

Master Program in Architecture

I. Educational Objectives

1. Develop individuals with a truth-seeking, rigorous scientific spirit and well-rounded development in moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor education.
2. Develop high-level professionals with solid theoretical foundations, fundamental knowledge, and design skills in the discipline, demonstrating strong creative thinking, academic cultivation, comprehensive understanding of its history and current status, and capability for independent architectural design and research.

II. Academic system and duration of study

1. Full-time study mode is adopted, with a study period generally lasting three years. The study period (from enrollment to graduation and degree conferral) shall not exceed six years. The study period includes any periods of leave of absence.
2. Outstanding graduate students who complete their training program ahead of schedule may graduate early with the approval of the school, but the duration of study must not be less than two years. To graduate early, students must meet the following requirements: an average course grade of 90 or above; publication of at least one paper in a core journal (Beijing Library edition) during their studies; and successful completion of their thesis defense.

III. Training Mode

1. The program implement a mentorship system and encourage interdisciplinary training; explore models like academic team collaboration, inter-university partnerships, industry-academia-research integration, and international cooperation.
2. The program combines coursework, required courses, and a dissertation, emphasizing foundational theories, current knowledge, practical skills, and integrating theory with practice.
3. The program focuses on mentor-guided training, encouraging active participation in coursework, practical work, literature reviews, and academic exchanges. Students identify research topics, conduct independent research, produce creative results, and complete dissertations.

IV. Credit Requirements

The course study for master's degree students adopts the credit system. The basic requirements for credits of master's degree students: The total credits must be no less

than 32 and no more than 36, and meet the credit requirements for public courses, degree courses and non-degree courses; Students must complete ≥ 20 credits before mid-term evaluation and fulfill all curricular specifications in their individualized study plan prior to thesis defense authorization.

V. Curriculum Structure and Requirements

1. Curriculum Structure

Types	Course name	Course hours	Credits	Commence-ment term		Assessment method	Note		
				Autume	Spring				
Degree course	Degree Public	Basic Chinese (I)	64	4	√		Exam	8 credits	
		Introduction of China	32	2	√				Exam
		Scientific paper writing	16	2		√			Exam
	Compulsory course for major	The Theories and Technologies of Architectural Design	32	2	√		Exam	14 credits	
		Architectural History and Research Methods	32	2	√		Exam		
		The Theory and Practice of the Conservation of Urban and Rural Built Heritage	32	2		√	Exam		
		Architectural Physical Environment	32	2	√		Exam		
		Science of Human Settlements	32	2		√	Exam		
		Architecture and Urban Design	64	4	√		No Exam		
Non-degree course	Optional course	Introduction to the Conservation Technology of Historic Buildings	32	2	√		No Exam	Complete a minimum of 10 credits	
		Urban Planning of Historic Towns	32	2	√		No Exam		
		Architectural Spatial Environment and Behavior	32	2			No Exam		
		Architectural Design of Landscape	32	2		√	No Exam		
		Generative Architectural Design	32	2	√		No Exam		
		Passive Architectural Design	32	2		√	No Exam		
		Social Development and Urban-Rural Community Planning	32	2	√		No Exam		
		A Comprehensive Study of Jiangnan Gardens	32	2		√	No Exam		
		Architectural Criticism	32	2		√	No Exam		
	Compulsory	Academic Activities	16	1			No Exam	2 credits	
Practical Activities		16	1			No Exam			

2. Course Requirements

Degree courses must achieve a score of 70 or above, and non-degree courses must attain 60 or above.

3. Teaching Arrangements

Coursework should in principle be completed within one year except for the compulsory components.

VI. Academic Achievement Requirements

The mid-term evaluation serves as a mandatory quality assurance mechanism, requiring graduate candidates to undergo comprehensive assessment of moral integrity, academic competence, and physical readiness. Successful completion qualifies students for advancement to the degree thesis phase.

VII. Thesis Requirements

1. The thesis involves stages like topic selection, proposal submission, mid-term evaluation, pre-defense, external review, and final defense. All procedures must adhere to relevant regulations including:

Provisions of Suzhou University of Science and Technology on International Master Students' Academic Thesis Topic Selection and Thesis Proposal Management

Provisions of Suzhou University of Science and Technology on Management of Mid-term Evaluation on International Master Students' Academic Thesis

Provisions of Suzhou University of Science and Technology on Management of International Master Students' Academic Thesis Pre-defense

Detailed Rules of Suzhou University of Science of Technology on International Master Students' Degree Awarding

2. The dissertation must address critical theoretical frontiers and discipline-specific challenges, with research topics selected from either fundamental methodological inquiries or complex applied planning issues demonstrating substantive academic significance and practical applicability. Rigorous literature review should establish theoretical foundations, synthesize existing research trajectories, and identify emerging disciplinary trends through systematic information processing.

The dissertation research must demonstrate methodological feasibility with calibrated technical complexity and manageable workload allocation. Meeting rigorous academic standards for master's degree qualification, the thesis must constitute an original scholarly contribution independently developed under continuous faculty supervision. Upon formal confirmation of the research topic, a minimum 12-month dedicated research period is required.

3. The master's thesis defense shall be conducted in accordance with *the Academic Degree Law of the People's Republic of China and Detailed Rules of Suzhou University of Science of Technology on International Master Students' Degree*

Awarding.