

(THESE REGULATIONS ARE APPLICABLE TO CANDIDATES ADMITTED TO THE MASTER OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM IN THE 2016-17 ACADEMIC YEAR AND THEREAFTER)

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT
(MHousMan)**

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

Admission requirements

MHM1 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Housing Management, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
 - (ii) a qualification of equivalent standard of this University or another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose¹; and
 - (iii) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
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Professional experience

MHM2 Candidates applying under the provisions of MHM1(b)(i) or (ii) should note that whilst professional experience in the housing field is not a requirement for admission, it will nevertheless be an advantage for applicants of the Professional Stream of the part-time mode.

Requirements for graduation

MHM3 To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Housing Management, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;

¹ Qualifications which are accepted include:

- (a) a Professional Diploma in Housing Management awarded by the HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education and possession of at least five years' work experience in the housing field; or
- (b) full membership of the Hong Kong Institute of Housing (MHKIH) and possession of at least five years' work experience in the housing field (at least two of which must be post-qualification); or
- (c) chartered membership of the Chartered Institute of Housing (MCIH) and possession of at least five years' work experience in the housing field (at least two of which must be post-qualification).

Candidates who hold these qualifications, if selected, shall not be offered admission until they have satisfied the examiners in a qualifying examination to test their academic ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. The qualifying examination shall consist of one or more written papers and shall be set prior to the final selection of candidates for admission into the curriculum.

and

- (b) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with these regulations set out below.
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Period of study

MHM4 The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year, including a summer semester, of full-time study, or two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

Completion of curriculum

MHM5 To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) shall take not less than 63 credits under the academic stream or 87 credits under the professional stream in the manner specified in these regulations and the syllabuses, and follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and field work;
 - (c) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on a subject within their approved field of study; and
 - (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of assessment.
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Exemption

MHM6 Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and normally no more than two courses can be exempted. Candidates receiving exemption would be required to do replacement courses chosen from the optional courses. Each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit.

Title of dissertation

MHM7 The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by no later than 31-January of the second semester for the full-time mode, and 15-April of Year 1 study of the part-time mode and the dissertation shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses; the candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

Assessment

MHM8 Each course will be assessed through a combination of written examination paper and coursework assessment, or by coursework assessment alone. The final grading for each course will be determined by performance in the written examination paper and an assessment of coursework.

MHM9 Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses to be assessed, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic years of study, may be permitted

- (a) to present themselves for re-assessment in the course or courses of failure, with or without repeating any part of the curriculum; or

(b) for candidates of the part-time mode of study, to repeat the course or courses of failure.

MHM10 Candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation within a specified period.

MHM11 Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any prescribed field work or practical work may be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment in field work or practical work within a specified period.

MHM12 Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present for one or more papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidates' absence from the examination.

MHM13 Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment in any written paper or any course assessed by means of coursework assessment, or in field work in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any written paper or any course assessed by means of coursework assessment, or field work or practical work at a second attempt; or
- (c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation; or
- (d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised dissertation under the provision of MHM10; or
- (e) have exceeded the maximum period of their registration specified in these regulations of the degree,

shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies.

MHM14 Courses shall be graded according to letter grades, their standards and the grade points for assessment as follows:

Grade	Standard	Grade Point
A+	Excellent	4.3
A		4.0
A-		3.7
B+	Good	3.3
B		3.0
B-		2.7
C+	Satisfactory	2.3
C		2.0
C-		1.7
D+	Pass	1.3
D		1.0
F	Fail	0

Assessment results

MHM15 On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

MHM16 Candidates who present themselves for re-assessment in any subject shall not be eligible for the award of more than a grade of D or D+ in that subject.

