MA and MFA FAQs

Q: What funding is available?
A: The IA Program does not offer any kind of funding, fellowships, stipends, or scholarships. However, through GW's Columbian College of Arts & Sciences (CCAS), of which we are a part, a limited number of funds are available to accepted students who apply to programs prior to February 1 each year. The amount of these funds varies from year to year. No special form or documentation is required to be considered for this except for the submission of the fully completed application.

Q: Are teaching assistantships available?
A: There are no grad teaching assistantship positions available through the Interior Architecture (IA) Program.

Q: How much does graduate tuition cost?
A: Please review the GW Student Accounts website to see the cost of tuition, under “CCAS - Selected Graduate Programs (per credit)”. Tuition and other estimated costs for international students can be found on the Columbian College of Arts + Science (CCAS) website “Tuition and Costs For F-1 or J-1 Students”.

Q: Does the Program offer a PhD?
A: Our Program does not offer a PhD; the degrees that are offered are a BFA, MFA (first-professional) and MA (post-professional).

Q: What is the difference between the MA and MFA Programs?
A: The MFA is a first-degree program – the only prospective students that are eligible to apply are those who do not have an undergraduate degree in interior design, architecture, or interior architecture. If you already have an undergraduate in any of the previously mentioned disciplines, you are only eligible to apply for the post-professional MA degree.

Q: Is the MA curriculum accredited by the Council of Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA)?
A: No, it is not accredited by CIDA as CIDA does not provide accreditation for post-professional programs. Since the MA degree is only for those who already possess an undergraduate degree in interior design, architecture, or interior architecture, the understanding is that the applicant has earned a degree from an accredited program.

Q: When are applications for the MA and MFA programs open?
A: Applications are accepted for the following fall semesters at the early part of September. Those who submit their fully completed application before February 1 are eligible for the CCAS Dean's Award.

Q: Are students admitted to the MA and MFA for the spring semesters?
A: Students are only admitted to the graduate programs in the fall and not spring semesters.

Q: Can I attend as a part-time student?
A: No, both the MA and MFA are full-time programs.

Q: Is it possible to work while earning my degree?
A: As an MA student, it is possible to work when advised by the MA advisor; please contact us prior to committing to employment. If enrolled in the MFA Program, students are encouraged not to work, as the typical schedule of classes meeting four times a week for approximately five hours each day is extremely challenging to complete with the addition of employment.