

(TO BE APPLICABLE TO ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED FOR 2015-16 ACADEMIC YEAR)

**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN PLANNING
(MSc[UrbanPlanning])**

The Department of Urban Planning and Design offers a postgraduate course leading to the degree of Master of Science in Urban Planning.

A. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The curriculum shall extend over two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, and shall include assessment of the equivalent of a minimum of ten course modules and a maximum of eleven modules subject to the approval of the Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Design, the Urban Planning Studios and a Dissertation. Candidates studying both the full-time and part-time curricula are required to complete 20 modules of study.

Depending on their academic background, candidates may be required to take the “Foundation Course on Statistics and Quantitative Methods” upon recommendation of the Programme Director. This course will be taken as extra-curricular studies and will not be counted towards the minimum of 20 modules of study.

A candidate is required to follow courses of instruction and satisfy the examiners in each of the following seven Core Course Modules:

Values in Planning;
Urban Development Theories;
Research Methods in Spatial Planning;
Urban Design and Place Making;
Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong;
Planning, Managing and Financing the Development Process;
Planning Sustainable Cities and Regions.

and in the equivalent of not less than three Specialization Course Modules selected from a list approved from time to time. A candidate's selection of courses shall be approved by the Head of the Department. In addition, a candidate is required to complete satisfactorily the urban planning studios and submit in the final year of study a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words on a date to be specified by the Head of the Department.

B. EXAMINATIONS

Each of the courses followed by a candidate is examined either by an assessment of coursework, or by a combination of coursework assessment and a written examination.

A full-time candidate

- (a) shall follow six course modules in the first academic year of study and shall attend the urban planning studios; and
- (b) shall follow the equivalent of not less than four course modules in the final academic year of study and shall attend the urban planning studio, and shall present a Dissertation by the prescribed date.

A part-time candidate

- (a) shall follow a minimum of four course modules in the first academic year of study;
- (b) shall follow a minimum of the equivalent of one course modules in the second year of study and shall attend the urban planning studios; and
- (c) shall follow a maximum of three course modules (up to the required total of ten course modules, of which seven are Core Course modules and the equivalent of three are Specialization Course Modules) and shall attend the urban planning studio in the final year of study, and shall present a Dissertation by the prescribed date.

A part-time candidate wishing to defer or advance a course module or course modules to another year of study shall seek the approval of the Head of the Department in writing.

C. SYLLABUSES

Foundation Course Module

URBP6911. Foundation course on statistics and quantitative methods

This is a general foundation course on statistics, quantitative methods and computer techniques that are commonly used in urban analysis and planning. It introduces students the fundamentals of descriptive, inferential and multivariate statistical techniques and quantitative methods. The aim is to develop students a basic level of competence and ability in using them in urban analysis and planning.

Urban Planning Core Course Modules

Students are required to take all Core Courses:

URBP6002. Urban development theories (1 module)

This course reviews the theoretical frameworks for the understanding of urban development processes. It analyses the economic, spatial and socio-political dimensions of urban activities. The dynamics of urbanization in the global production system, the relations between capital accumulation and urban development, place marketing and the rise of the creative cities will be discussed.

URBP6003. Planning practice, law and ethics in Hong Kong (1 module)

This course provides a detailed understanding of professional planning practice in Hong Kong. It deals with the practical dimensions of planning in both the public and private sectors. The course reviews the history, policies, strategies, administrative and legal procedures of planning. It also examines issues surrounding the ethical basis of professional planning activity.

URBP7003. Research Methods in Spatial Planning (1 module)

This course introduces basic research methods and techniques in urban and regional spatial planning. It will examine research design methods, data collection, and the use of statistical as well as qualitative techniques in data analysis. It will also examine analytical models and evaluation and management methods that are commonly used in spatial planning and research.

URBP6901. Values in planning (1 module)

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the theoretical basis of urban and regional planning. It examines the nature and value of the planning process through different theoretical paradigms. Through active class deliberations on issues surrounding the roles and definitions of knowledge, the public interest, equal opportunities and ethics in the planning process, students will develop their own value system in planning.