(THE SYLLABUSES ARE APPLICABLE TO CANDIDATES ADMITTED TO THE MASTER OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM IN THE 2016-17 ACADEMIC YEAR AND THEREAFTER)

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT (ACADEMIC STREAM)

(SEE ALSO GENERAL REGULATIONS AND REGULATIONS FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE CURRICULA)

1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CURRICULUM

The master's degree is an interdisciplinary curriculum. It aims to upgrade the intellectual ability and skills of public and private sector professionals already working in housing. It is anticipated that this target group would have already obtained professional recognition through the Professional Diploma in Housing Management offered by the School of Professional and Continuing Education of the University of Hong Kong or equivalent. This curriculum also aims to provide intellectual training to those wishing to specialize in the housing area at postgraduate level.

In accordance with the above aims, the curriculum intends to achieve the following objectives: (i) it elucidates and analyses the contexts of housing, both nationally and globally, and in terms of political, economic and social developments; (ii) it provides a critical evaluation of international housing systems; (iii) it provides a deeper level of knowledge and understanding of some selected urban and housing issues such as housing finance, property development and urban management models; (iv) it equips candidates with useful techniques and skills in the analysis of urban and housing issues; and (v) it enables candidates to specialize in some aspects of housing by taking optional courses and completing a dissertation on an approved topic of his own choice.

2. COURSE STRUCTURE

The curriculum is offered on a part-time basis and is of two years' duration. Maximum period of study shall not exceed four academic years. During the first year of the curriculum, candidates are required to take not fewer than 27 credits while in the second year of study they are required to take not fewer than 12 credits and a dissertation with 24 credits. The grading system to be used in the curriculum is letter grades and grade points. Certain existing courses offered by other curriculum are used in whole or in part where the content is appropriate but a number of compulsory courses are specifically offered for this curriculum.

The first year of the curriculum aims to deepen and widen candidates' understanding of housing policy in the local, international, economic and urban contexts, and to prepare them for the dissertation project. The specific objectives are to enable candidates to: a) develop a critical understanding of the policy context of housing issues including a comparative dimension; b) be conversant with the major policy context pertinent to housing management; and c) apply basic research methods in housing analysis.

The second year of the curriculum aims to deepen candidates' insight into the theoretical aspects of housing and to specialize in areas of their own choice. The specific objectives are to enable candidates to: a) develop critical understanding of housing issues from the sociological perspectives; and b) specialize in housing-related areas as selected from the optional courses on offer, and completing the dissertation project.

Each student is required to complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on an approved topic which will form part of the overall assessment of the curriculum. Work on the dissertation commences at the end of the first year of study with a submission deadline of 15 July in the second year of study. Each student will be assigned a supervisor from among the teachers contributing to the curriculum.

Year One Studies

During the first year of study students are required to take the following compulsory courses with 21 credits in total:

- MHMP6858. Housing economics (6 credits)
- MHMP7007. International housing policies and practices (6 credits)
- MHMP8002. Foundation course on research methods (3 credits)
- MHMP8006. Housing, planning and sustainability (6 credits)

Candidates are also required to take one optional course with 6 credits from a list of those on offer. This list may vary from year to year.

Year Two Studies

During the second year of study candidates are required to take the following compulsory course with 6 credits:

- MHMP8008 Transitional Cities: Urban and Housing Development (6 credits)

Candidates are also required to take *one* optional course with 6 credits from a list of those on offer. This list may vary from year to year.

List of optional courses, each with 6 credits:

- MHMP8003 Practices of housing management and maintenance (only offered to Year One candidates) (6 credits)
- RECO6031. Alternative dispute resolution (6 credits)
- RECO7084 Strategic Facility Planning & Asset Management (6 credits)
- URBP6131. Transport policy and planning (6 credits)
- URBP6003 Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong (6 credits)
- URBP6905. Globalization and urban and regional development in China (6 credits)
- MHMP6702 Sociology of housing (6 credits)

Optional courses available may change from year to year.

Candidates are also required to complete the dissertation requirement.

Course Duration and Assessment

Each course extends over one semester of study (i.e. 12 weeks), except MHMP8002 Foundation course on research methods, and all courses are assessed through examination (0% - 75%) and/or coursework assessment (25% - 100%).

