

Admission
requirements
and portfolio items
at the National Research University HSE
Master's Programme

Advanced Urban Design

Application portfolios are evaluated on a 100-point scale. All applicants are required to have an interview, which can be arranged via videoconferencing Skype.

On the list of required items below, items 1-4 are required but not evaluated. These items constitute the basic application documents. Item 5 is required and evaluated. Items 6-9 are optional, but they are evaluated and used to compare and rank applicants.

Required Items

Portfolio Item	Grade Range and Comments
<p>1. Official diploma or certificate a (bachelor's, specialist or master's degree, as well as relevant diploma applications)</p> <p><i>Please submit your full academic transcript along with your diploma/certificate. Your diploma/certificate and transcript must be accompanied by an English translation if it is not in English.</i></p> <p>Formats: scanned copy in *.pdf</p>	<p>Not graded.</p> <p><i>A copy of the documents must be submitted to the Admission Committee of the Higher School of Economics along with the other portfolio documents, and also downloaded when completing the online application for the master's program.</i></p>
<p>2. Two letters of recommendation</p> <p>A typical letter of recommendation should contain the referee's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• full name;• position, place of work;• academic degree;• phone number;• email. <p>Formats: scanned copy in *.pdf</p>	<p>Not graded.</p> <p><i>At least one of your references referees should be very familiar with your academic work. Please provide your referees with HSE's instructions for letters of recommendations. Please note that we may contact your referees directly.</i></p>
<p>3. Resume / CV</p> <p>Formats: digitally produced (non-scanned) *.doc, *.docx, *.pdf without copy protection.</p>	<p>Not graded.</p>
<p>4. Completed application form for foreigners</p> <p><u>http://asav.hse.ru/applyma.html#signin</u></p>	<p>Not graded.</p>
<p>5. Interview</p>	<p>0-30 points</p> <p>Key criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• erudition• critical literature review• spoken English• clarity of intent• interest in the topic <p>basic research and design skills</p>

Optional Items

Portfolio Item	Grade Range and Comments
<p>6. Letter of Motivation</p> <p>This letter (1.5 – 3 pages) should describe your reasons for applying to this programme in the context of your long-term career goals and background.</p> <p>One should avoid simply listing (duplicating) the Master's program of information available at the portfolio, and also correct the final version of the Letter of Motivation after filling out the CV and finalizing the package of documents for the portfolio.</p> <p>Formats: digitally produced (non-scanned) *.doc, *.docx, *.pdf without copy protection downloaded at the online application form.</p>	<p>0-20 points</p>
<p>7. Thesis, essay or other piece of final graduation project. You can submit one of the following items:</p> <p>7.1. Your graduation thesis. If it is not written in English, please submit a 1-2 page long summary in English along with the thesis. Please also provide a signed copy of a review by your Thesis Reviewer, ideally with their details and contacts as if this was a letter of recommendation.</p> <p>7.2. Graphic materials as part of an architectural or urban planning and/or design graduation project and a summary that would cover the aims and objectives, describe analytical process and cover the justifications for the project decisions. This summary is essential as in the context of urban planning it is impossible to grade such work based solely on graphic materials. Such materials must be accompanied by the comments of the official external reviewer.</p> <p>Any item that is a result of group work or a team project should be accompanied by a reference from the project leader (with his details and contacts as if this was a letter of recommendation) that would allow us to confirm your specific input.</p> <p>1.1. Essay on an urban topic (up to 15 pages of an original essay, without bibliography and any additional materials). This is recommended for architects, designers, mathematicians, physicists and other professionals whose thesis and/or work is loosely related to urban planning.</p>	<p>0-30 points</p> <p>Graduation thesis or essay is evaluated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • logic; • scope of research, aims and objectives, conclusions • argumentation • bibliography and literature review; • scientific novelty. <p>If you are going to write an essay, please choose a topic that you consider being relevant to your desired field of study. The essay should be written along the guidelines of a typical research paper (like your thesis). You can find inspiration by looking at the research topics explored by graduates from HSE's Graduate School of Urbanism and Strelka:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.hse.ru/ma/urban/topics (please, download *.docx files with thesis work topics, inside they all have translation of the topics) • http://strelka.com/en/research <p>Formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis/essay/summary: digitally produced (non-scanned) *.doc, *.docx, *.pdf without copy protection. • Graphic materials: digitally produced (non-scanned) *.jpg, *.png, *.pdf without copy protection (max file size – 50 Mb, please compress your files if they are larger). <p>Thesis review/review from a project leader: scanned copy in *.pdf</p>

Portfolio Item	Grade Range and Comments
<p>8. Additional materials</p> <p>8.1. Articles in peer-reviewed journals.</p> <p>8.2. Graphic materials of urban planning and design projects (any projects apart from the ones conducted as part of your previous degree as class projects).</p> <p>Any item that is a result of group work or a team project should be accompanied by a reference from the project leader (ideally with his details and contacts as if this was a letter of recommendation) that would allow us to confirm your specific input.</p> <p>Formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article: digitally produced (non-scanned) *.pdf without copy protection. Graphic materials: digitally produced (non-scanned) *.pdf without copy protection (max file size – 50 Mb, please compress your files if they are larger). <p>Article review/review from a project leader: scanned copy in *.pdf</p>	0-15 points
<p>9. Additional diplomas, certificates, scholarships, grants, etc.</p> <p>Any other documentation that you think is relevant to your desired field of study.</p> <p>Any item that is a result of group work or a team project should be accompanied by a reference from the project leader (ideally with his details and contacts as if this was a letter of recommendation) that would allow us to confirm your specific input.</p> <p>Formats: digitally produced (non-scanned) *.pdf without copy protection.</p>	0-5 points

English language requirements

Type of certificate	Minimum required level
IELTS	6.5
TOEFL IBT (Internet Based)	85
TOEFL PBT (Paper Based)	500
CAE (Certificate of Advanced English)	certificate
CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English)	certificate
BEC Vantage/Higer (Business English Certificate)	certificate

You may also present other proof of English language proficiency, e.g. if you had English as your first language at your last employer or educational institution.