URBP6006. Planning, managing and financing the development process (1 module)

Planning in a development process needs to take into account a variety of spatial, sectoral, resources management and financial factors. This course examines the interactions of these factors in development processes initiated by the public sector, the private developers or through various modes of public-private partnership. The intersectoral and spatial implications of the development processes will be explored through case studies of planning at different geographical scales in the context of Hong Kong.

URBP6007. Planning sustainable cities and regions (1 module)

This course focuses on the linkages between sustainable development and the planning of cities and regions. It comprises three main elements: firstly, a review and discussion of the principles of sustainable development, the concept of sustainability and related theories and discourses such as ecological modernisation, secondly, the design of policies to promote sustainable urban and regional development and related sustainability assessment systems, and, thirdly, contemporary practice in sustainability planning as reflected in emerging international experience in the field.

URBP6902. Urban design and place making (1 module)

This course introduces students to the theories, principles, processes, methods and practice of urban design and place making. Through literature reviews and case studies students begin to clearly understand the importance of policy, planning, design, and management in place making. Students comprehend the value of common visions, cultural diversity and community aspirations in the process of design in the creation of high quality places to live, work and play. Students undertake site specific place making design projects at the development and public realm context. Students are challenged to generate visionary, imaginative and realistic responses through investigation, analysis to make informed design decisions and creative recommendations.

Specialization Courses

(Students shall take three specialization courses to be approved by the Head of the Department. Not all courses are available each year. Applicants should consult the Department for further information.)

URBP6123. Public transport systems (1 module)

This course is designed to examine the nature and the role of public transport systems mainly in the urban context with special reference to high density development. Topics include the nature and the characteristics of passenger transport, the operation and management of public transit systems,

deregulation and privatization, the role of para-transit, and multi-modal cooperation and competition.

URBP6903. Quantitative methods for transport planning (1 module)

This course focuses on the transport planning process and examines the following: traffic generation forecasts; spatial patterns of traffic; modal split models; traffic assignment methods; transport evaluation; network and local planning; traffic engineering considerations and basic transport economics.

URBP6131. Transport policy and planning (1 module)

This course focuses on key issues in transport policy and the implementation of transport plans and programmes. It examines the role of private and public modes within the overall urban transport system as well as pedestrian movement planning, airport development and seaport development. The course uses examples drawn from various countries to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of alternative policies and implementation mechanisms.

URBP6157. Transport economics (1 module)

This course helps to develop a specialist appreciation of the economics of urban transport provision. It highlights the economic principles and techniques employed in planning, operating and managing our city transport systems and concentrates on topics such as: travel time valuation, road congestion costing and pricing, public transport finance and cost-recovery, and economic appraisal techniques employed therein.

MHMP6858. Housing economics (1 module)

This course provides a basic introduction to economics and the application of economic concepts in the analysis of housing issues. The course also deals with the principles of cost-benefit analysis and economic evaluation in general in the housing context. Other topics covered include land policy and economics, cycles in housing activity, the financing of housing development and privatization. The course also introduces the functions, principles and methods of valuation.

MHMP8008. Transitional cities: urban and housing development (1 module)

Building upon comparative concepts and introductory materials of local knowledge, this course aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore contemporary urban changes both in the countries that are undergoing the transition from the planned to a market-oriented economy and in newly industrialised economies. The course has a regional focus on cities in Pacific Asia, in particular Chinese cities, and cities in Central and Eastern Europe. By the end of the course, students should be able to gain an empirical understanding of diverse local contexts and to broaden the concepts discussed in urban and housing studies.

