

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CAREERS



**Lincoln
University**

Te Whare Wanaka o Aoraki
AOTEAROA • NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand's specialist land-based university



Library, Teaching and Learning

WHAT IS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

Landscape architecture uses a combination of art and science to design and shape outdoor spaces. This includes urban and rural, residential and commercial, public and private, as well as open, natural and heritage spaces.

The places where people gather, move through, live, work and play, have an effect on peoples' daily experiences. Understanding the different relationships that people have with the space around them influences the ways in which these spaces are designed, which in turn can have a positive effect on the experience that people have.



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN NEW ZEALAND AND THE WORLD

Lincoln University's landscape architecture degree is internationally well-regarded. With several global regions experiencing rapid economic growth, graduates are well-placed to find employment worldwide. From small development projects to the construction of entire towns and cities, there is growing global demand¹ for landscape architects to be involved in site planning and design.

New Zealand's increasing demand for housing and the urban construction projects still underway as part of the Christchurch rebuild have maintained a market for landscape architects. Prospects for those seeking employment in the field remain good². The availability of a range of jobs, from small scale projects such as gardens to larger scale developments such as urban design projects, ensure that practitioners working in New Zealand can get involved in projects across a spectrum.

Worldwide concern for environmental and sustainable design places Lincoln University graduates in a good position to market themselves to employers. Lincoln University's tight-knit community allows for close relationships with related departments, such as ecology, water science, technology, and environmental management. Interdisciplinary collaboration, a highly technical and practical focus, and a commitment to the development of critical thinking skills in students are just some of the features that contribute to Lincoln University's Landscape Architecture programme being recognised as one of the best in the world.

The practical work component of the degree gives graduates real world industry experience with allied industry bodies. These connections are invaluable for students to gain an understanding of a professional work environment, and for students to start networking with future professional colleagues.



SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPED BY STUDYING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Landscape architecture graduates reach the job market equipped with practical and technical skills and a strong theoretical understanding of people and the landscapes they use. Employers seek well-rounded, engaged graduates with a strong work ethic³. As in any sector, employers value those with a professional attitude. This includes good communication (including the ability to communicate to groups, as well as effective interpersonal and written communication), honesty, respect, responsibility, self-motivation, initiative, time management, flexibility, and interpersonal skills. The importance of these basic skills cannot be underestimated, even in voluntary roles and internships, as future job opportunities often arise from a good reputation that is based on them.

The following skills and knowledge are valued by those who employ landscape architects:

Ability to work comfortably in both corporate and construction site situations
An understanding of people and society
Client relationship management
Computer-aided design (CAD) and design software (e.g. Adobe Suite)
Creative, solution-focussed attitude
Effective written, graphic, and verbal communication skills
Environmental knowledge (e.g., plants, topography, soils, weather, and climate)
Knowledge of and sensitivity to Māori and indigenous design
Knowledge of construction methods and materials
Knowledge of design principles
Knowledge of planning and policy
Negotiation, teamwork, and people skills
Observational skills and an eye for detail
Problem-solving and initiative skills
Project planning and costing
Report writing
Supervisory and leadership skills
Technical drawing skills (from sketching to computer modelling)
Critical thinking

¹ www.truity.com/career-profile/landscape-architect

² www.careers.govt.nz/jobs-database/construction-and-infrastructure/architectural-technical-design/landscape-architect/

³ www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/about/news/news-archives/2015-news/survey-reveals-employers-wish-list-of-skills/2015-employability-skills-survey-executive-summary.pdf

WHERE CAN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE GRADUATES FIND WORK?

Landscape architects work throughout the private and public sector. Firms involved with engineering, architecture, landscape, education, transport, mining, design, land planning and development, as well as groups such as iwi, and cultural and community groups employ landscape architects for technical solutions to landscape design and management.

Graduate landscape architects usually work for an established organisation to gain industry experience and registration with the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architecture. They can then go on to work in similar organisations worldwide to either broaden or specialise their experience, or start their own business.

Students who are drawn to questioning, researching and problem-solving may consider post-graduate study as a step toward an academic career in landscape architecture. In addition to this, the policy and planning sectors require the type of specialist knowledge that graduates of landscape architecture can go on to gain through post-graduate study and/or research. Graduates who become self-employed can build a business to their own specifications and find success and satisfaction this way.

