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THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG 香港大學
faculty of architecture 建築學院

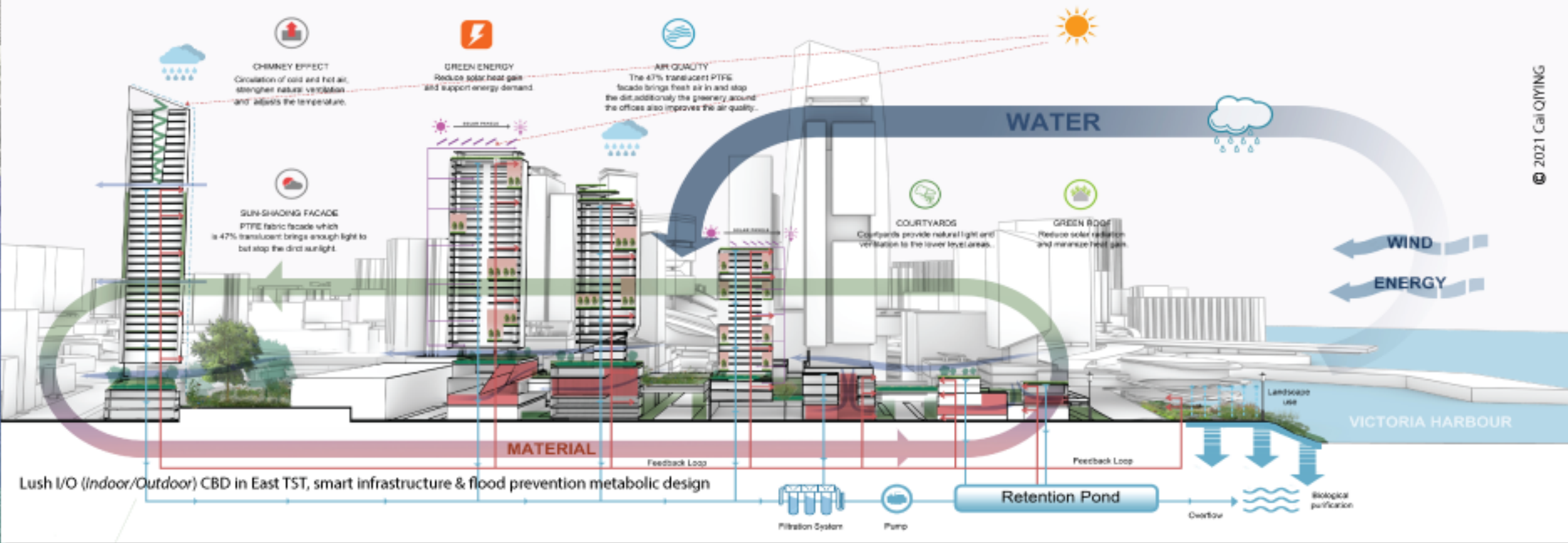
Department of Urban Planning and Design
 城市規劃及設計系

Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning
 城市研究及城市規劃中心

HKU DUPAD Master of Urban Design

2024-25

Please scan QR code
 for Admission Talk
 (25 November 2023)



The Master of Urban Design (MUD) Programme focuses on the design of contextual advanced built environments, for an urban era of climate, health, economic and social cohesion challenges. Urban design is emerging as a distinct design profession with specific knowledge domain that encompasses the understanding and creative leveraging of urban management and planning, landscape architecture, mobility, architecture, and design economic.

The Programme engages with urban design challenges in liveable high-density cities in Asia with an emphasis on international perspectives. The Programme explores urban design scalar agendas such as the 'agency' of volumetric urban form and its impacts on climate change, well-being and quality of life, sustainable accessibility and equity, renewable energy and placemaking. The Programme leverages qualitative and quantitative intelligence of urban morphologies, people behaviours informing urban design projects.

The learning progresses through studio experiential learning from analog-digital translation of spatial scale complexity and compression in Hong Kong to digital-simulation and large-scale urban design in the international studio. The curriculum culminates in the capstone project in the summer semester, with a student-led research dissertation informing an urban design project.

Students acquire urban design knowledge (kwhat-why and how-why) and develop thought leadership through lectures, seminars, workshops, design reviews, local and international field study visits, smart simulations, qualitative and quantitative urban design research methods, research dissertation and urban design thesis project.

