Notes to my Prospective Students

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I prepared this document to help prospective students understand the application procedures, my mentorship style, and expectations during their **Ph.D. studies in Built Environments**, **Design Technology track of the Master of Science in Architecture** program, or thesis in the **Master of Architecture** program.

1. **How do you apply to a program to work with me?**

Thank you for your interest in our degree programs and working with me. As you can imagine, professors get a lot of emails during the application cycles. **Given the volume of the emails, I cannot individually answer these emails, or review your application materials before the admission deadline.** When you officially apply online to the University of Washington Graduate School, **you may mention my name in your application package so that your application will reach me, if you are applying for a Ph.D. or M.Sc. degree. During the admissions, you can be sure that I will review your application thoroughly**. Please note that although my broad area of research is building simulation research, **my main focus is daylighting and electric lighting research**. My active research areas include:

i)   light and health;

ii) measuring photopic, melanopic, and neuropic light in existing environments using high dynamic range (HDR) photography and light measurement devices;

iii) simulating (day)lighting to envision the visual and non-visual performance of a design or design alternatives;

iv) simulating and evaluating (day)lighting considerations for building integrated, controlled environment agriculture; and

v)   developing lighting analysis techniques, metrics, and tools.

You can find more detailed information about my research on my website. **Please include my name only if your research interests match these areas.** You can also find the list of students I worked as a chair and their research interests here.

I have further pointers below based on the program you are applying:

Ph.D. Program in Built Environments: This is a college-wide program. The applicant review process is complex and involves the director of the program, steering committee, and relevant faculty that matches your research interests. You can find more information about our PhD program on the website. Other places to look for helpful information about our program are: i) admissions overview; ii) application procedure; and iii) student funding page.

Your statement of purpose is very important. I highly recommend that you write a polished statement with a clear sense of direction. Although your statement of purpose is not a dissertation proposal and may change during your studies, this document is helpful for understanding your interests. It shows how you formulate a research problem or a statement, and demonstrates your intellectual preparation for undertaking an advanced study. A good statement of purpose should include i) what you plan to work on; ii) why this is a worthy line of investigation; and iii) reflections on methodological approaches.

During the review process, I may contact you for a brief Zoom meeting so that we can know each other better. This is an optional step and depends on a good fit between our research interests, funding availability, and time constraints. If/when we meet, we can discuss your research direction and it is an opportunity for you to ask questions.

Master of Science in Architecture (Design technology track): The Master of Science in Architecture / Design Technology is a research-based degree and it is a STEM designated program. You can find information about this program on our [website](#). Other helpful links include [admissions overview](#), [faculty profiles](#), and [student and alumni profiles](#).

Your statement of purpose is very important. One of the major criteria for admission is a well-defined research interest that can be supported by our program. Articulate your i) motivation for applying to the program (please describe your background and related experience appropriate to the program, as well as preparation for research and advanced work in design technology); ii) research plan (what is your intended area of research); and iii) identify me as a faculty member only if you are planning to work on daylighting and electric lighting research. As mentioned at the beginning of this document, it is not necessary for applicants to contact faculty prior to applying. Applications will be reviewed by the selection committee and the faculty they identified in their application. Admitted students will be paired with a faculty mentor during the admissions review process.

Master of Architecture: If you are applying for the Master of Architecture program, you do not need to contact faculty. This is our professional degree program. Students may work with an advisor in their last year, only if they choose an independent thesis option (instead of research studios). There are internal procedures for independent thesis options, and you will receive guidelines for application and have plenty of time to discuss with faculty at the end of your first year here.

2. **How do I work with my students?**

I meet with my students consistently on a 1-1 basis for an hour every week, once they are in the thesis proposal or thesis stage. The frequency may increase depending on the project or upcoming deadlines. This is typically the second year of the M.Sc. program and the Winter and Spring quarters of the last year of the Master of Architecture program. Before this stage, we meet at least once or twice in a quarter, or as often as needed. We may also discuss whether independent study with me would be a good option during the coursework portion of your program. One-to-one meetings with Ph.D. students start early in their studies.

I have high expectations from my students. **If you are working with me as a thesis/dissertation student, I expect you will put 20+ hours of the week towards your research.** When you register for a 9-credit thesis, the university's definition of 9 credits is a minimum of 27 hours of work. I expect you to come prepared for meetings. Hard work, patience, perseverance, curiosity, and willingness to learn are the essential ingredients of impactful research.

As an advisor, I will teach you advanced stuff that may go beyond the curriculum of existing courses. I will guide you toward relevant sources. I will provide feedback on your research, writing, and presentations. I will challenge you to explore further and/or focus when needed.

I routinely publish with my Ph.D. and M.Sc. students, occasionally with M. Arch students. The student becomes the first author, and I (and other research partners, if applicable) become co-authors. Ph.D. students typically publish during their studies, and after they graduate. M.Sc. and M. Arch students typically publish after (or close to) graduation. It is important to understand that all authors spend time in the preparation of the journal/conference article. **We discuss whether the outcome is publishable or ready for publication, where to publish, and how to publish it.**

I am an active researcher, and I actively collaborate with my students. **It is important to understand that research is an exploration, and it requires the ability to face uncertainties. The ability to navigate the uncertainties and challenges is what makes research a fun and rewarding activity.**