Potential places of employment include:

- Landscape architecture firms (e.g., Rough & Milne Landscape Architects, Isthmus, Boffa Miskell)
- City or regional councils (e.g., Auckland Council)
- Multi-disciplinary consultancies (e.g., BECA, Opus International Consultants Ltd.)
- Landscape architecture consultancy (e.g., self-employment)
- Landscape and construction (e.g., Goom Landscapes, Artwork Landscapes)
- Plant nurseries (e.g., Southern Woods)
- Tertiary education sector (e.g., Lincoln University)
- E-commerce sites (e.g., The PlantStore)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE JOB TITLES

People who have studied landscape architecture usually want to be a landscape architect. However, many of the skills gained during study are transferable across a range of professional roles in related industries.

Related fields may involve further training or experience. For example, an interest in design, planning, construction, architecture, engineering, or ecology can complement a career or study in landscape architecture.

Garden Consultant
Graphic Design/Illustrator
Horticultural Team Leader
Interior Landscape Designer
Landscape and Amenity Horticulture Industry Sales Manager
Landscape Architect
Landscape Architecture Educator (Tutor/Lecturer)
Landscape Consultant
Landscape Ecologist
Landscape Planner
Landscape Researcher
Landscape/Horticultural Designer
Landscape Contractor
Project Manager
Urban Designer



PAY RATE INDICATIONS: FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) \$NZ PER ANNUM⁴

Most starting salaries for graduates of bachelor degrees fall between 40,000 - 55,000 per annum. Entry level jobs are stepping stones to roles with increased responsibilities and remuneration. Your employability is affected by all of your life experiences, be they employment related, or the transferable skills and competencies gained from community involvement, volunteer work, or previous work or study- all of which can grow competency, expand networks, and demonstrate enthusiasm to future employers.

Job Title	Indicative Pay
Landscape Architect (entry level)	40,000 – 50,000
Landscape Architect (2-5 years experience)	45,000 – 80,000
Landscape Architect (experienced)	75,000 – 100,000
Urban Designer	100,000+
Landscape/Urban Planner	60,000+
Landscape Consultant	From 44,000
Garden Consultant	32,000 – 60,000
Graphic Designer	35,000 – 72,000+
Content Writer (for landscape publications)	[Variable rates]
Landscape Architecture Lecturer	65,000 - 108,000
Professor of Landscape Architecture	120,000 - 140,000
Project Manager	70,000 - 130,000

⁴ www.careers.govt.nz/jobs-database/construction-and-infrastructure/architectural-technical-design/landscape-architect/
www.payscale.com/research/NZ/Job=Content_Writer/Salary



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE TASKS

Establish and understand client requirements
Use design software to prepare detailed plans and designs
Present design proposals to clients
Prepare landscape evidence
Conduct environmental assessments
Liaise with industry professionals (e.g., planners, engineers, architects, heritage officers, surveyors, site managers)
Prepare applications for consents
Make changes to plans to meet client specifications
On-site visits to monitor progress
Provide cost estimates for projects
Select appropriate materials for construction
Coordinate with suppliers and manufacturers
Generate new business opportunities
Manage projects

Job tasks are role-specific, so the above is an indication only. For more information on roles, registered Lincoln University students can search Lincoln CareerHub (including expired jobs) for job titles similar to those they are interested in. Job descriptions, including tasks and skills required, are often available.



GRADUATE PROFILES



KESS ALEKSANDROVA

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (Honours), Master of Landscape Architecture

Landscape Architect, Rough and Milne Landscape Architects (RMLA)



BRAD PARKES

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (Honours)

Landscape Architect, Design Squared Landscape Architects



ERIN DIAO

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Landscape Architect, Chris Glasson Landscape Architects Ltd.

INDUSTRY BODIES

Membership of an industry specific body enhances the professional status of students and employees. By joining a professional body, members can research career options, access training and events, and network and collaborate with industry colleagues at all levels. Upon graduation Lincoln University Landscape Architecture students have the opportunity to work towards registration with the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects.

Examples of landscape architecture industry bodies include:

New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects

www.nzila.co.nz

New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM)

www.nzarm.org.nz

Urban Design Forum

www.urbandesignforum.org.nz

New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI)

www.planning.org.nz

New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA)

www.nzia.co.nz

Landscaping Industries Association of New Zealand (LIANZ)

www.lianz.org.nz



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