

# **Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture at the College of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Southwest University**

## **I Introduction to the Subject of Landscape Architecture**

The subject of landscape Architecture of Southwest University's originated from the undergraduate subject "Landscape Gardening" established in 1983. In 1998, master students were recruited in the subject of landscape plants and ornamental horticulture. In 2001, we were nominated as the second level master degree authorization unit of the subject of Landscape plants and ornamental horticulture. In 2011, it was adjusted to the first level master degree authorization unit of the subject of Landscape Architecture. In the same year, we obtained the second-level Doctor's degree authorization unit of ornamental horticulture. Currently there are two undergraduate subjects (Landscape gardening, Landscape Architecture), 3 master's degree (academic master's degree in landscape architecture, master's degree in landscape architecture, professional master's degree in landscape planting and ornamental horticulture in the field of agricultural extension and forestry), 1 doctoral degree in related disciplines (Authorization point for the secondary discipline of ornamental horticulture).

There are four subject research directions: landscape gardening and design, history and theory of landscape architecture, landscape plant and application, landscape ecology and ecological restoration.

Based on the natural geographic characteristics of the mountainous areas in the southwestern China, a series of research has been carried out in mountainous landscapes and ecological restoration, garden plant resources and their applications, mountain parks and mountainous plant landscapes, and gradually formed research topics in landscape architecture with mountainous landscape characteristics of southwestern China. The academic advantages lie in garden plants and ecology.

## **II Education Objectives**

For a Degree of Master in Landscape Architecture, the student shall

- master the theory and methodology of landscape architecture and the understanding the knowledge system of urban and rural planning, ecology and other related disciplines;

-master the basic way of thinking and working procedures of scientific research as well as the professional skills in the subject of landscape architecture, and have strong field research capabilities;

-master a foreign language, be able to inquire and read professional foreign literatures and information

proficiently, have strong ability to acquire knowledge and information independently, and understand the domestic and foreign research progress of this subject;

-demonstrate the ability to independently complete scientific research in a certain field under the instruction of a supervisor;

-demonstrate the scientific innovation ability to combine planning and design practice and academic research.

- demonstrate relatively strong expressive capacity and academic communication ability, good teamwork and awareness of academic ethics;

-demonstrate good humanistic qualities and capacity of engaging in scientific research, teaching, management and technical work in the subject of landscape architecture;

-be familiar with the basic knowledge of Chinese contexts and culture, such as Chinese history, geography, society and economy;

-know about China's political system and diplomatic policy;

-understand the values of the mainstream and public morality of Chinese society and form an awareness of democracy and morals.

### **III Length of Study**

The flexible educational system is implemented. The basic educational system of full-time graduate students is 3 years.

### **IV Way of Education**

1. The supervisor-in-charge system is adopted to educate graduate students.

2. The supervisor, together with the graduate teaching secretary and the teacher in charge of the class are responsible for the daily management and ideological education. The supervisor, the supervisor group, and the college's graduate leadership group are responsible for quality control.

3. Multi-stage and whole-process training. Curriculum study, academic activities, and practical training are equally important as the thesis. The first academic year is mainly course study, but the student must participate in related academic activities, and the research time for the thesis must not be less than one year.

4. The credit system is adopted for the course learning, academic activities and practical training.

Table 1 Required credits

Maximum credits	Required credits	Minimum course credits	Credits for academic activities and practical training	Study period
32	28	24	4	The 1 <sup>st</sup> to 4 <sup>rd</sup> semester

5. Master students in Landscape Architecture are trained according to the first-level discipline training program. In each research direction there is a supervisor group who participate in and are responsible for the opening report and mid-term assessment.

6. Graduate training can be carried out with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Forestry and other units in an inter-unit and inter-disciplinary joint training mode, mainly in the form of research work on thesis.

## V Content and Outline

### 1 Courses in the Program

Table 2 Distribution of course credits

Type of course	Course	Semester	Duration (study hours)	Credits
Compulsory Courses	Chinese	2-3	108	3
	Chinese Culture Survey	2-3	72	2
	Garden Plants and Applications	1	36	2
	History and Theory of Landscape Architecture	2	36	2
	Landscape Planning and Design Theory	1	27	1.5
	Applied Ecology	1	36	2
	Domestic and Foreign Literature Review (including Research ethics and Academic Writing)	1	36	2
	Frontiers in Landscape Research	2	18	1
	Research Methods of Landscape Architecture	2	27	1.5

Optional Courses	Garden Plant Landscaping	2	18	1
	Landscape Planning	1	27	1.5
	Landscape Design	2	27	1.5
	Urban Historical Heritage conservation	2	27	1.5
	Landscape Psychology and Behavior	2	18	1
	Environmental art history	2	18	1
	Introduction to Sociology	1	54	3
	Genetic Breeding and Cultivation of Garden Plants	2	36	2
	Garden Plant Resources	2	27	1.5
	Garden Plant Physiology	2	36	2
	Ecological Engineering	2	27	1.5
	Vegetation ecology	2	27	1.5
	Spatial big data and data mining	2	36	2
	Territorial and Regional Planning	2	27	1.5

In addition, an innovation and entrepreneurship online course is compulsory for students as well.