Teaching is informed by cutting edge research and takes full advantage of its location in Hong Kong, a hyper dense living laboratory of networked volumetric urban design which as an outlier, provides valuable design principles for comparison and contrast with other urban conditions. The Programme is led by academics and practitioners in urban design and related disciplines.

The Programme attracts a diverse body of local and international students, most with prior backgrounds in urban management, urban planning, landscape architecture, civil engineering, and architecture. MUD graduates pursue careers as urban design professionals, and many go on to work in the world's most dynamic metropolises.

Established in 1988, the MUD Programme is accredited by the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design (HKIUD) and the UK's Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) under its specialism scheme. The MUD Programme is one year long, running over three semesters (equivalent to 1.5 years). The MUD Programme is equivalent to European Master's Degree measured by the European Credit Transfer System (90 ECTS). Upon completing the MUD programme, graduates are entitled to a one-year Hong Kong's working visa (IANG), which can be renewed.

- The MUD Programme welcomes applicants for the:
- Asian Development Bank - Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP)
 - Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJWBGSP)

Reciprocal advanced standing arrangements are available between the MUD and HKU MSc in Urban Planning programme.

2021 Hong Kong new towns field trip



CURRICULUM

The MUD core courses cover urban design theories, urban design area action plan, urban design masterplanning, urban expansion, green infrastructure, place making, urban design technologies, urban design research methods and research dissertation.

The urban design studio projects expose students to a range of contemporary urban design issues and challenges. Students are required to attend a compulsory fieldtrip to local and overseas destinations that are related to courses. The department also organize optional local fieldtrips on monthly basis.

During the 12-month of study in the programme, students are expected to complete a minimum of 90 credits of courses, including 5 core courses, 1 elective course, 2 studio courses and 1 research dissertation and urban design project thesis.

Fall Semester

- MUDP1001** Hong Kong urban design studio (12 credits)
- MUDP1010** Introduction to urban development and planning (6 credits)
- MUDP1020** Urban design technologies & innovations (6 credits)
- MUDP1030** Morphologies & urban design theories (6 credits)

Spring Semester

- MUDP1002** International urban design studio (12 credits)
- MUDP2010** Urban Design research methods (6 credits)
- MUDP2020** Values of urban design: health, social, environmental economics (6 credits)
- Elective course** (6 credits)

Summer Semester

- MUDP1003** Research dissertation & Urban design thesis project (30 credits)

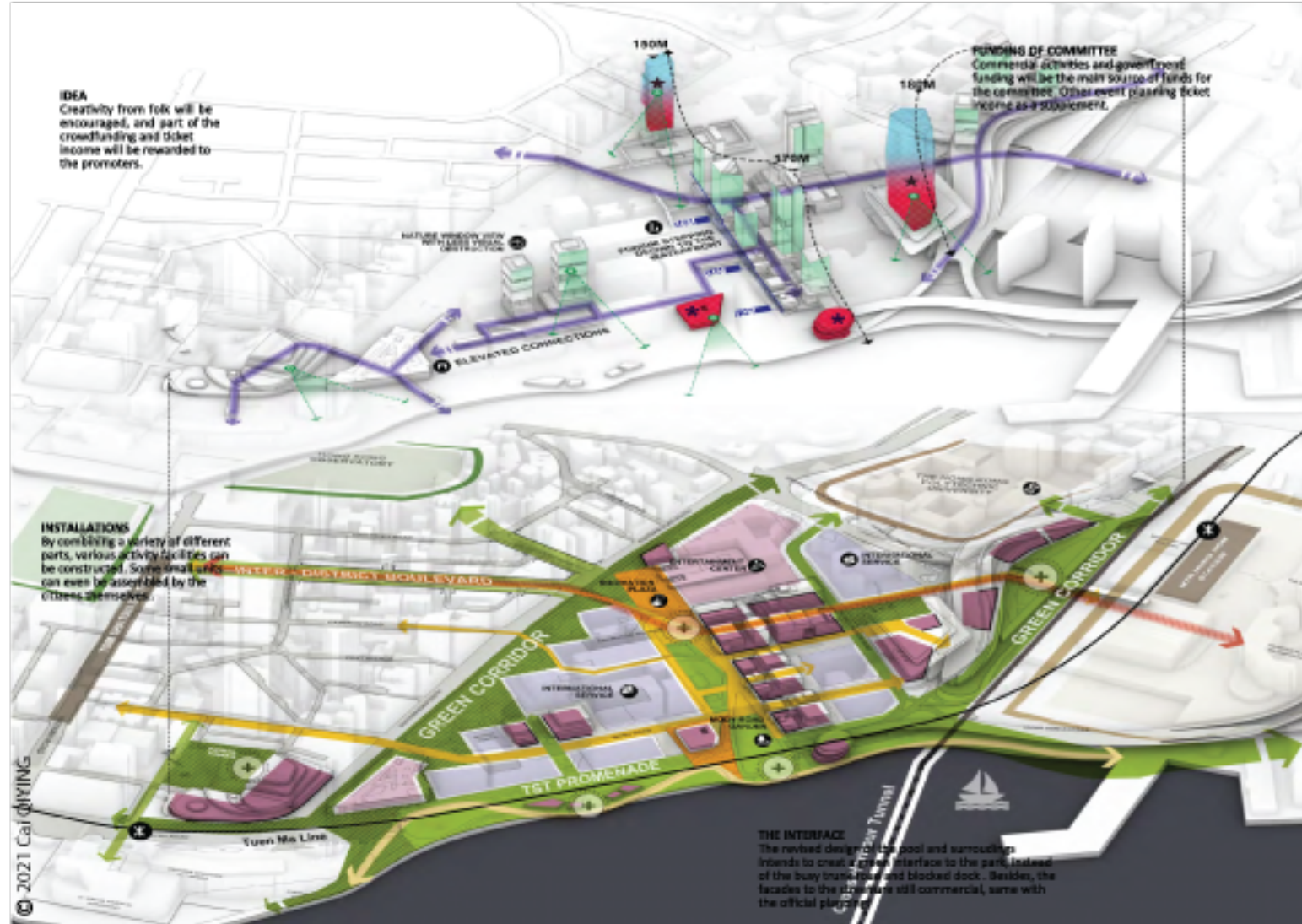
Studio is a mix of lecture/seminar/workshop, field visits, tutorials, and urban design reviews. Studio is led by a course leader, organized in group of 1 tutor/8-9 students. Studio combines group/individual work and tutorial. The Research Dissertation & Urban design thesis project is individual and led by the student with a supervisor.

