

**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF  
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES  
(BA[UrbanStud])**

*These syllabuses are applicable to candidates admitted under the 4-year '2012 curriculum' to the first year of the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies in 2019-20 and thereafter.*

Students entering the 4-year Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies curriculum in the academic year 2019-20 and thereafter will take a professional core of 150 credits (including 132 credits of core courses and 18 credits of Faculty Foundation courses), 54 credits in language and Common Core courses and 36 credits of electives, totalling 240 credits for the 4-year curriculum.

Most courses are 6-credit courses, with the exception of the Urban Process and City Design Studio, Development Appraisal Studio, Development Scenarios and Impact Assessment Studio and Urban Research Studio which are 12 credits.

The syllabuses of the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies shall comprise the following requirements:

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**University Requirements**

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54 credits of compulsory University requirements which must be completed successfully:

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| (i) One 6-credit course in Core University English <sup>1</sup> ; one 6-credit course in English in the Discipline; and one 6-credit course in Chinese language enhancement <sup>2</sup>  | 18 credits |
| (ii) 36 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum, comprising at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits of courses being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits | 36 credits |

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<sup>1</sup> Candidates who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent are exempted from this requirement, and Core University English is optional. Those who do not take this course should take an elective course in lieu, see UG6 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

<sup>2</sup> Students are required to successfully complete the 6-credit Faculty-specific Chinese language enhancement course, except for:

- (a) Putonghua-speaking students who should take CUND9002 (Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society) or CUND9003 (Cantonese for Non-Cantonese Speaking Students); and
- (b) students who have not studied Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take the Chinese language enhancement course should write to the Board of the Faculty to apply to be exempted from the Chinese language requirements, and (i) to take a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese especially for international and exchange students; OR (ii) to take an elective course in lieu.

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## Faculty Requirements

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18 credits of compulsory Faculty Foundation courses which must be completed successfully:

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| (i) Three 6-credit Faculty Foundation courses including<br>- Introduction to Building Technology;<br>- Introduction to Landscape City Architecture;<br>and either one of the following:<br>- Housing and Cities;<br>- Sustainability and the Built Environment. | 18 credits |
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## Professional Core of Urban Studies

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### First Year of Study

The theme of Year 1 is 'Fundamental Urban Studies'. Year 1 students are required to take the University's Common Core courses, language courses, Faculty Foundation Courses and core courses to introduce students to global trends in urban development and urban problems, interventions and design thinking, and the use of urban analytics in urban studies.

- Practical Chinese for Surveying, Urban Studies and Conservation Students (6 credits)
- Core University English (6 credits)
- 2 Common Core courses (12 credits)
- Introduction to Building Technology (Faculty Foundation course) (6 credits)
- Introduction to Landscape City Architecture (Faculty Foundation course) (6 credits)
- Either one of the following two Faculty Foundation courses: (6 credits)
  - Housing and Cities (Faculty Foundation course)
- or
- Sustainability and the Built Environment (Faculty Foundation course)
- Theories and Global Trends in Urban Development (6 credits)
- Urban Problems, Interventions and Design Thinking (6 credits)
- Urban Analytics Studio (6 credits)

### Second Year of Study

The theme of Year 2 is 'Urban Planning, Design and Management'. Year 2 curriculum introduces students to the theories and methods of urban studies. The Design Graphics Studio will enable students to develop graphic skills and techniques which are useful in their

communication of urban issues and solutions. The Urban Process and City Design Studio will introduce students to project work and studio teaching and learning environment through problem-based learning projects and assignments and additional training in skills and methods. Students are required to take 12 credits of University Common Core courses to broaden their knowledge and English in the Discipline course.

- English in the Discipline (6 credits)
- Communication Course for Architecture Students
- 2 Common Core courses (12 credits)
- Urban Planning and Urban Management (6 credits)
- Urban Process and City Design Studio (12 credits)
- Design Graphics Studio (6 credits)
- Land Economics (6 credits)
- Introduction to Law (6 credits)
- Research Methods in Urban Studies (6 credits)

### Third Year of Study

The theme of Year 3 is ‘Development and Sustainability’. Year 3 curriculum further introduces students to the theories and methods of urban studies and urban policy and governance. Further spatial analysis, planning and development appraisal skills will be developed in Development Appraisal Studio. Students will take Elective courses and University Common Core courses to broaden their knowledge and develop multi-disciplinary perspectives.

- 2 Common Core courses (12 credits)
- Development Appraisal Studio (12 credits)
- Planning and Development Laws (6 credits)
- BIM, CIM and New Urban Data Applications (6 credits)
- Introduction to Conservation (6 credits)
- Urban Policy and Governance (6 credits)
- 2 Electives (12 credits)

### Final Year of study

The theme of Year 4 is ‘Urban Analysis and Impact’. In the Final Year, students will carry out dissertations that synthesize what they have learnt in the programme and further develop their understanding and analysis of issues of urban development through the Development Scenarios and Impact Assessment Studio and Research Studio. It will also introduce students to urban environmental science and design and real estate investment and design.

