



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | *Uploaded on 20th Jan 2011*

Q1. Why is there a requirement for two years professional work experience?

Applicants should have at least two years relevant professional experience; a portfolio submission is needed to explain the nature and depth of this experience. This requirement ensures that a candidate, who gets into the programme, gets the most out of the curriculum, much of which is focused on real-world practice issues. A decision to waive this requirement can be under exceptional circumstances, solely at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

Q2. My undergraduate degree is not building-related but I have been working in the building sector; am I eligible to apply?

The question of whether an applicant is admitted depends on whether his/her undergraduate degree and/or work experience offers him/her base knowledge of buildings and cities. The programme lectures and studio sessions will not delve into fundamentals of how buildings are designed or perform; it is assumed that students are already acquainted with this. If an applicant's undergraduate degree is not building-related, s/he must make a case that they have base knowledge about buildings through his/her work-related portfolio.

Q3. Are there any scholarships or financial aid schemes linked with the MScISD programme?

There are no scholarships or financial aid schemes linked with the MScISD programme at this stage. Applicants from ASEAN countries may apply for an ASEAN scholarship, however competition for these is very stiff.

Q4. What are the career opportunities once I have completed this degree?

The programme is designed with the building professional in mind. The curriculum is focused on the idea that we must rethink the way we make buildings and cities in Asia, with a newfound focus on the integrative problem solving. We hope our graduates to return to industry and become leaders in their respective discipline and/or organisation. Some may elect to go into policy or governance; others may go into teaching.

Q5. Will there be night classes?

Teaching of all essential modules and associated Masterclasses will be carried out during the day. There will be no night classes. Part-time candidates should check schedule of classes one month prior to the commencement of a teaching semester. Where a student is planning to work during the semester the onus lies with him/her to arrange for annual leave or time-off with his/her employer.

Q6. What is the difference between the MScISD and other taught postgraduate programmes which also focus on sustainability?

The MScISD programme has the following goals:

- Forging an Integrative, Multidisciplinary Approach
- Focus on the Asian Context
- Lessons from the Singapore Experience
- Exploring Scalability of Solutions; Buildings to Cities

The key thrust is rethinking process – seeking a more integrated approach – at the level of buildings and cities in a manner that relevant to the Asian condition. Much of the teaching will be carried by industry experts invited to run Masterclasses.

There is more information on each on the MScISD website under ‘Curriculum > Key Emphases of the Programme’.