URBP6904. Housing, planning and sustainability (1 module)

This course aims to provide an integrative and in-depth understanding of Hong Kong's housing system and its relationships with urban planning and the concepts of sustainable development. It discusses the theoretical and practical aspects of housing, making special reference to their relationships with urban

planning and sustainable development. Major topics include the housing system concepts, the political economy of housing policies, land use planning and housing affordability, principals of residential planning, housing policy analyses, housing market analyses, and the application of the sustainable development perspective to housing analyses.

ENVM7012. Environmental economics and analysis (1 module)

The aim of this course is to equip students with the ability to undertake an economic analysis of the environment. It will examine the environment in the context of the market mechanism and policies for improving environmental performance. There will be an emphasis on market failure and strategies for internalising the external costs of environmental damage. A good deal of attention will be paid to cost-benefit analysis and methodologies for the valuation of the environment. There will also be a consideration of alternative policy instruments from an economic perspective. The aim is also to examine way of managing resources in a way that is both economically and environmentally efficient.

ENVM8011. Environmental auditing and reporting (1 module)

Principles of environmental auditing and environmental management systems (EMS); structure and organization of audits; acting on audit outputs; environmental reporting; development of standards for auditing and EMS; BS7750; EMAS; ISO14000; auditing in Hong Kong and case study applications.

ENVM7016. Environmental policy (1 module)

This course focuses on processes of environmental policy making: how policy agendas emerge and evolve, the drivers and barriers influencing policy development, institutional structures for environmental policy making, stakeholder engagement, and the implementation of environmental policy. Theories of policy making are explored in relation to the environmental and sustainable development. Environmental policy making systems and outcomes are reviewed through local and international case studies.

ENVM8006. Environmental impact assessment (1 module)

EIA is one of the most important contemporary instruments of environmental management. Used widely around the world to identify the impacts of development projects as well as strategic plans and policies, EIA plays a key role in many regulatory systems for the environment. This course reviews the development of different approaches to EIA, basic analytical principles, administrative systems for EIA, assessments at the project and strategic levels (SIA) and case study applications in Hong Kong.

URBP6017. Geographic information system (GIS) for urban and regional planning development (1 module)

This course introduces the basic concepts and methods in the use of geographic information system as a spatial planning support system in different areas of urban and regional planning and development. It examines the basic principles and functions of geographic information system in data input, manipulation, retrieval, visualization and modelling of geographical data for supporting spatial planning decisions.

URBP6905. Globalization and urban and regional development in China (1 module)

This course examines the processes of globalization and studies its implications for urban and regional development in China. It studies the general concepts of urban development and the historical legacy constraining the urban development in China. With China's accession to WTO membership, special emphasis is placed on the interactions between the transnational corporations (TNCs) and the different level of the state and local governments. Regional dynamics will be examined in the context of global competitiveness.

URBP6906. Urban planning and practice in China (1 module)

The course will first review the history of urban planning practice in the People's Republic of China. The relationship between economic and urban planning, the evolution of the planning legislation and the practice of planning at different geographical scales will be discussed. The course will then focus on planning practice in the Pearl River Delta region and its major cities where the transitional economy is evolving rapidly. Issues surrounding the institutionalisation of planning regulations, systems and hierarchy; the formulation and implementation of plans; and problems of development control will be examined.

URBP6907. Special study in urban planning (1 module)

Detailed study or studies on a topic or topics in contemporary urban and regional planning approved by the Head of the Department.

RECO6066. Real estate development and land policies (1 module)

This module deals with the economics and structure of the real estate industry with special reference to Hong Kong. It introduces the real estate sector as consisting of three interrelated subsectors, namely the market for real estate services, the market for real estate assets, and the real estate development market. The module also introduces principles of real estate market analysis and real estate project evaluation.

ARCH5103. Housing in urban development (1 module)

The course investigates the production of housing within the social, political and spatial conditions in urban development. Topics include social and economic determinants of housing location, standards and quality of design; impact on urban development; analysis of housing production including site and infrastructure, provisions; constraints and innovations in the housing industry; and case studies by field trip.

