INTRODUCTION

The Master of Urban Design (MUD) provides an education in the design of the built environment at urban scales for an era of urban challenges. Urban design is emerging as a distinct design knowledge domain that encompasses understanding and leveraging planning, landscape, transport, architecture, and urban design economics. The Programme attracts a diverse body of local and international students, most with prior backgrounds in urban and transport planning, landscape architecture, and architecture. MUD graduates pursue careers as urban design professionals and many go on to work in the world’s most dynamic metropolises.

The Programme focuses on urban design challenges in Asian cities with an emphasis on international perspectives, exploring topics such as climate change, high-density urbanization, development, well-being and quality of life, green infrastructure, sustainable accessibility and equity, renewable energy and place making. Teaching is informed by cutting edge research and takes full advantage of its location in Hong Kong, a hyper-urban laboratory for urban design. Students acquire urban design skills through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, design studios, reviews, and local and international field study visits. These are led by academics and practitioners in urban design and related disciplines.

The Master of Urban Design Programme is accredited by Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design (HKUID) and the HKU’s Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) under its specialism scheme. The MUD Programme runs 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 (ECTS). Upon completing the MUD programme, graduates are entitled to a one-year Hong Kong’s IANG working visa which can be extended by employers.

For applicants who satisfy admissions criteria for both the MUD and Master of Science in Urban Planning (MUP) programmes, there is the option of applying for admission to both programmes and completing both degrees in a period of 2.5 years, instead of 3. MUP is fully recognized by the Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP) and Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), and Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT).

The Programme welcomes Asian Bank Development (JSP) postgraduate scholarship applicants.
The MUD core courses cover urban design theories, site planning, strategic urban design, ecology, place making, research methods, and design technologies. 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 organizes optional local fieldtrips on monthly basis. During the 12-month of study in the programme, the students are expected to complete a minimum of 90 credits of courses, including 24 credits of core courses, 2 studio courses and 1 dissertation and design thesis.

Fall Semester
- MUDP201 Hong Kong urban design studio (12 credits)
- MUDP210 Introduction to urban development and planning (6 credits)
- MUDP220 Urban design technologies & innovations (6 credits)
- MUDP310 Morphologies & urban design theories (6 credits)

Spring Semester
- MUDP202 International urban design studio (12 credits)
- MUDP210 Research methods for urban design (6 credits)
- MUDP220 Values of urban design: urban, social, and environmental economics (6 credits)
- Elective course (6 credits)

Summer Semester
- MUDP303 Dissertation – urban design thesis (36 credits)

Studio is a mix of lecture/ seminar/ workshop/ tutorial and urban design review organized in group of 10-12 students. Student classroom group work and individual work. The Dissertation – urban design thesis is individual and led by the student with a supervisor.

ADMISSION

Admission to the MUD program is competitive. Approximately 30-36 students enroll each year from an applicant pool of about 200. Most applicants have strong academic background in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning 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 2019-2020 will be available online on 4 November 2018. The application is online only and supporting materials must be uploaded by 31 December 2019. [https://www.hku.hk/pg/programme/master-urban-design]

Admission’s inquiries can be addressed to:
Mr. William Lo: wlo@arch.hku.hk
MUD Programme’s inquiries can be addressed to:
Dr. Jianming Huang: jiangh@arch.hku.hk

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 be no less than 70 MB. On the context 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 uncredited work will be unacceptable and will result in serious consequences.
- A Resume listing your education, employment, extracurricular 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.
- 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;
- 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.

- Three 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 Skype interview after the application deadline.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Application from a list of developing countries in Asia are eligible to apply for the Asian Development Bank – Japan Scholarship (ADB) which provides financial assistance to well-qualified candidates to pursue undergraduate studies in city and building-related fields. The Scholarship covers tuition fees, international travel and living expenses during the study in Hong Kong. More details can be found in the website [http://www.aidb.org/GSP/]. Applicants from developed economies, Hong Kong and Mainland China included, are ineligible for the ADB scholarship. For ADB scholarship please see [https://www.hku.hk/ite/careers/japan-scholarship-program/](https://www.hku.hk/ite/careers/japan-scholarship-program/).