They will continue to take Elective courses from other departments and faculties to broaden their knowledge and develop multi-disciplinary perspectives.

- Development Scenarios and Impact Assessment Studio (12 credits)
- Urban Research Studio (12 credits)
- Urban Environmental Science and Design (6 credits)
- Real Estate Investment and Finance (6 credits)

- 4 Electives

(24 credits)

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### Course Offerings for Minors in Urban Studies

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Students of other degree programmes intending to minor in Urban Studies must complete at least 36 credits among the courses listed below. Student must complete at least three Urban Studies courses (with the course code URBS) from the list.

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| URBS1003 Theories and Global Trends in Urban Development  | (6 credits) |
| RECO2029 Land Economics   | (6 credits) |
| URBS1005 Urban Problems, Interventions and Design Thinking<br>(Prerequisite: Theories and Global Trends in Urban Development) | (6 credits) |
| URBS2010 Urban Planning and Urban Management  | (6 credits) |
| CONS1001 Introduction to Conservation   | (6 credits) |
| URBS2005 Research Methods in Urban Studies  | (6 credits) |
| URBS3008 Urban Policy and Governance  | (6 credits) |
| RECO3029 Real Estate Investment and Finance   | (6 credits) |

Double counting of credits is not permissible for minor in Urban Studies. When a course is used to satisfy the requirements of another curriculum or programme, it shall not be counted towards the fulfillment of the requirements of this minor.

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### Course Description

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#### Year 1

#### **URBS1003                    Theories and Global Trends in Urban Development (6 credits)**

The course introduces students to global urbanisation trends as well as basic theories for understanding cities. Drawing on multidisciplinary perspectives, students will be exposed to relevant theories from urban sociology, public policy and political science, economics, design, geography, environmental management and planning.

Assessment: 70% continuous coursework assessment and 30% examination

#### **URBS1004                    Urban Analytics Studio (6 credits)**

This course will introduce student to data analytics of urban data and demonstrates how these analytics can be employed in solving urban problems. Students will learn conceptual frameworks, methodologies, software tools, as well as applied cases for urban data analytics. Students will also be introduced to multimedia, data visualization and interactive mapping.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**URBS1005                      Urban Problems, Interventions and Design Thinking (6 credits)**

The course further introduces students to theories for understanding cities in a more critical way. Drawing on multidisciplinary perspectives, students learn relevant theories from urban sociology, public policy and political science, economics, design, geography, environmental management and planning. We structure the course as a series of paired discussions: first, introducing some prevalent urban problems, and next, strategic interventions aimed at a more sustainable, liveable, and just mode of urban development. We assess these interventions and discuss new approaches to development. Students will also be exposed to design thinking and explore the design of policy interventions in complex urban environments.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Pre-requisite: URBS1003 Theories and Global Trends in Urban Development

**CAES1000                      Core University English (6 credits)**

The Core University English (CUE) course aims to enhance first-year students' academic English language proficiency in the university context. CUE focuses on developing students' academic English language skills for the Common Core Curriculum. These include the language skills needed to understand and produce spoken and written academic texts, express academic ideas and concepts clearly and in a well-structured manner and search for and use academic sources of information in their writing and speaking. Four online-learning modules through the Moodle platform on academic speaking, academic grammar, academic vocabulary, citation and referencing skills and avoiding plagiarism will be offered to students to support their English learning. This course will help students to participate more effectively in their first-year university studies in English, thereby enriching their first-year experience.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**CEUC9001                      Practical Chinese for Surveying, Urban Studies and Conservation Students (6 credits)**

The main objective of this course is to enhance the students' command of Chinese for the construction and surveying profession through basic training in presentation skills and in specific techniques for the preparation of target-oriented letters, proposals, plans and reports. This course also aims to develop students' ability to engage in negotiations, debates as well as critical and creative thinking. In order to promote artistic and aesthetic appreciation, thematic lectures and topical workshops on Chinese calligraphic and artistic representations will be conducted. Site visits to traditional Chinese temples, gardens and museums will be organized to provide students with opportunities to gain hands-on experiences of the inner dynamics of Chinese culture. Students will be able to acquire sophisticated Chinese language skills and knowledge of Chinese culture within the context of the discipline of construction and surveying.

Assessment: 50% continuous coursework assessment and 50% examination

**AFFC1201 Introduction to Building Technology (6 credits)**

This course provides the fundamental knowledge and concepts for functional design and construction of buildings. The aim of the course is to help students to explain why the building stands up, identify the function of essential elements and components of buildings, including the materials used and their installation methods.