3. COURSE LIST

Compulsory Courses

MHMP6858. Housing economics (6 credits)

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 and 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.

MHMP7007. International housing policies and practices (6 credits)

This course aims to compare housing policies and practices at an international scale and to explore global housing issues. It examines and compares the evolution of housing policies in different housing systems, the modes of intervention in the housing markets, the roles of the public and private sectors in housing provision, housing finance systems, and the relationships between housing standards and societal conditions. Prevailing global trends and issues in housing are also examined.

MHMP8002. Foundation course on research methods (3 credits)

This course aims to prepare students for the dissertation by briefing them the research process, especially the identification of research problems and the formulation of research design and data collection methods. It also provides them a foundation in basic statistical analysis including issues in problem formulation, measurement and sampling, descriptive statistics, and basic inferential statistics.

MHMP8006. Housing, planning and sustainability (6 credits)

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.

MHMP8008 Transitional Cities: Urban and Housing Development (6 credits)

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.

Dissertation

MHMP6866. Dissertation (24 credits) (Capstone experience)

Each student is required to produce a dissertation on a topic approved by the Board of the Faculty of Architecture. The submission date for the dissertation shall be 15 July in the second year of study. The dissertation should be of between 15,000-20,000 words in length. Each student is assigned a dissertation supervisor from among the teachers contributing to the programme.

Optional Courses

MHMP8003. Practices of housing management and maintenance (6 credits)

This course aims to introduce and consolidate student's understanding of major concepts and practices of housing management in Hong Kong, including the management of building maintenance. Its objectives are to discuss the contexts and concepts of housing management; to canvass the tasks and skills in the management of residential properties and related community and commercial facilities; to introduce students to major building structures, building fabrics and building materials and their maintenance problems and maintenance policies and their implementation; and to identify the role of housing managers in the maintenance of residential properties.

MHMP6702. Sociology of housing (6 credits)

This course provides a review and critical assessment of various sociological perspectives on housing in contemporary urban societies. Drawing upon theoretical developments in this area the course explores problems of housing provision and allocation in relation to changing political, economic and social circumstances in the cities of the industrialized and developing nations.

RECO6031. Alternative dispute resolution (6 credits)

This course examines the theory and practice of dispute resolution: negotiation; mediation; litigation; arbitration and adjudication; practice and procedure; application in the real estate and construction industry.

RECO7084. Strategic Facility Planning & Asset Management (6 credits)

This course covers strategic dimensions of facility and asset management in corporations. Facility planning as a strategic process should be considered at the policy formulation and portfolio level. Need for a whole-life asset management framework for managing buildings as a special class of durable assets. Principles of asset management, asset management processes, applications and case studies.

URBP6003. Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong (6 credits)

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.

URBP6131. Transport policy and planning (6 credits)

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.

URBP6905. Globalization and urban and regional development in China (6 credits)

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.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT (PROFESSIONAL STREAM)

1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The curriculum aims to provide high quality professional education to practitioners in the housing management industry as well as to those who intend to seek professional careers in the industry. Graduates of the curriculum will be (i) proficient in the theory and practice of housing locally and internationally; (ii) conversant with the skills and knowledge of housing management practice in Hong Kong which are generally applicable to China and elsewhere; and (iii) well equipped to analyse contemporary and future housing issues independently and critically.

In accordance with the above aims, the curriculum intends to achieve the following objectives: (i) to elucidate and analyses housing issues in local, national and global contexts, and in terms of political, economic and social developments; (ii) to equip candidates with the necessary knowledge and skills required of a professional housing manager in Hong Kong; (iii) to enable candidates to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing housing system of Hong Kong; (iv) to enable candidates to have a firm grasp of housing policy and property management issues in China; (v) to equip candidates with useful techniques and skills in the analysis of urban and housing issues; and (vi) to enable candidates to specialize in some aspects of housing by taking optional courses and completing dissertations of their own choice.

