecture programs, not historic preservation programs. So, if you wanted to be a licensed architect then yes, taking our HSPV program may give you a problem if you are trying to find a job as a practicing architect

Q: What will be the process to apply for another degree? I am accepted as 3-year MLA considering getting an MLA-MUSA. How long might that take to get both?

A: You can apply for the once you arrive. You will submit a new application, and it helps that you should be able to use our faculty for references. It would probably add another semester, at least, to the MLA.

Q: Does Penn offer low interest loans to international students with high need?

A: No, Penn is not a loan provider.

Q: How do students benefit from the one-year membership with the APA?

A: There are great benefits with the APA membership. You receive access to newsletters, scholarships, job/internship opps, and discounts on conferences!

Q: I've been admitted into the MSHP program, planning to focus on architectural conservation- are we required to take an AutoCAD class before we enroll, or will there be opportunities in the first semester to take a CAD class or workshop at Penn?

A: We don't have anyone from Preservation here today so I would direct you to Frank or Micah in the Department.

Q: Is there any consideration of allowing admissions deferrals, given the uncertainty around COVID-19?

A: Yes, we are allowing deferrals.

Q: How you get a TA/RA job? could you give us some sense or range of the typical stipends per semester.

A: TA and RA positions as well as the payment amount, are determined by the academic department. TAs usually receive a stipend for the semester they are teaching paid directly to them through payroll.

Q: What is student culture like?

A: There is a lot of work and end of the week parties :)

Q: What other research would you suggest in terms of identifying whether Penn is the right program/fit, aside from looking at the course curriculum and faculty of interest?

A: Penn planning has a publication called Panorama that showcases some research/work of past students if that's interesting

Q: What are the student resources like in terms of studio space, fabrication space/equipment, and access/ cost for usage and materials?

A: Everyone gets their own desk; we have access to woodshop and laser cutters and 3D printers. You don't pay for any of this, yet you pay for your materials (plastic, wood, MDF, etc.). We also have plotters for large plots, yet you must pay for plotting.

Q: Does financial aid carry forward if you do a dual degree?

A: It usually does and sometimes you get more once you are admitted to the second degree.

Q: Does the coursework include working with local planning bodies like in the traffic congestion project? Or does a specific contingent participate in a project situation?

A: The congestion pricing project worked with all the NYC transportation agencies such as the MTA, NYCDOT, the Port Authority, and consulting firms like WSP. Everyone in that project was involved in professional meetings and the studio visited NYC frequently.

Q: Are there required courses where graduate and undergrad take together?

A: The required courses are primarily just for M.Arch students. The program is tailored for the master's students, yet some undergrads take courses such as construction or structures to get ahead if they plan on enrolling in the graduate program later.

Q: How many international students are in the M.Arch class?

A: Yes, our program is very diverse, and we have many international students. I myself am international!

Q: How much emphasis is there on learning technical software (ex:/ revit) in construction class?

A: Construction is over two semesters: the first is more lecture based, and the second semester we are actually learning revit intensively and creating a semester-long project through revit. The professors give a 2-hour lecture and we have weekly assignments. I'm learning so much through this class, it's a great resource!

Q: How easy is it to get around campus and the city?

A: There are Penn buses and a shuttle service which are free for students. This service runs from 5pm to 3am. There are Septa LUCY buses that are also free for Penn students, it loops through University city. If you're into biking, Philly is an extremely biker-friendly city. Overall, most places are easy to walk/bike to, and if not are well connected with bus routes.

Q: What is the largest class size you have accepted to the MLA 2.0 in the past? where is the most common location that Penn MLA grads come from and where is the most common location that Penn MLA graduates are located post-graduation?

A: It has been up to 20 or so in the past. I would say that, since you must hold a professional degree, a lot of our 2-year students are from overseas and quite a few are from China.

Q: How many international students are typically there in the MLA I?

A: I would say about 1/4 of students are international.

Q: How much do you end up spending on materials approximately in a semester? In programs like MLA/MArch?

A: I can speak for M.Arch. It depends on the project and the expectations of the professors. For the first semester where we had to build a full-scale model, each student invested about 200-300\$ on that. Yet you can be wise about what materials you choose and how to be cost-efficient and sustainable in your resources!

Q: MUSA program - how does the placements for MUSA graduates look like? and approx. how many go into public vs. private sector?

A: I would say this is getting a bit dated but this is a 2018 survey of career results for some alum out of the different programs at Weitzman:

https://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/files/CAREER_PLANS_REPORT.pdf

A: MUSA students go into a range of fields. Some work as data analysts, while others use their data skills in fields like real estate. When I entered the program, I was told that about half of students coming from the US go into the public sector. My interests are primarily in public sector work- I expect that's where I'll ultimately land and have several fellow students who are similar.

A: The focus in a few classes, particularly those run by the director of the MUSA program, Ken, is definitely public sector challenges. Which are always interesting and complex!

