UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Programme description

Landscape Architecture - master

120 ECTS/ Campus: Tromsø

The programme description has been approved by the Director of UMAK and Deputy Director of Education at UMAK on 28 October 2026



Study programme name	Landscape Architecture - master
Degree obtained	Landscape Architecture - master
Target group	Applicants who wish to develop knowledge and skills in the field of landscape architecture, with the aim of contributing to relevant and innovative societal development. The programme places particular emphasis on dynamic transformation processes in vulnerable landscapes in the Arctic/sub-Arctic.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	Required: • A bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) in landscape architecture or equivalent. • A portfolio documenting landscape architectural work. • Proof of English proficiency. Recommended: • Prior knowledge of ecology. • Prior knowledge and experience in urban planning. • Prior experience with the use of CAD and GIS.
The study programme's Learning Outcome	Upon completing the programme, students will have achieved the following learning outcomes: **Knowledge** • Possess in-depth knowledge of landscape architecture as a practical, artistic, and scientific discipline, including its media, history, theories, and methods. • Demonstrate mastery of landscape architecture through specialised insight into natural and man-made materials, understanding how they are influenced by composition, delimitation, and design, with an emphasis on dynamic transformation processes in vulnerable landscapes and communities within the Arctic/sub-Arctic. • Be able to apply knowledge of natural, societal, and cultural factors, and integrate these into landscape architectural design. • Critically analyse and discuss the short- and long-term environmental impacts of landscape architecture, with particular emphasis on cultural understanding, sense of place, and the relationship between the natural and the human-made.

	Skills • Demonstrate a comprehensive ability to critically analyse, qualify, explain, and argue for designs and solutions within landscape architecture through complex planning and project work. • Independently implement and lead planning and project work within the field of landscape architecture. • Take a critical stance on relevant theories and methods within landscape architecture while maintaining openness to interdisciplinary insights. • Drive scientific and artistic knowledge production within the field, with a particular focus on the landscape architect's primary area of work: design-based project development. **General Competence** • Independently analyse, plan, and design landscape architecture projects of various scales in diverse local, urban, and territorial contexts. This competence should address dynamic transformation processes in vulnerable landscapes and adhere to professional standards. • Apply professional knowledge and skills to processes in a society undergoing constant transformation and be prepared to take on professional leadership roles in sustainable societal development. • Communicate and convey issues, analyses, and conclusions within the field of landscape architecture to both specialists and the general public, while contributing to the innovation and advancement of the discipline.
Academic content and description of the study programme	The master's programme in landscape architecture places special emphasis on Arctic and sub-Arctic conditions. These landscapes are undergoing rapid change, making it particularly relevant to study how natural and human-made changes impact both society and ecosystems. Students in the programme learn to work across diverse spatial and temporal scales to address changes in Arctic and sub-Arctic landscapes. These changes encompass social, climatic, geopolitical, economic, and environmental challenges. The aim of the programme is to educate landscape architects who can operate within the framework of sustainable societal development. Graduates will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to address the design and development of landscapes undergoing rapid transformation.

<table>
<tr><td>Course structure</td><td>
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<tr><td>1. semester</td><td>LAR-3071 Studio 1: Urban Practices (24 ETCS)

LAR-3072 Digital landscapes (6 ECTS)

MS-0501 Safety in the laboratory, workshop and on sea and land expeditions (0 ECTS)

HMS-0502 First aid in the laboratory, workshop and on sea and land expeditions (0 ECTS)</td></tr>
<tr><td>2. semester</td><td>LAR-3081 Studio 2: Landscape Practices (24 ECTS)

LAR-3082 Perspectives on nature and landscape practices (6 ECTS)</td></tr>
<tr><td>3. semester</td><td>LAR-3091 Studio 3: Territorial Practices (24 ECTS)

LAR-3092 Pre-diploma (6 ECTS)</td></tr>
<tr><td>4. semester</td><td>LAR-3900 Diploma Thesis/Master’s Project (30 ECTS)</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Learning activities, examination, and assessment</td><td>The teaching is based on relevant research, as well as professional development work and experiential knowledge, tailored to the level, scope, and distinctive nature of the study programme.

Teaching may include lectures, fieldwork/excursions, group work, individual project work, seminars, workshops, and similar activities.

The most common methods of assessment are written examinations, oral examinations, project reports, and portfolio assessments, often used in various combinations.

Arrangements for examination and continuation of study are described in the individual course plans.

The following assessment terms are used:

• Pass/fail, or

• A graded scale with five levels, where A to E is a pass, and F is a fail.</td></tr>
<tr><td>The study programme’s relevance</td><td>The programme was established in response to pressing societal challenges associated with climate change, the exploitation of natural resources, growing urbanisation, and territorial polarisation. These challenges are particularly pronounced in Arctic/sub-Arctic landscapes, making them highly relevant for research and teaching.</td></tr>
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	With a dedicated and sustained focus on Arctic/sub-Arctic conditions, and the unique opportunity to live and study in these environments, the programme aims to educate landscape architects who can design for landscapes facing growing uncertainties. Graduates of this programme will possess the professional competence in landscape architecture to shape our environment, utilising approaches ranging from process management and urban planning to design-based project development. Graduates from the programme are also eligible for admission to a PhD programme.
Work scope	To achieve the learning outcomes, students are expected to dedicate a minimum of forty hours per week to their studies. Attendance, active participation, and the ability to work both independently and collaboratively are required.
Diploma Thesis/Master's Project	Diploma Thesis/Master's Project can be submitted individually or as a group with a maximum of three members, in which case each member will receive an individual assessment.
Language of instruction and examination	English
Internationalisation	The international perspective is catered for through an English language curriculum, international lecturers, and collaboration with other institutions.
Student exchange	Exchanges with approved partner institutions can be arranged and may only take place during the third semester. Students must meet the examination requirements in accordance with the standard study progression before an exchange can be approved. The pre-diploma (LAR-3092) must be completed and accepted before the student can begin the fourth-semester diploma thesis/master's thesis (LAR-3900).
Supervised professional training	Not offered in this course.
Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility	The study programme is led by a Head of Programme and a programme board where both students and employees are represented. The study programme belongs to the Academy of Arts (Kunstakademiet), which is a part of the Arctic University Museum of Norway and Academy of Arts (UMAK).
Quality assurance	The study programme is evaluated every five years. The courses included in the study programme are evaluated at least once during the programme period. Course evaluations include input from both students and faculty.
Other regulations	