ARCH5105. The design of Chinese cities (1 module)

The course looks into the basic physical organization and development of traditional, colonial and contemporary Chinese cities. It aims to introduce methods in understanding how built forms, particularly urban public spaces and city fabric, express certain aspirations of a culture, and how culture itself conditions their physical shape. It also addresses the issue of urban transformation: how cities took the shape they did? What and why have they changed from their past forms to the present shape? Field trips form an integral part of the course.

ARCH5111. Contemporary urbanism (1 module)

This course integrates urban analysis research and architectural design methodologies to examine relationships between architecture and urbanism through the development of a working understanding of urban and architectural form in the context of the Contemporary City. The course examines the contemporary urban condition through readings of critical theories, analysis of developmental models, as well as empirical investigation of urban sites. In conjunction with physical, historical, social and economic research, alternative design strategies are explored to challenge existing presumptions and models of the contemporary urbanism.

ARCH6104. Physical environment and site planning (1 module)

The course offers a synoptic introduction of site planning as urban design technique, and focuses on major factors that interact with, and directly determine the shaping of physical urban environment. Topics covered include the art and mechanics of site planning; ecology and aesthetics of landscaping; transport infrastructure for urban and rural development; programming and land use planning for urban development, and planning standards and environmental performance criteria.

ARCH8102. Architectural heritage and the built environment (1 module)

This course focuses on heritage buildings and sites in relation to their settings within a socio-cultural context. Emphasis is placed on the built heritage in Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China. Case studies are used to illustrate the process of understanding of the cultural values of heritage buildings and sites, and how to use these values to create a viable conservation plan.

ARCH8103. Charters and legislation of conservation (1 module)

This course introduces the guiding principles and legal framework for heritage conservation, as established in international charters and regional legislation, and examines in particular detail their application in Hong Kong, Macau, Mainland China and Southeast Asia.

ARCH8109. Cultural landscapes (1 module)

This course focuses on understanding heritage places using the concept of cultural landscapes – landscapes that reflect distinctive patterns of interaction between people and the natural environment. The course examines the current theory and practice of cultural landscapes, especially within the context of Hong Kong, Macau, Mainland China and Southeast Asia.

Urban Planning Studios and Dissertation**URBP7001. Spatial planning studio (2 modules)**

This is the first of three studios in the Urban Planning Program and provides the basic foundation for Planning Studios at regional and territorial, and local community levels. Through class lectures and literature reviews students are introduced to spatial planning undertaken at these various levels and the importance of location and space in the resulting spatial pattern. Students are also introduced to and develop a basic proficiency in graphic (manual and computer 2D/3D visualizations), written and oral

communication skills. Students get hands-on experience working in teams of four or five preparing and making presentations of preliminary spatial planning projects.

URBP7002. Regional and territorial planning studio (2 modules)

The regional component of the studio will meet for 3 sessions. During the sessions, students will be exposed to the regional planning context of Hong Kong. A fieldtrip to the Pearl River Delta will be arranged to provide a better understanding of the theoretical and practical planning issues. The territorial component of this studio will investigate and evaluate an urban planning and development policy issue. Students will work in a multi-disciplinary team, simulating a consultancy/task force situation. They will carry out a literature review, data collection, qualitative and quantitative analysis, evaluation and making recommendations. They are expected to relate theory to practice with a multi-dimensional perspective, and through interaction with concerned stakeholders, to recognize the social, environmental, economic and political challenges so as to reach a balanced recommendation.

URBP8001. Community planning studio (2 modules)

In this studio, students will work in partnership with local community groups and relevant stakeholders and apply their theoretical knowledge and practical skills to generate visionary, imaginative and realistic sustainable development plans for a local district in Hong Kong. Students will have ample opportunities to practise and refine their questionnaire design, survey, analysis, communication, urban design and presentation techniques and skills.

URBP6865. Dissertation (4 modules)

The candidate shall present a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words in the final year of study. The dissertation must be related to the candidate's area of specialization and to the optional specializations selected. The examiners may prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.