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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
URBAN PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

ADMISSION IN 2020
INTRODUCTION

The M.Sc. in Urban Planning is a two-year full-time international postgraduate programme that provides a comprehensive professional training in the theories, methods and practice of urban and regional planning. An important distinguishing feature of this programme is the emphasis on the planning and management of sustainable cities and regions. It also offers an extensive coverage of contemporary urban and regional development issues with a strong focus on Hong Kong, China and the Asia-Pacific region. The Department is a Full Member of the Asian Planning Schools Association (APSA) which in turn is a member of the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN). Salient features of this programme are:

• Integrating theory and application;
• Supporting action-oriented and problem-based learning;
• Learning from the world’s best practices, with special focus on Hong Kong and China;
• Nurturing integrative efforts and partnership for sustainable development;
• Providing planning solutions through solid investigation and critical analysis; and
• Cultivating interdisciplinary, visionary and critical thinking for better place making.

ADMISSIONS

The degree of Master of Science in Urban Planning is a two-year full-time programme. To be eligible for admission, candidate shall fulfill the following minimum entry requirements:

• Hold a Bachelor degree with honours in any discipline from the University of Hong Kong or an equivalent qualification from another university or comparable institution;

• For applicants who do not hold a degree from an institution using English as the language of instruction and/or language of examination, they have to satisfy the following language requirement:
  - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): a score of 550 or above (paper-based test), or 213 or above (computer-based test), or 80 or above (new internet-based); or,
  - International English Language Testing System (IELTS): a minimum overall band of 6 with no subtest lower than 5.5.
PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITIONS

Our programme is recognized by local and international professional institutions. Graduates of the programme with two years of relevant experiences are eligible for membership of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) of the United Kingdom and become Registered Professional Planners (RPP) in Hong Kong. Graduates of the programme specializing in transport planning are eligible to become a Chartered Member (CMILT) of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT). Graduates can apply for membership of the Planning and Development Division of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) after completing specific top-up modules and relevant working experience. This programme will equip students with the knowledge and skills to enter various fields of the profession, such as:

- Urban planner and manager in the public and private sectors;
- Professional staff in land development and management, transport, or utilities companies;
- Social and community planner in NGOs;
- Educator and researcher in urban planning and development issues; and
- Policy analyst and solution provider in sustainable urban development.

COURSES TO BE OFFERED IN 2020-2021

The programme provides education on spatial and specialist planning. Besides a set of core courses and studios on spatial planning, students are required to take elective courses (normally three) and complete a dissertation in order to develop expertise on a specific sub-field of urban planning. The programme requires candidates to complete a total of 126 credits of courses.

CORE COURSES ON SPATIAL PLANNING

Foundation Course on Statistics and Quantitative Methods
Planning Sustainable Cities and Regions
Urban Development Theories
Urban Design and Place Making
Planning, Managing and Financing the Development Process
Values in Planning
Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong
Research Methods in Spatial Planning

Spatial Planning Studio
Strategic Planning Studio
Community Planning Studio
ELECTIVE COURSES FOR SPECIALIST PLANNING**
(Transport, Housing, Environment, International Planning, Urban Design, Conservation)

Public transport systems
Quantitative methods for transport planning
Transport policy and planning
Transport economics
Housing economics
International housing policies and practices
Transitional cities: urban and housing development
Housing, planning and sustainability
Environmental economics and analysis
Environmental auditing and reporting
Environmental policy
Environmental impact assessment
Environmental quality management
Environmental law in Hong Kong
Environmental health and risk assessment
Geographic information system (GIS) for urban and regional planning development
Globalization and urban and regional development in China
International planning policy and practice
Land and real estate markets: smart governance, finance and business models
Urban planning and practice in China
Research methods for urban design
Urban design technologies & innovations
Morphologies & urban design theories
Values of urban design: urban, social, environmental economic
Charters and legislation of conservation
Cultural landscapes
Architectural heritage and its significance

FEES
Local students:
HK$42,100 (approximately US$5,400) per year
Non-local students:
HK$164,000 (approximately US$21,025) per year

- Fees are payable in two instalments on a semester basis (in September and January). The above is based on the fees level in 2019-2020 and is subject to amendment.
- The composition fee only covers tuition fees for courses on offer and student’s usage of University facilities, such as health clinic, sports centre and library facilities. It does not include fees such as costs for field trips, printing, binding, stationery, books and model building.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to local full-time students on application to the Joint Committee on Student Finance and the University Committee on Student Finance.

Students from a number of Asian countries are eligible to apply for Asian Development Bank Scholarships which provide financial support covering tuition fees and living expenses. Students in Hong Kong are not eligible for ADB scholarship.

For details about the ADB Scholarship, please refer to ADB website at http://www.adb.org/

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications for admission to the M.Sc. (Urban Planning) Programme should be made on-line at the University’s website (http://www.aal.hku.hk/tpg).

Deadline for application : 31 December 2019
Deadline for ADB Applicants : 28 February 2020

**Course titles may vary at the time of offer.
Selection of Elective Courses is subject to availability and approval.