PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Founded in 1998 by the late Dr. J. Christopher Jaffe ’49, the Graduate Program in Architectural Acoustics is now the nation’s largest graduate program dedicated to Architectural Acoustics and its related fields. The program is actively involved in graduate education and advanced research in acoustics and perceptions of the built environment. Research includes the physical and numerical modeling of indoor and outdoor sound propagations, where indoor sites include concert halls, performance venues, acoustically coupled-volume spaces, and workspaces; and outdoor sites include urban settings.

The Program’s strong concentration in Aural Architecture focuses on the design of acoustical spaces from a perceptual viewpoint rather than through traditional methods, which are constrained by physics. Such a radical approach is often necessary in a world where virtual acoustics are no longer limited by physical laws. Aural Architecture is also often useful in traditional concert hall design. The underlying concept of Aural Architecture is to understand human perception and, before an actual room is designed, to identify the needs of its users through scientific psychophysical experiments.

The program develops the knowledge and skills required for advanced consultancy, research, and teaching. Graduates are active in leading acoustical practices worldwide and take positions at research centers and national laboratories. The PhD program provides a unique opportunity in architectural acoustics by generating scientific research for advanced work in room acoustics, psychoacoustics, acoustic and vibration measurement techniques, noise control, and sound reinforcement. Research is supported by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies. The program has an ongoing relationship with Rensselaer’s innovative Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center. This research-based program provides students with the knowledge and skills needed for advanced practice and applied research in Architectural Acoustics and its related fields.

The MS and PhD programs are designated as STEM programs in Architectural and Building Sciences/Technology (CIP code 04.0902) making international graduates eligible to extend their F-1 visas for up to three years in order to work in the United States.

ELIGIBILITY: The program offers an interdisciplinary curriculum appropriate to applicants from engineering, science, humanities, architecture, and the arts. Many students are accomplished musicians.

Deadline to apply is January 1. First consideration will be given to applications received by this date. Rolling Application Deadline is March 15.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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