Applying to the Graduate Program in Architecture: Master of Architecture (MArch)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Admission to the MArch Program for applicants graduating with the BSAS from Norwich requires a minimum undergraduate GPA and successful faculty review of the MArch Application materials. GPA requirements are: 2.5 overall; 2.75 across studio courses (weighted average). Portfolios from applicants who do not meet both GPA thresholds will not be reviewed without express request to do so accompanied by explanation of extenuating circumstances.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS **Priority submission is first day of spring semester**
All application materials should be prepared for submission in PDF format to the Admissions portal. You will receive a link to this portal after initiating the application process from the Admission website: https://home.norwich.edu/on/admissions-aid/apply/graduate-admissions. Specific items that together constitute your application portfolio include the following:

- *Letter of Application* — The purpose of this is for you to convey clearly and succinctly why you want to pursue a graduate degree in architecture, how you believe you are prepared for graduate-level work, and any other relevant information faculty should bear in mind while reviewing your portfolio. Note: this is *not* the place to offer a preliminary thesis topic proposal; accepted students will begin this process in March.
- *Studio Work* — The bulk of the portfolio should convey your architectural design work.
    MArch III pathway applicants: adapt the following as needed to represent the full range of your design work. Organize this chronologically, beginning with First Year. Given the number of small projects done in First Year, include at least three major projects. From Second Year on, include every project from every studio. For each project represented, include:
    - — title page with studio number, professor, and project title
    - — project statement (provide one if not originally given)
    - — paragraph explaining your design intent
    - — graphic documentation of adequate size, resolution, and quality to be clear
    - — graphic scales for orthographic drawings
    - — all technical drawings assigned for the project
    - — process drawings, diagrams, etc., at your discretion.
    Note: compose the studio work (and the entire portfolio) with care, paying special attention to clarity. Any graphic design strategies you use to organize the whole should be deployed with restraint and consistency — and with its communicative function paramount.
- *Research & Writing Samples* — The endeavor at the core of the Master of Architecture is the Thesis, which requires substantial research and writing in order to develop a level of expertise in the topic you choose and develop. Therefore, include your most substantial work in this area.
- *Other Material (Optional)* — You may include other work you think contributes to your case, such as studio art or community extra-curricular projects. Identify all such work and explain its original context. Recommendation letters are welcome. (However, if you are a graduating or recent Norwich BSAS student, do not ask for letters from NU A+A faculty as they are all involved in reviewing your materials.)
- *Transcripts* — NU BSAS graduates do not need to submit transcripts

REVIEW PROCESS
Upon verification of adequate GPA, faculty review portfolios holistically: we seek evidence of curiosity; intellectual growth; technical understanding; ability to integrate building systems, material choices, and construction methods; research and writing skills; and professionalism—and capacity for graduate-level work. We seek also to build a robust, diverse, and inclusive community of makers. To that end, we consider each applicant equally and fully. Below is a sample form that faculty use when performing the review.

For all applicants, faculty make recommendations to accept or deny admission; the Graduate Program Director, in consultation with the Director and Associate Director of the School, makes the final decision. Decision letters are sent by email from the Program Director and Admissions.

For applicants to the MArch III pathway, the Graduate Program Director confers with appropriate faculty to consider previous coursework and determine whether transfer credit and consequent reduction in required credits is warranted. Upon request, this review can be done provisionally prior to application to the MArch program.

School of Architecture+Art
Norwich University

MArch Application Materials Review

Revised February 2022

Date

Student Name

_____
Name of Reviewer

_____
Name of Reviewer

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICANT BY CRITERIA

|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
Weak   Avg   Strong

1. **Conceptualization**—Ability to generate clear concepts which inform and guide design inquiry.

|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
Weak   Avg   Strong

2. **Ordering**—Ability to establish clear design ordering concepts and integrate spatial systems into design solutions.

|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
Weak   Avg   Strong

3. **Integration**—Ability to integrate building systems (environmental, structural), material choices, and construction methods into comprehensive solutions.

|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
Weak   Avg   Strong

4. **Resolution**—Ability to comprehend project complexity, evaluate alternative design processes, and develop appropriate design solutions.

|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
Weak   Avg   Strong

5. **Communication**—Ability to communicate design concepts and solutions with continuity, clarity, and completeness through both graphics and writing.

|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
Weak   Avg   Strong

6. **Growth and Maturation**—Evidence of student's intellectual growth and maturation as an architectural designer.

|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
Weak   Avg   Strong

7. **Research & Writing Skills**—Ability to define and pursue a topic, problem, or question with rigor and to convey the results with clarity and coherence.

|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
Weak   Avg   Strong

8. **Curiosity**—Examples (from portfolio or experience with candidate)?

|_1_|_2_|_3_|_4_|_5_|
Weak   Avg   Strong

9. **Professionalism**—Examples (from portfolio or experience with candidate)?

Additional Comments and/or Explanations

RECOMMENDATION

☐ Grant Acceptance into MArch Program
☐ No Decision
☐ Deny Acceptance into MArch Program **[if checking this, give reasons in the section above]**