Master of Science in Urban Planning

Department of Urban Planning & Design
The University of Hong Kong
2023-2024
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 in problem-based studio learning;
- Strengthening competence and proficiency in using smart technology in spatial planning;
- Learning from the world’s best practices, with special focus on Hong Kong and China;
- Nurturing integrative efforts and partnership to achieve sustainable development goals;
- 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 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.
COURSES TO BE OFFERED IN 2023–2024

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 Future Cities and Regions
- Urban Development Theories
- Planning, Managing and Financing the Development Process
- Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong
- Research Methods in Spatial Planning
- International Planning Policy and Practice
- GIS and Smart Technology in Spatial Planning

- Spatial Planning and Urban Design Studio
- Strategic and Community Planning Studio

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 (CMLT) of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT). 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
ELECTIVE COURSES FOR SPECIALIST PLANNING**
(Transport, Housing, Environment, Urban Design, Conservation, Project Management, Urban Analytics)

- 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
- Globalization and urban and regional development in China
- 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 economics
- Charters and legislation of conservation
- Cultural landscapes
- Architectural heritage and its significance
- Law and practice of arbitration
- Construction claims
- Modern developments in construction
- Urban big data analytics
- Spatial mobilities analytics
- Programming and foundations in urban data analysis

DISSERTATION
(on a topic related to the chosen specialism)

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

FEES
Local students:
HK$42,100 (approximately US$5,400) per year
Non-local students:
HK$182,000 (approximately US$23,344) 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 2022-2023 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 - Japan Scholarship which provide financial support covering tuition fees and living expenses. Students in Hong Kong are not eligible for ADB - Japan Scholarship.

For details about the ADB - Japan Scholarship, please refer to ADB website at 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 (www.aal.hku.hk/tpg).

Deadline for application: 3 January 2023
Deadline for ADB Applicants: 28 February 2023