2. COURSE STRUCTURE

Full-time mode

Maximum period of study shall not exceed three academic years. The first half year of study aims to provide candidates a firm conceptual and empirical foundation in housing management and to develop their management skills and technical knowledge. The specific objectives are to enable candidates to develop a critical understanding of: a) the urban and policy contexts of housing issues; b) the essentials of housing management and maintenance practices and skills; and c) the legal basis of housing management. Another objective is to cultivate the research ability of the candidates.

As candidates come from diverse academic backgrounds, some flexibility in the curriculum is allowed. Apart from the compulsory courses, candidates are allowed to take one optional paper chosen from a wide range of electives according to their background and interests.

The second half year of study aims to broaden and deepen the candidates' understanding of the conceptual contexts of housing management, to further develop their legal knowledge and analytical skills. The specific objectives are to enable candidates to be conversant with: a) the global trends of housing policy and practice; b) the economic dimensions of housing; c) property laws related to housing management. Other objectives are to equip candidates with the necessary communication skills in discharging housing management duties, and to enable them to specialize in housing issues of special interests.

Each student is required to complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on an approved topic which forms part of the overall assessment of the curriculum. Work on the dissertation commences in the first semester with a submission deadline of 10 August. Each student will be assigned a supervisor from among the teachers contributing to the curriculum.

Part-time mode

Maximum period of study shall not exceed four academic years. During the first year of the curriculum candidates are required to take not fewer than 45 credits while in the second year of study they are required to take not fewer than 18 credits and a dissertation with 24 credits. The grading system to be used in the curriculum is letter grades and grade points. The first year of study aims to provide candidates a firm conceptual and empirical foundation in housing management. The specific objectives are to enable candidates to develop a critical understanding of: a) the global, urban, economic and policy contexts of housing issues; b) the essentials of housing management and maintenance practices; and c) the legal basis of housing management. Another objective is to equip candidates with the necessary communication skills in discharging housing management duties, and the basic research skills.

The second year of study aims to equip candidates with the technical knowledge and skills involved in housing management, to deepen their analytical skills, and to specialize in an area of interest. The specific objectives are to enable candidates to be conversant with: a) the technicalities of building maintenance; b) basic management and accounting skills; and c) to develop critical understanding and specialization on selected topics.

As candidates come from diverse academic backgrounds, and their work requirements may also differ, some flexibility in the curriculum is allowed. Apart from the compulsory courses, candidates are allowed to take one optional paper chosen from a wide range of electives according to their background and interests.

Each student is required to complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on an approved topic which forms part of the overall assessment of the curriculum. Work on the dissertation commences at the end of the first year of study with a submission deadline of 15 July in the second year of study. Each student

will be assigned a supervisor from among the teachers contributing to the curriculum.

Compulsory Courses

Full time mode

Candidates are required to take the following compulsory courses:

- MHMP6858. Housing economics
- MHMP8009. Principles of Law
- MHMP7005. Building services
- MHMP7007. International housing policies and practices
- MHMP8010. Housing Management Law and Land Law city
- MHMP8002. Foundation course on research methods
- MHMP8003. Practices of housing management and maintenance
- MHMP8004. Workshop on communication skills
- MHMP8005. Organizational and financial management
- MHMP8006. Housing, planning and sustainability

Candidates are also required to complete the dissertation requirement.

Part time mode

Year One Studies

During the first year of study candidates are required to take the following eight compulsory courses with 45 credits in total:

- MHMP6858. Housing economics (6 credits)
- MHMP8009. Principles of Law (6 credits)
- MHMP7007. International housing policies and practices (6 credits)
- MHMP8010. Housing Management Law and Land Law (6 credits)
- MHMP8002. Foundation course on research methods (3 credits)
- MHMP8003. Practices of housing management and maintenance (6 credits)
- MHMP8004. Workshop on communication skills (6 credits)
- MHMP8006. Housing, planning and sustainability (6 credits)

Year Two Studies

During the second year of study candidates are required to take the following two compulsory courses with 12 credits in total:

- MHMP7005. Building services (6 credits)
- MHMP8005. Organizational and financial management (6 credits)

Candidates are also required to complete the dissertation requirement.