A morphological approach will be used to explain the building elements and components. Students will learn how to read from drawings and sketches, and appreciate their practical application from site visits.

Topics will cover structural elements, building envelopes and services of buildings, including the materials and methods of their installation.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**AFFC1200 Housing and Cities (6 credits)**

The aim of this course is to develop students' abilities to identify, describe and analyze critically the role and function of cities at different stages. In addition, students will be encouraged to correlate between city formation and various elements in urban development, particularly housing issues, in an increasingly globalized context. The course is explicitly interdisciplinary, and introduces recurrent and emerging debates about housing and the role and function of cities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century together with a parallel analysis of an increasingly complex matrix of social, political and economic issues as the pace of urbanization increases. Upon completion of the course students will have an appreciation of the complexity of urban issues in an increasingly urban world, and an appreciation of one of the major functions of cities - housing people.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**AFFC1027 Introduction to Landscape City Architecture (6 credits)**

This course is an introduction to the understanding of landscapes, cities, and architectures. Students will be exposed to why architecture is an essential necessity for our societies as well as recognising that architecture is both an expression of programme, form and structure as well as the resolution of cultural specificities and practices. We will demonstrate and examine how architecture is presented to the public and how its practice is varied and diverse in different societies. The various geographical, landscape and urban conditions found in Hong Kong will be the playground and the source for learning, describing and debating. In addition to lectures, a series of walks, visits, and exercises will allow the students to express, demonstrate, and challenge the different propositions presented in the class.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**AFFC1028 Sustainability and the Built Environment (6 credits)**

The course examines the broad range of issues confronting mankind's search for a sustainable future, such as: population & urbanization; transportation & logistics; technology

& mobility; water; waste; energy; food; (natural) disasters; and community & governance. Through the perspective of contemporary and historical case studies students explore how people, in their visions of the future, have sought to perfect built environments as the setting for model communities.

The ideas raised in the lectures, reinforced through weekly readings and weekly tutorial sessions, are brought together at the end of the course with an intensive workshop, in which students look to define their own vision of a sustainable community. This course is intended to inspire thinking about the way we should construct our living environments in future, in order to find a sustainable balance.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

## **2 Common Core courses (12 credits)**

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### **Year 2**

#### **CAES9121                      Communication Course for Architecture Students (6 credits)**

This English-in-the-Discipline course is designed to help students to respond effectively to the communication demands of their studio programmes and their future careers. The focus is on raising students' awareness of the genre of professional discourse by providing them with opportunities to enhance their linguistic range in their approach to architectural, cultural, real estate & built environment literacy.

Activities are organised through engagement in project-based discussion and written tasks designed to simulate the English Language demands on Architectural, Surveying and Built Environment professionals.

The out-of-class learning component of the course will supplement the main aims by consolidating use of vocabulary related to architectural, real estate & built environment and further enhancing students' writing. Students will also become familiar with self-evaluation and with resources they can access to take responsibility to improve their own language skills in future.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

#### **URBS2007                      Urban Process and City Design Studio (12 credits)**

This studio enables students to apply and integrate the skills and knowledge learnt in the courses to case studies and projects in analyzing urban issues. Spatial analysis and planning skills will be developed in the studio, which will include emphasis on project planning, impact assessment, financing, and community engagement.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**URBS2005                    Research Methods in Urban Studies (6 credits)**

Introduction to the basic qualitative and quantitative methods used to analyze cities and regions, including qualitative methods, sampling, questionnaire design and statistics.

Assessment: 40% continuous coursework assessment and 60% examination

**URBS2008                    Design Graphics Studio (6 credits)**

This studio will provide students with the basic graphic skills and techniques (in freehand drawing, photography, 2D and 3D CAD drawing, laser cutting, model making, Illustrator and Photoshop software) which allow them to experiment with many of the issues and ideas introduced. Students will be responsible for individual projects which exhibit their grasp of the studio topics.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Pre-requisite: URBS1004 Urban Analytics Studio

**URBS2010                    Urban Planning and Urban Management (6 credits)**

This course reviews the processes and theories of urban development, urban planning, and the management of cities. It examines key issues and concerns in the management of cities such as spatial strategy, transport policy, infrastructure provision, environmental policy, development controls and urban sustainability.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**RECO2032                    Introduction to Law (6 credits)**

Legal framework of the HKSAR - the Basic Law and the HKSAR legal system; elements of the law of contract and tort; introduction to public law.

Assessment: 20% continuous coursework assessment and 80% examination

**RECO2029                    Land Economics (6 credits)**

Location, trade and economic growth; the concept of rent and economic rent; producers' location decisions; urban land markets; economic regions; land as a natural resource; money and interest theory; timing problems in the land conversion process; renovation and redevelopment cycles; land stock control; government land and housing policies; social costs and land rent dissipation.

