The Berlage Center runs a post-master programme for advanced critical thinking in architecture and urban design. Graduate and experienced architects and urban designers are given the freedom to develop alternative models and theoretical insights into the built environment to meet the challenges of globally orientated practice. The Berlage, as part of TU Delft, continues the legacy of the former Berlage Institute.

The programme is unique in its focus on how architects and urban designers practice in a globalised world. Students strengthen their theoretical knowledge, critical thinking and research skills in a collaborative and experimental setting with guidance from leading practitioners and scholars. Students participate in research and design-based projects, theory seminars, fieldwork, and master classes, with a public events series complementing the programme.

Applicants have a master’s degree (or graduate-level bachelor’s degree) in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture or related fields. Prospective students demonstrate an interest in theoretical enquiry. Upon completion of the program, students obtain a postgraduate Master of Science degree from TU Delft.
Post-master’s programme

The Berlage offers an international, one-and-a-half-year English-language post-master’s programme in architecture and urban design. The programme begins with a year of course work followed by a six-month final thesis project. The first semester *Cultures, Methods, and Instruments* introduces methods and tools to examine architectural thought and practice while the second semester *Societies, Environments, and Economies* looks at the societal, environmental, and economic factors that shape architectural practice.

**Term 1: Cultures, Methods, and Instruments**
Students are introduced to methods of advanced critical thinking and research, to historical and contemporary design instruments, and to emerging digital technologies and platforms. Students engage in a broad range of methods, tools, and topics, examining the relationship between architectural thought and practice to different cultures and contexts. Intelligent communication is developed as a tool for learning, research, and design, exploring how experimental mediums may frame academic work for engagement with a broader public audience.

**Term 2: Societies, Environments, and Economies**
Students focus on societal, environmental, and economic determinants related to contemporary architecture and urban design, building on the knowledge gained in term 1. Within select architectural and urban contexts, they develop advanced research methods, design tools, and theoretical approaches.

**Term 3: Final Thesis**
Synthesizing the knowledge gained in the previous two terms, students culminate their education by producing an individual research- and design-based thesis project under a defined thematic framework. They are encouraged to reflect, speculate, and develop alternative models and new insights on today’s architectural and urban challenges. Students conduct independent research, under the supervision of an advisor, learning to position themselves at the intersection of theory and practice.

Career prospects

Given this programme's focus on theoretical enquiry and a deep understanding of global architectural practice, graduates have a unique skill set. Previous graduates have started their own offices, worked as curators and editors, become educators, and pursued PhD research.

The Berlage Post-master in Architecture and Urban Design Curriculum

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<th>Year 1 (40 weeks)</th>
<th>Year 2 (20 weeks)</th>
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<td><strong>Term 2</strong>: Societies, Environments, and Economies (30 ECTS)</td>
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<td>ARB101 Project (12 ECTS)</td>
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<td>ARB102 Theory Seminar (6 ECTS)</td>
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Skills for an increasingly globalised profession

After working on built projects in New York and Beijing, I wished to revisit architecture as an academic field. I found the post-master’s program of the Berlage ideal because of its unique focus on theory and research. I now work at ETH Zurich teaching in the chair of Marc Angélil and practice as an architect in my own office – Specter. I am also a co-founder of Die Weinhalde, a temporary project space that organizes cultural events and quarterly calls for in-situ work. In my experience, the Berlage trains you in skills that are crucial but often overlooked in our increasingly-globalised profession: how to think critically about what you are doing and argue coherently for what you think should be done.

Sarah Nichols

A proposal for decentralizing program along Taksim Square, creating an atmosphere of flows and an interconnected network of activities. Project by Jinsun Baik and Xiaoting Chen. Tutors: Ido Avissar and Marcus Kempers, spring 2013.
Admission requirements and application procedures

Students are admitted into the program in the autumn term only. Study begins once a year in September and concludes a year later at the end of January.

To be considered for admission to The Berlage Post-master in Architecture and Urban Design programme, you will need to meet the following general requirements

Summary of admission requirements
1. a master's degree in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, or allied discipline (or equivalent five-year graduate-level bachelor's degree); or a master's degree from a different discipline in combination with relevant work experience.
2. a sufficient TOEFL (minimum of 90) or IELTS (minimum of 6.5) score.
3. a motivation essay of 1,500 to 2,000 words.
4. three letters of recommendation in English.
5. a portfolio showing representative examples of design work (academic and/or professional), publications, awards, etc.
6. an extensive curriculum vitae.
7. proof of identity.

The application period starts in September and closes on 1 April. Please go to www.theberlage.nl for more information on how to start an MSc application.