A: One note on that report Anthony shared- it is old and small, but it shows that MUSA students have the highest starting salaries of any degree program in Weitzman ;)

Q: Are there any thoughts of doing some webchats broken up by program? I feel like the information would be a lot more clear and relevant that way.

A: We will be publishing department specific webinars/ recordings, then on April 6th (our Virtual Open House date) we will have live Q&A that will be broken up by department. We will be sending more information out on this so please stay tuned...

Q: What is the typical ratio of international students in a class of the MSAAD program?

A: Since holding a professional architecture degree is a requirement for AAD students, the majority of students in that program are international

Q: Are there any funds for students with high need to cover materials if it goes beyond our budget at times?

A: Not that we are aware of.

A: I don't think so. I understand why this is a concern, yet our discipline is generally expensive. I think it's a good way to really practice sustainability through how we invest our own money and resources into projects. I think it is possible to stay around \$300 a semester.

Q: Is the Weitzman building accessible 24/7? Do we get key cards to access it late at night or is it open all the time?

A: Yes, you have a key card to access 24/7.a

Q: I received conditional admission and the condition is to attend the ELP workshop. Is there any possibility that the conditional ad couldn't change to the unconditional one?

A: You will need to follow up with the Chair, Frank Matero, at fgmatero@design.upenn.edu. This is his decision.

Q: I would also like to know how UPenn's Environmental program stands out in comparison to the programs at other colleges

A: When I was doing my research for similar programs, I did not come across many universities that gets this specific with the coursework. The first semester creates a strong foundation on the software and analytical thinking toward bioclimatic designing and the second and third semester, you learn how to implement it in the design process. As opposed to other sustainability programs, it's not treated as an 'add on' to design projects. The faculty is great and are on top of developments and software trends in the market and Bill is quite highly reputed in the field. This program definitely adds to your repertoire and gives you an edge in the profession.

Q: What is the average work/life balance? How often are you in the studio working throughout the week?

A: You have to be very diligent about how you manage your time. It's really easy to find yourself in studio all the time. I took it upon myself to schedule in breaks, working out, seeing friends. Keep a regimented routine, and you'll be great. Yet first year is very intense and I'm typically in studio everyday but try to take half-days off during the weekend.

Q: How does the MSD-EBD program at Penn stand out in comparison to the Environmental Building Design program at other colleges?

A: When I was doing my research for similar programs, I did not come across many universities that gets this specific with the coursework. The first semester creates a strong foundation on the software and analytical thinking toward bioclimatic designing and the second and third semester, you learn how to implement it in the design process. As opposed to other sustainability programs, it's not treated as an 'add on' to design projects. The faculty is great and are on top of developments and software trends in the market and Bill is quite highly reputed in the field. This program definitely adds to your repertoire and gives you an edge in the profession.

Q: Is it possible to apply to the dual MArch and MS EBD during the first year of MArch?

A: Yes, you can apply to EBD during your first year

Q: Trying to gauge how far I could live from campus and I am wondering how often (if ever) are students carrying supplies, models, large drawing from home?

A: With Penn's campus it is pretty easy to reach campus from wherever you live. If you have a lot of materials, then you can take the metro or bus. From the MCP program, a major of students live either in West Philly, Rittenhouse Square, or the Grad Hospital

A: I live in Chinatown, it's convenient to live in philly because it is a very accessible city. I bike to school every day, which takes 14 mins. Regarding equipment, most people I know have a station, studio, closet to leave stuff in school.

A: Also, not a lot of people know this, but we have access to Drexel's transportation as well. I use the Drexel bus every day. So, when you're looking at apartments, look at all the bus routes and bike routes to make a good decision. Keep in mind that we also have studio spaces to keep models and larger things.

Q: Any pointers for looking for accommodations in Philly (non-university controlled)?

A: I live off campus in a non-university-controlled bldg. first, I would do some research on philly neighborhoods! the city is known for the unique characteristics of its neighborhoods. second, would definitely use the online resources. and then when thing settle a bit, come to city for a visit! walking by foot to see apts and get a feel of the neighborhoods is one of the best ways to choose a place to live!

A: Also, philly is very affordable compared to many other northeast cities and there a ton of options (ex. budget range, home style, solo vs. roommates, etc.)

Q: Is it required to purchase the health insurance if you already have health insurance?

A: No, you can waive out of it if you hold health insurance already.

Q: What are the job opportunities for MSD-EBD students?

A: Bhavna There is a small niche in the market for the kind of work we do, and most of the students from previous batches have got places within 3-4 months of graduating. Many have landed jobs even

before graduation. I can assure you there is a growing demand for people with this background.

Q: For the current M Arch students, what was your reason for choosing UPenn over other programs?

A: The professors, the network, but honestly the student work was so impressive that I wanted to produce the same level of high-quality work.

Q: Will we have a chance to see who our fellow cohort members will be, what their research interests are, mediums they work in, etc.?

A: That usually happens in open house event, opens studios, or scheduled tours/meetings that you can contact the department and sign up for. Generally, everyone is open and welcoming to meet and show you around. Please join the April 6th Virtual Open House as you will have a chance to see the studios.