Assessment: 40% continuous coursework assessment and 60% examination

**2 Common Core courses (12 credits)**



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### **Year 3**

#### **URBS3005                      Development Appraisal Studio (12 credits)**

This studio enables students to apply and integrate the skills and knowledge learnt in the courses to case studies and projects in analyzing urban issues. Further spatial analysis and planning skills will be developed in the studio, which will include emphasis on project planning, impact assessment, financing, and community engagement.

Pre-requisite: URBS2007 Urban Process and City Design Studio

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

#### **URBS3008                      Urban Policy and Governance (6 credits)**

The institutional structure and public administration of cities, including sectors such as housing and transport; the management and governance of mega-city region; public participation and engagement in urban management and governance.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

#### **URBS3009                      BIM, CIM and New Urban Data Applications (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the concepts and practices of building information modelling (BIM), city information modelling (CIM), and new urban spatial analysis applications. Knowledge and concepts on the structure and operation of Geo-database will be taught to equip students with essential techniques for spatial data preparation, conversion, and integration. Students will have knowledge of BIM, CIM, and the spatial skills and techniques needed for conducting various smart city planning and design projects.

Assessment: 70% continuous coursework assessment and 30% examination

Pre-requisite: URBS1004 Urban Analytics Studio

#### **CONS1001                      Introduction to Conservation (6 credits)**

The purpose of conservation is to retain the values of a heritage place while extending its physical life. This course introduces the principles and practices of the heritage conservation field, including an introduction to the history and development of the field from its beginnings to today. The conservation process is explored, including the identification of heritage values and character-defining elements as well as the various conservation treatments. An overview of best practices contained in heritage charters, conventions, recommendations and declarations is also addressed. Attention is given to the World Heritage Convention, the World Heritage List and the evolving concepts of authenticity and integrity.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**URBS3006                      Planning and Development Laws (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to Hong Kong laws relevant to the planning and development of properties from the legal perspective. It enables students to understand the legal contexts, legal tools and their enforcement in the planning, development and holding of properties of different scales. Case study illustrations will help understand the interpretation and enforcement of the laws under various real situations. It covers legislations related to urban planning, acquisition and holding of land and other property, development controls, and property resumption.

Assessment: 40% continuous coursework assessment and 60% examination

Pre-requisite: RECO2032 Introduction to Law

**2 Common Core course (12 credits)**

**2 Electives (12 credits)**

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**Year 4**

**URBS4005                      Development Scenarios and Impact Assessment Studio  
(Capstone Experience) (12 credits)**

This course provides the theoretical basis and analytical methods in impact assessments. Students will learn knowledge and skills in identifying, forecasting and evaluating the potential environmental and social impacts of urban development initiatives and projects.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Pre-requisite: URBS3005 Development Appraisal Studio

**URBS4006                      Urban Research Studio (Capstone Experience) (12 credits)**

Students will further carry out capstone research projects that solidify and integrate their academic and practical understanding of urban issues and allow them to develop further skills and knowledge in their desired area with advanced urban analysis techniques, such as GIS and urban modelling.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

Pre-requisite: URBS4005 Development Scenarios and Impact Assessment Studio

**RECO3029                    Real Estate Investment and Finance (6 credits)**

Real estate market; financial economic concepts and tools for investment analysis; application in real estate, REIT and land; leverage; statistical model for forecasting.

Assessment: 40% continuous coursework assessment and 60% examination

Pre-requisite: RECO2029 Land Economics

**URBS4007                    Urban Environmental Science and Design (6 credits)**

This course introduces the fundamentals of urban environmental science and technology, explores how informed design is essential to the environmental sustainability and well-being of future cities, and examines best practices of environment-conscious design at city scale. Students are expected to familiarize with scientific literature on key urban environmental challenges; understand the role of environment-conscious design in key urban environmental performance domains, such as climate, air pollution, water, noise, and energy; and acquire practical skills and experiences that are geared towards making informed designs to advance urban sustainability.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**4 Electives (24 credits)**

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**Elective courses**

Students can choose to take courses offered within or outside the Department.

**URBS5005                    Healthy and Liveable Cities and Smart Technologies (6 credits)**

This course introduces the science and practice of healthy and liveable cities. Drawing from a multidisciplinary perspective, it will provide a holistic overview of the links between cities' built environment, health and well-being; discuss the concept of urban liveability and its indicators; describe methods to measure healthy-influencing urban environments; explore how smart technologies can help shape healthier and more liveable cities; and provide a basic understanding of healthy and sustainable city planning.

Assessment: 70% continuous coursework assessment and 30% examination

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