

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES  
(BA[UrbanStud])**

AR87/715

*These regulations are applicable to candidates admitted under the 4-year '2012 curriculum' to the first year of the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies in 2012-13 and 2013-14.*

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula)*

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**Definitions**

**Ar321** For the purpose of these regulations and the syllabuses for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies, unless the context otherwise requires:

'Elective' means any course offered within the same or another curriculum, other than compulsory courses in the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies that can be taken by the candidate in order to complete the credit requirements of the degree curriculum.

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**Admission to the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies**

**Ar322** To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies, a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; and
  - (c) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations and syllabuses set out below.
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**Period of study**

**Ar323** The curriculum for the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies shall normally require eight semesters of full-time study, extending over not fewer than four academic years and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of six academic years.

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**Selection of courses**

**Ar324** Candidates shall select their courses in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines as specified in the syllabuses before the beginning of each semester. Such selection shall be subject to the approval of the Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Design.

**Ar325** Changes to the selection of courses may be made during the first two weeks of each semester subject to the approval of the Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Design, and such changes shall not be reflected in the transcript. Requests for changes after

the first two weeks of a semester shall normally be not considered, except with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, and candidates withdrawing from any course without permission shall be given an F grade.

**Ar326** Candidates shall not be permitted to select other courses for which a failed course forms a prerequisite unless permission is given by the department for the candidates to be reassessed in the failed course and for them to satisfy the examiners in this.

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## **Curriculum requirements**

**Ar327** To complete the curriculum a candidate shall:

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula;
- (b) enrol in courses of a total of 240 credits, comprising a professional core of 144 credits (including 120 credits of core courses and 24 credits of Faculty Foundation courses), 36 credits in Common Core courses, 12 credits in English language enhancement, 6 credits in Chinese language enhancement and 42 credits of electives;
- (c) follow instruction in the courses as prescribed under these regulations and complete satisfactorily all coursework requirements set as tests or as parts of any assessment and practical work, maybe outside Hong Kong, to be undertaken as an integral part of the degree of BA(UrbanStud); and
- (d) satisfy the examiners in the assessment of the courses in the manner specified in the regulations and syllabuses.

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## **Ar328 Progression in curriculum**

- (a) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester) unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty, or except in the last semester of study when candidates may be required to take fewer than 24 credits to satisfy the outstanding curriculum requirements.
- (b) Candidates may, of their own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year. With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty, candidates may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed 288 credits, save as provided for under Ar328(c).
- (c) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed 432 credits.
- (d) Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions at any time during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The number of credits to be transferred shall not exceed half of the total credits

normally required under the degree curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

- (e) Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:
    - (i) failed to complete successfully 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such number of credits in the given two semesters, or
    - (ii) failed to achieve an average Semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), or
    - (iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in the regulations of the degree.
  - (f) Candidates may be required by the Board of Examiners to take a reduced study load of not fewer than 24 credits if their academic progression is unsatisfactory.
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## **Assessment**

**Ar329** Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits. Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG8(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

**Ar330** (a) Candidates who are unable, because of illness, to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the First Semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

(b) Candidates who are unable, because of illness, to be present at any assessment task of any course may apply for permission to present themselves for supplementary of the same course to be held in a manner prescribed at the Department's discretion.

**Ar331** Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a D grade or above for the purpose of upgrading.

**Ar332** There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

### **Ar333 Failure in Assessment**

- (a) Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner as prescribed by the Board of Examiners:
  - (i) undergoing re-assessment / re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the beginning of the first semester of the following academic year; or
  - (ii) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction in the summer semester; or

- (iii) repeating the failed course(s) by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
  - (iv) for elective courses, taking another course *in lieu* and satisfying the assessment requirements.
- (b) Where candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for re-assessment / re-examination / assessment in an alternative course under (a)(i) & (iii) above, the new grade obtained together with the previous F grade shall be recorded on the transcript and will be included in the calculation of the semester GPA, the year GPA and the cumulative GPA.
- (c) The maximum number of attempts for a particular course or requirement is three.

## Honours classifications

### Ar334

- (a) Honours classifications shall be awarded in five divisions: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours Division One, Second Class Honours Division Two, Third Class Honours, and Pass. The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Cumulative GPA scores, with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying equal weighting:

<i>Class of honours</i>	<i>CGPA range</i>
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)
Division One	3.00 – 3.59
Division Two	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

- (b) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Cumulative GPA and the Board of Examiners for the degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Cumulative GPA falls below the range stipulated in Ar334(a) of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.
- (c) A list of candidates who have successfully completed all degree requirements shall be posted on Faculty noticeboards.