The Berlage Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design

Applicants are generally evaluated for:

• an academic approach, meaning a critical and thoughtful approach and the linking of theoretical concepts with practice;
• potential in developing critical thinking abilities in relation to design and research skills;
• an ability to pose questions related to architecture relevant for urban design, as well as in relation to the global complexities facing the contemporary built environment;
• a demonstrable interest in developing both speculative and reflective insights in today’s architectural and urban design challenges;
• an interest in linking professional practice to advanced academic study;
• an independent personal style of expression or position.

Portfolio evaluation criteria of the Berlage Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design:

• familiarity with contemporary challenges for architecture and urban design;
• evidence of an ability to discuss, debate, and reason in proposing design solutions and/or reaching research conclusions;
• evidence of an ability to communicate through visualization in drawing, rendering, mapping, or other means;
• evidence of an ability to shift between architectural and urban design scales;
• awareness of how decisions and choices have been made in the course of the work.

Written motivation essay criteria:

• evidence of intellectual maturity and desire to pursue advanced design and research studies;
• definition of the key questions that might be answered during study or the important issues that would be addressed by the study at the Berlage;
• willingness to develop cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary design and research skills;
• evidence of previous academic or practice experience that would enable advanced learning in the collaborative, international and experimental setting of the Berlage;
• evidence of ability to make a logical and well-reasoned argument in English.