

Design

- M.Design

M.Design

About the Program

The MDes program strives to advance knowledge in the field of design through the study of advanced design principles and interdisciplinary design practices that contribute to the strategic value of design. The primary objectives of the program are to promote design research, interdisciplinary design development, strategic design planning, and knowledge creation and dissemination.

The program of study focuses on research in the following areas: advanced materials and manufacturing processes, advanced visualization, design and culture, design management, extreme environments, human-oriented design, product interaction design, sustainable design, and strategic design research.

Students have an opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary interactions with faculty from the School and faculty and students from a diverse range of disciplines in the university, all linked to the design development process. Graduates will have the skills to positively affect the greater integration of design principles, methodologies, and interdisciplinary design development processes into private and public sector business practice.

Academic Regulations

See the General Regulations section of this Calendar.

Industrial Design does not permit the C+ option as stipulated in Section 11.2 of the General Regulations .

Admission Requirements

The University's general requirements for admission are outlined in Section 2.1 of the General Regulations in the Graduate Calendar.

Applicants must have successfully completed a bachelor's degree in a design discipline, or the equivalent, with B- or better overall.

Applicants with a design-related background, but not a degree in design, will be required to demonstrate significant links between their academic background and professional experience in the design development process.

In addition to these academic credentials, applicants must submit the following materials to the School of Industrial Design:

- Application Form
- Statement of Intent (One page)

The quality of the statement of intent is critical to the likelihood of an applicant's admission. The writing should be succinct and as carefully considered as the content of the statement, which should address at least the four following areas:

What is the area of intended research with specific reference to the program courses and the expertise of the faculty members

How the applicant's academic background and professional experience relates to the program with reference to any previous research, scholarship, or project experience with interdisciplinary or collaborative teams

How the intended research program will align with the objectives of the program relating to: design research, interdisciplinary design development, strategic design planning, knowledge creation and dissemination.

An explanation of the specific reasons for choosing the School of Industrial Design at Carleton University.

Portfolio

The portfolio should provide the best examples of creative intellectual activity and recent professional work that indicates the applicant is sufficiently prepared to pursue studies in the program. These activities may be represented by proposals, reports, and/or analysis documents. Emphasis should be placed on evidence of understanding the communication of design ideas in visual form.

The presentation of the portfolio should be professional and facilitate the review process of the content, and should be submitted in prescribed format.

Two Letters of Recommendation

Applicants must provide two (2) confidential letters of reference appended to prescribed recommendation forms.

Language Proficiency

Proficiency in English is necessary to pursue graduate studies at Carleton University. All applicants are required to meet the requirements set out in Section 3.6 of the General Regulations of this Calendar.

Qualifying Year Program

Candidates with admission deficiencies would be required to successfully complete additional prescribed courses to qualify for admission. Applicants without a degree in design may be required to register for up to 2.0 credits of courses selected from the undergraduate Bachelor of Industrial Design program, in consultation with the Graduate Program Coordinator.

All courses must be approved by the Graduate Program Coordinator of the School in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. (See General Regulations Section 2.3, "Completion of the Qualifying Year", for more details.) Completion of the Qualifying Year is not a guarantee of admission to the Master of Design. Re-application to the M.Des. program is required.

Program Requirements

The Master of Design program requires the successful completion of 5.0 credits with at least 4.0 credits taken at the 5000 level or higher. The Graduate Program Coordinator must approve course selections. The program may be completed in four terms of study.

Specific requirements:

M. Design (5.0 credits)

Year 1

Fall Term

IDES 5101 [0.5] Interdisciplinary Design Development Seminar

IDES 5102 [0.5] Research Methods

Winter Term

IDES 5103 [0.5] Interdisciplinary Design Development Studio

1.5 credits in elective courses

Year 2

Fall Term

0.5 credit in elective course

Winter Term

IDES 5909 [1.5] Thesis

Industrial Design (IDES) Courses

IDES 5000 [0.5 credit]

Directed Studies in Industrial Design

Reading and research tutorials.

IDES 5101 [0.5 credit]

Interdisciplinary Design Development Seminar

Investigation of disciplines involved in design development, with experts in business, engineering, sociology/anthropology, architecture, psychology, human factors, and others. Methods for integrating these different perspectives and ways that personality, leadership, negotiation, conflict management, and teambuilding affect collaboration are examined. Introduction to graduate academic writing.

IDES 5102 [0.5 credit]

Research Methods

Critical analysis of research methods in design and disciplines contributing to design including anthropology, psychology, sociology, and business. Application areas include advanced materials and manufacturing processes, advanced visualization, product interaction design, extreme environments, sustainable design, design and culture, design management, and human-oriented design.

IDES 5103 [1.0 credit]

Interdisciplinary Design Development Studio

Team-based studio projects draw on interdisciplinary design development methods in achieving a common design objective. Projects will be supervised by academic and industry advisors from a wide range of disciplines, and conducted in collaboration with professionals from external organizations. Open to students from other programs.

Prerequisite(s): IDES 5101 and IDES 5102 or permission of the School of Industrial Design.

IDES 5201 [0.5 credit]

Thesis Proposal

Investigation into a theoretically and practically relevant research problem. Students will analyze and synthesize findings involving interdisciplinary design development processes and develop these into a thesis proposal. This is a directed study with specific content, objectives, and scheduling arranged between student and academic advisors.

Prerequisite(s): IDES 5101, IDES 5102, and IDES 5103.

IDES 5500 [0.5 credit]

Special Topics in Industrial Design

Seminar course in contemporary design issues of an interdisciplinary nature. Guided by a faculty member and supported by external professionals.

IDES 5909 [1.5 credit]

Thesis

A comprehensive project that demonstrates the student's ability to conduct critical research in a specific area in which design can contribute to competitive advantage through design planning and interdisciplinary design development processes.

Prerequisite(s): IDES 5101, IDES 5102, IDES 5103, and IDES 5201.

Summer session: some of the courses listed in this Calendar are offered during the summer. Hours and scheduling for summer session courses will differ significantly from those reported in the fall/winter Calendar. To determine the scheduling and hours for summer session classes, consult the class schedule at central.carleton.ca

Not all courses listed are offered in a given year. For an up-to-date statement of course offerings for the current session and to determine the term of offering, consult the class schedule at central.carleton.ca