Q: What are housing options off campus? Which are the relatively safe areas to live in near campus? And how approximately how expensive it is?

A: Philly is full of apartment options in different neighborhoods. West Philly is convenient and will give you a very "student" experience- undergraduates and grad students live in West Philly north and west of campus. You can also live on the east side of the Schuylkill River in or close to Center City. I live in a Center City neighborhood, Rittenhouse, because I wanted to be close to campus (~10-minute bike ride) but also have easy access to bars and restaurants downtown. (I lived in a college town as an undergraduate, so for myself I decided to skip West Philly)

A: Penn has residential services to search for off-campus housing. There are private housing companies like campus apartments. Most graduate students live off campus in West Philly, some in Center city. There is also a UPenn Facebook page for housing.

for those with questions about housing, neighborhoods, resources on campus, etc., we have a webpage with helpful things to know on our Admitted Students page you should check out:

<https://www.design.upenn.edu/helpful-things-know>

Q: Could you still apply for it (Penn's health insurance) in the following years?

A: The health insurance is done on a yearly basis, so yes, you can apply for it in future years if needed.

Q: Is there a specific locality/neighborhood where most people find accommodation?

A: From my experience with planners, they are split mostly between Grad Hospital, Rittenhouse Square, and West Philly around Clark Park. I personally live around Clark park and love it. It tends to be cheaper than downtown neighborhoods, you get more space, and there is a really cute farmers market every Saturday. It is also very easy to walk to campus from there.

Q: If you decide to do a dual degree, does fin aid carry forward to the additional year?

A: It generally does and sometimes increases.

Q: What is the average starting salary for a person in this field?

A: I'm not sure about starting salaries. But it varies based on the city, and prior experience.

Q: M.Arch I: Are there a lot of group work in design studios?

A: First semester, the first project is a 4-week full scale design build group project. Afterwards, group work is typically mostly research for the first year. The second year first semester is a partner project, I believe, but you get to choose your partner.

Q: M.Arch :Can I know more about how Year 3 is structured? Do most students participate in an advanced design studio or do an optional independent thesis?

A: As for the 3rd year, you can choose to do a thesis project, but it is not required. Otherwise it is an intensive studio as you said

Q: What are the TAsip/ RAsip opportunities for MSD-EBD students?

A: As far as I know, there are 2 TA positions that are offered during the second semester.

A: RA positions at the CEBD and Kleinman are based on availability, and the skills they require

Q: MSD AAD: Are we aad students going to get our own desk in studio ? And can we keep our desk for the whole semester? And how about the ratio of male student and female student in MSD AAD?

A: Yes, you get your own desk space for the semester. I don't know the ratio of male/female off the top of my head, but my sense is that there is a higher percentage of male than female.

Q: Is there a way that we can see photos of the current M Arch studio space?

A: Yes, we will be posting pictures and/or virtual tours by April 6th

Q: I was looking forward to the open house and meeting the other artists, but in lieu of the situation, is there a way we can all be connected?

A: Everything is under reconsideration due to Covid 19 outbreak at the moment. You can contact Megan at: kellyme@design.upenn.edu to find out the updates.

Q: May students receiving 3year-MLA offers choose to study double major? Like MArch and MLA

A: Absolutely, the dual degree between M.Arch and MLA is very common. You can apply to M.Arch during your first year of MLA.

Q: 3-year mla: Is student culture competitive or collaborative/supportive?

A: I would say more collaborative and supportive.

Q: If we are already coming in with a BArch, will we be automatically placed in year 2 of the MArch program or is it only based on compatible courses taken prior to entering?

A: We do not have a two-year M.Arch. Sometimes a candidate can be admitted with advanced standing, but this is rare and is determined by the portfolio.

Q: Are there opportunities to take electives in other departments (arch, business, law)?

A: Yes!

Q: Will the final decision date get extended due to COVID-19?

A: As of now our April 15th decision deadline is not changing. If this changes, we will let everyone know.

Q: M. arch - Do many M.arch students apply into the MLA program for a dual M.arch/MLA within their first year at the school? If so, are they typically accepted into the second program? Is the application process/acceptance rate any different for students who are already enrolled in one Weitzman program?

A: Yes, many of our students apply to another program during their first year. The programs are competitive so not everyone is admitted, even if they are a current Weitzman student.

Q: As of now US student visas are not being issued. If we are delayed in getting the visas in time, what will be the best course of action?

A: If an admitted candidate is unable to receive a student visa, we will offer that student a deferral.

Q: Is the 2020-2021 tuition of each master programs the same, not matter it is a one-year program or a two-year program?

A: Yes, tuition is the same for every program. Tuition is per academic year, so somebody pursuing a three-year program will pay more than someone pursuing a two-year program.

Q: Although there is the disruption of COVID-19, I am wondering what are the details about the MArch London studio opportunity?

A: Right now, we are not certain how COVID-19 will be affecting fall travel studios.