Hong Kong requires volumetric urban design and placemaking. The Master of Science in Urban Design and Transport (MScUDT) is a unique interdisciplinary Programme that links urban design and transport studies, marrying design thinking with evidence-based transport analysis techniques to develop a more effective and balanced placemaking approach to cities. Traditional urban design focuses on the built environment and placemaking, largely overlooking the social, economic, and environmental dynamics of urban mobilities and access. In contrast, transport studies focus on operations and management of transport systems, tending to ignore the impact of infrastructures on the urban experience, urban qualities, mobility equality and its effects on access to opportunities and the enjoyment of places.

The MScUDT focuses on current and emerging challenges at this critical but overlooked confluence of urban design and transport studies. The curriculum aims to enable smart, healthy, equitable and resilient cities of the future, by providing an urban design education informed by knowledge of relationships between transport, land use, built environment and human behaviours. The Programme prepares built environment professionals to tackle the design, creation, and management of people-focused and sustainable cities, whether in Hong Kong, Asia-Pacific or internationally. The Programme is co-organized by the Department of Urban Planning and Design, the Department of Geography, and the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Hong Kong.

Themes that will be explored in the Programme include present and future multi-modal complexities of placemaking and urban design’s interface with transport and infrastructure planning and design; urban design and placemaking theory and practice in an age of climate crisis; the reintegration of slow modes; the emergence of micro-mobilities, surface and air autonomous vehicles. This programme welcome candidates wishing to work between discipline as deep generalist to bridge ‘silos’ at the strategic levels with an attention to the details of innovative design delivery across spatial scales that aim to create urban wellbeing and equity. The programme is equivalent to European Master’s Degree measured by the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Upon completing the MScUDT programme, graduates are entitled to one-year Hong Kong’s working visa (IANG), which can be renewed.

21st Century
New Town?

2022-23
The MScUDT programme curriculum provides a unique balance of theoretical, analytical, and design studio courses. Through theory courses introduce inter-disciplinary theories of urban design, transport and urban planning policies. The analytical courses introduce urban science quantitative approaches, machine learning methods and novel behavioural network science analytic tools for evidence-based urban design and transport policy design. The design studio courses provide students with opportunities to integrate through design thinking the acquired knowledge, analytics, skills, and techniques to engage with the complexity of urban transitioning of communities. The capstone experience emulates professional situation, where research about urban design, placemaking, mobilities, accessibility information, in parallel, an urban design thesis project and thus expose the student to the challenging issue of behavioral and analytical knowledge translation into visioning and communication of policy evaluation proposal, area action plan, urban design and placemaking across spatial scales.

This programme equips graduate with knowledgeable, design thinking know-how, research and analytical skills for a broad spectrum of careers, across the urban planning, transport and urban design industries, leading consulting firms in urban planning, urban design, transport and infrastructure, serving as bridge between engineering, urban design and urban planning.

During the two academic years of study in the programme, students are expected to complete a minimum of 120 credits of courses, including core courses, two studio courses and one research dissertation and urban design project thesis.

**Core Courses (Compulsory)**
- Morphologies and Urban Design Theories (6 credits)
- Foundations in Spatial Data Analysis (6 credits)
- Planning Sustainable Cities and regions (6 credits)
- Spatial Mobility Analytics (6 credits)
- Public Space Design Analytics (6 credits)
- Urban-Design Research Methods and Documentation (12 credits)
- Survey and Data Analysis in Transport Studies (6 credits)
- Behavioural Travel Demand Modelling (6 credits)
- Strategic and New Town Urban Design Studio (12 credits)
- Public Transport Interchange Urban Design Studio* (6 credits)
- Public Realm between and within buildings
-** Elective Courses***(Choose three)
  - Transport Policy and Planning
  - Transport Economics
  - Optimisation Techniques for Transport Applications
  - Transport Network Analysis, Modelling and Project Appraisal
  - Planning, Managing and Financing the Development Process
  - Transport Economics
  - Land and Real Estate Markets: Smart Governance, Finance and Pricing Models
  - GIS for Urban and Regional Planning Development
  - Planning, Transport, and Sustainability
  - Strategic and New Town Urban Design Studio
  - Public Transport Interchange Urban Design Studio

**Dissertation/ Capstone experience**
- Research Dissertation and Urban Design & Transport Thesis Project (30 credits)
- Public Transport Interchange Urban Design Studio

Studies is a mix of lecture/ seminar/ workshop, field visits, tutorials, and urban design & transport design reviews. Study fees include student load, organized in group of 1 to 8 students. Student combine group tutorial/ work and individual tutorials/ work.

The Research Dissertation – Urban Design and Transport Thesis Project is individual and led by the student with a supervisor.

**Admissions**

The Master of Science in Urban Design and Transport is a two academic year programme, designed to equip graduates with knowledge and skills to evaluate, design, and deliver transport and urban design solutions at city scale. The programme aims to provide students with the necessary knowledge to understand and evaluate the dynamics of urban forms, processes, and policies in the context of transport systems, while understanding the impact of urban design and development on mobility and people well-being.

**Admission Requirements**

- Hold a Bachelor degree in related urban or transport discipline(s) from the University of Hong Kong or an equivalent qualification from another university or comparable institution;
- Applicants are expected to have completed a minimum of 120 credits of courses, including core courses, two studio courses and one research dissertation and urban design project thesis.

**Eligibility**

- Applicants are required to have completed a Bachelor degree in related urban or transport disciplines from the University of Hong Kong or an equivalent qualification from another university or comparable institution.
- If you are a graduate from a programme that is not included in the list of approved programmes, you may be required to provide additional information to support your application.

**Language Requirements**

-IELTS: A minimum overall band of 6.0 with no subtest lower than 5.5.
-TOEFL: A minimum TOEFL score of 80 on the Paper-based Test (PBT) or 213 on the Computer-based Test (CBT) or 86 on the Internet-based Test (iBT).

**Application Process**

Applications for this programme will be made through the University’s online application system. The online application form includes the following rubrics: Personal Information, Academic Qualifications, Professional Qualifications & Work Experience, Language Qualifications, References, Further Information, Payment and Submission.

**Selection Process**

The selection process is highly competitive and candidates are assessed based on their academic qualifications, work experience, and research contributions. The selection process includes an interview, which is compulsory for all candidates.

**Duration and Tuition Fees**

The MScUDT programme is a two-year full-time programme, with an annual tuition fee of US$ 17,200 (subject to annual increases). The total tuition fee for the two years is US$ 34,400.

**Scholarships**

Several Scholarship opportunities are available to support students during their studies.

**Programme Structure**

The programme is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of urban design and transport, with a focus on the integration of sustainable practices. The curriculum includes both theoretical and practical components, with a strong emphasis on research and design.

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**Elective Courses**

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