ADMISSION

Admission to the MUD program is competitive. Approximately 45 students enrol each year from the applicant pool. Most applicants have strong academic background in the fields of urban management, civil engineering, urban planning, landscape, architecture, and related disciplines. Some have professional experiences. Applicants are urged to focus on design portfolio, which is an important document in the admission procedure. Applications for the academic year 2024-2025 will be available online on 1 November 2023. The application is online only and supporting materials must be uploaded by 12:00 noon 2 January, 2024: <https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme/master-urban-design>

Admission's inquiries can be addressed to:
Ms Shelby Lau: mudadmis@hku.hk

MUD Programme's inquiries can be addressed to:
Dr. Jianxiang Huang: jxhuang@hku.hk



Volumetric urban design framework for the post-covid CBD knowledge economy, flexible public spaces 3D layout

LIST OF APPLICATION MATERIALS

- An application form to be completed online
- An electronic copy of a design portfolio demonstrating your most important design, research, drawings, creative or professional work. There are no limits on layout, yet the portfolio should not exceed 50 pages (95 Mb). On the content page, you need to mark the date, the nature of project (i.e. academic, personal, or professional), and collaboration information. If the project is collaborative work, you need to clearly indicate your role in it. Showing other people's projects or undeclared teamwork are unacceptable and will result in serious consequences.
- A Resume listing your education, employment, extra-curricular activities, honours, awards, professional affiliation and accreditation, publication, hobbies. There is no page limit to a resume.
- A Personal Statement or Essay stating your motivations, career/academic goals, particular domains of interests in urban design, and other credentials that you think is helpful for the admission committee to evaluate your application (Maximum 1,000 words).
- Official Transcripts from all undergraduate or graduate studies ever attended. A transcript should include course names, examinations taken, grades, degree or certificates awarded, and dates.

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• Official English test scores are required for applicants whose qualifications are from a university outside Hong Kong where the primary language of teaching or examination is not English.

- TOEFL: 550 or above on the paper-based test or 213 or above on the computer-based test;

Or

- IELTS: A minimum overall band of 6 with no subtest lower than 5.5;

Or

- Overseas General Certificate of Education, or the International General Certificate of Secondary Education, or the Cambridge Test of Proficiency in English Language: "Grade C" or above in one of these.

• Two letters of recommendations from university instructors, employers, or others that are capable of evaluating your credentials in urban design.

• An Interview is a required component of MUD admission. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for a Zoom interview after the application deadline.