The minimum requirements for courses credits are 24; among them, compulsory courses take up 18 credits and optional courses take up 6 credits. The courses are taught in Chinese.

### 2 Interdisciplinary courses

The student should take at least one interdisciplinary course.

### 3 Academic activities

(1) Academic activities include participation in academic lectures, academic forums, academic conferences, lectures on postgraduate topic presentations, defense of thesis and literature review.

(2) The student should attend at least 15 academic lectures during the study period.

(3) Within 3 working days after the academic activities, reading reports or academic activity records should be submitted through the graduate management information system.

(4) The student will get 2 credits when meeting the assessment requirements for academic activities.

#### 4 Thesis

(1) Graduate students must submit a thesis title and corresponding work plan in the first academic year based on reviewing a large amount of literature and surveys. An improved opening report can be submitted after the supervisors' instructions and guidance.

(2) The thesis opening report will be held at the end of the third semester. The main content of the opening report is: the progress and development situation at home and abroad in the research direction, purpose and significance of the subject and research; the main research content of the thesis; research plan and schedule, expected outcomes and novelty; research conditions and funding already in place and required; possible difficulties and problems that may be encountered during the research process and measures to be taken; main references. The text of a thesis is generally no less than 30,000 words.

#### 5. Academic regulations

##### 5.1 Norms for the thesis

The thesis should include the following sections: Chinese and English titles, Chinese and English abstracts and keywords, statement for independent completion and integrity, basis and significance of research topic selection, review of domestic and foreign literatures on the research topic, main body of the thesis, conclusions, references, necessary Appendices and acknowledgement.

##### 5.2 General requirements for thesis quality

The thesis format is standardized, the concept is clear and the structure is reasonable. Furthermore, the expression is accurate, the data is reliable, the icons are clear, the argument is rigorous and the conclusions are realistically drawn.

## **VI. Quality Control and Requirements**

### 1 Course assessments

The courses are assessed by a combination of exams and course essays.

### 2 Mid-term assessment

Academic master students must participate in the mid-term assessment on schedule. The mid-term

assessment is at the end of the third semester. Assessment content includes the curriculum learning, scientific research ability, academic activities, and physical and mental health of graduate students since enrollment.

The results of the mid-term assessment are classified as qualified and unqualified. For personal reasons, graduate students who fail to participate in the mid-term assessment as required by the education institution will be deemed as unqualified immediately. If the student failed the first assessment, he would be allowed the second assessment after 3 months. After the mid-term assessment, the results and treatment will be announced. The announcement period will be 5 working days. The postgraduate leadership team of the college accepts postgraduate appeals for assessment results and proposes handling opinions.

### 3 Thesis

#### 3.1 The opening report of thesis

(1) The supervisor fills in the review opinions in the "Review Form for Selecting a Topic for a Postgraduate Thesis for Southwest University", including the basis for selecting the topic, feasibility and progress of the research.

(2) At the seminar held in the third semester, the thesis opening report will be approved.

(3) Under the guidance of the supervisor, graduate students revise and improve the thesis opening report. Those who do not pass the opening report can redo it within a time limit. For those who change the research topic after the opening report, they must do it again following the above procedure.

#### 3.2 Progress checking of the thesis

The supervisor is responsible for checking progress and quality of the scientific research work for graduate students.

#### 3.3 Pre-defense of thesis

A pre-defense for graduate degree thesis will be held at the end of the fifth semester.

#### 3.4 Thesis repetition checking

At the beginning of the sixth semester, submit graduate degree thesis should be submitted for checking the repetition and retrieval. The thesis repetition rate must not be greater than 15%.

All the master's degree thesis will be through blind evaluation.

#### 3.5 Thesis defense

(1) The thesis defense will be held in the late May of the sixth semester.

(2) The defense time of postgraduates who do not pass the thesis defense will be postponed by 6 months and participate in the thesis defense after the amendments according to the defense committee's comments.

### **VII Requirements for academic achievements**

The requirements for academic achievements are implemented in accordance with the relevant regulations of the University degree committee. The achievements should not infringe on the copyrights of others. The published articles, works, and translations should not seriously distort the original work.