COMPOSITION FEES

The composition fees for the Master of Urban Design in the academic year 2024-2025 is HK\$265,000 (subject to the University's approval). The fees cover tuition for courses on offer and student's usage of university facilities, including health clinic, sports centre and library. It does not include costs for fieldtrips, printing, binding, stationery, books, and model building.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - SCHOLARSHIP

ADB-JSP

Application from a list of developing countries in Asia and the Pacific are eligible to apply for the Asian Development Bank - Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP).

JJWBGSP

Application for the Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJWBGSP) is open to worldwide developing countries.

The ADB-JSP & JJWBGSP provide financial assistance to well qualified candidates to pursue postgraduate studies in city and building-related fields. The Scholarship covers tuition fees, international fieldtrip and living expenses during the study in Hong Kong.

For ADB-JSP scholarship, please see:

<https://www.adb.org/site/careers/japan-scholarship-program/main>

For JJWBGSP scholarship, please see:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/scholarships>

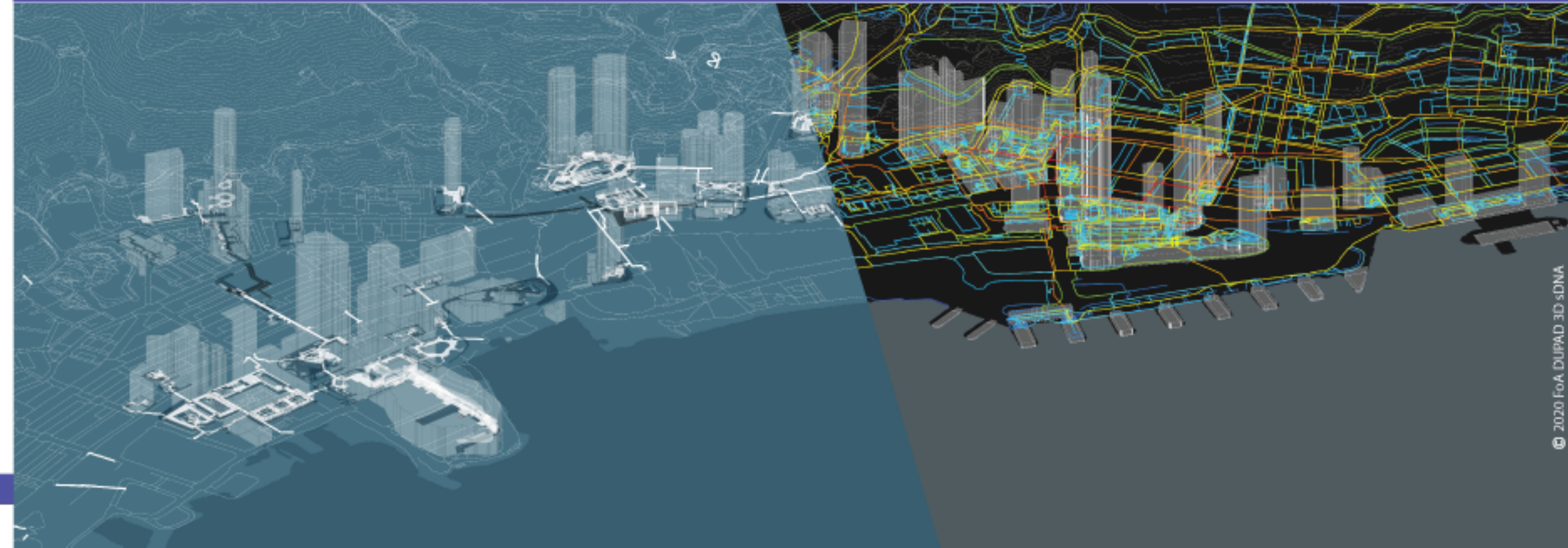
or contact MUD admission officer.

Applicants from Hong Kong and Mainland China are ineligible for ADB-JSP & JJWBGSP scholarship.

ADVANCED STANDING

MUD graduates can apply to the Master of Science in Urban Planning (MUP) programme. Up to 30 credits gained in the MUD programme can be waived in the MUP programme. Both degrees are completed in a period of 2½ years, instead of 3 years. MUP graduates can apply to MUD Programme. Up to 18 credits gained in the MUP Programme can be waived in the MUD programme.

Urban design technologies and innovations, networked volumetric urban design, Central, Hong Kong, 3D sDNA predictive pedestrian flows



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