Optional Courses for both Full time and Part time Modes

Candidates are required to take *one* optional course with 6 credits from a list of those on offer. This list may vary from year to year. These courses may include the following:

- MHMP6702. Sociology of housing (6 credits)
- RECO6031. Alternative dispute resolution (6 credits)

RECO7084.	Strategic Facility Planning & Asset Management (6 credits)
URBP6003.	Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong (6 credits)
URBP6131.	Transport policy and planning (6 credits)
URBP6905.	Globalization and urban and regional development in China (6 credits)
MHMP8008	Transitional Cities: Urban and Housing Development (6 credits)

Course Duration and Assessment

Each course extends over one semester of study (i.e. 12 weeks), except MHMP8002 Foundation course on research methods and MHMP8004 Workshop on communication skills, and all courses are assessed through examination (0% - 75%) and/or coursework assessment (25% - 100%).

3. COURSE LIST

Compulsory Courses

MHMP6858. Housing economics (6 credits)

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 and 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.

MHMP8009. Principles of Law (6 credits)

This is a foundation course in legal studies. The course is intended to provide students with the basic knowledge of the concepts of law, the legal system of Hong Kong, and laws related to housing management, including contract, tort, criminal and land laws.

MHMP7005. Building services (6 credits)

This course introduces concepts and practices on building services. It covers the five major building and utilities services in Hong Kong. These major services include plumbing and drainage, fire, electrical, air conditioning and utilities services. The course will introduce knowledge on the various systems, regulations and standard requirements for different building services.

MHMP7007. International housing policies and practices (6 credits)

This course aims to compare housing policies and practices at an international scale and to explore global housing issues. It examines and compares the evolution of housing policies in different housing systems, the modes of intervention in the housing markets, the roles of the public and private sectors in housing provision, housing finance systems, and the relationships between housing standards and societal conditions. Prevailing global trends and issues in housing are also examined.

MHMP8010. Housing Management Law and Land Law (6 credits)

This course examines laws and ordinances related to housing management. It aims to provide students with a good understanding of the key concepts in land ownership and other rights in land and buildings and their acquisition and protection, government leases, rights and obligations of landlord and tenant, and the ownership and management of multi-storey buildings (including Building Management Ordinance and Road Traffic Regulations).

MHMP8002. Foundation course on research methods (3 credits)

This course aims to prepare students for the dissertation by briefing them the research process, especially the identification of research problems and the formulation of research design and data collection methods. It also provides them a foundation in basic statistical analysis including issues in problem formulation, measurement and sampling, descriptive statistics, and basic inferential statistics.

MHMP8003. Practices of housing management and maintenance (6 credits)

This course aims to introduce and consolidate student's understanding of major concepts and practices of housing management in Hong Kong, including the management of building maintenance. Its objectives are to discuss the contexts and concepts of housing management; to canvass the tasks and skills in the management of residential properties and related community and commercial facilities; to introduce students to major building structures, building fabrics and building materials and their maintenance problems and maintenance policies and their implementation; and to identify the role of housing managers in the maintenance of residential properties.

MHMP8004. Workshop on communication skills (6 credits)

This experiential learning workshop on communication skills aims to enable students to handle negotiation, mediation, residents and concerned groups, holding of meetings and interviews, and dealing with crisis situations.

MHMP8005. Organizational and financial management (6 credits)

This course aims to discuss the concepts, principles and techniques in managing organizations to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency in meeting organizational goals. It will also enable students to understand skills and techniques in preparing budgets, financial statements and other basic tools in financial planning and control.

MHMP8006. Housing, planning and sustainability (6 credits)

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.

Dissertation

MHMP6866. Dissertation (24 credits) (Capstone experience)

Each student is required to produce a dissertation on a topic approved by the Board of the Faculty of Architecture. The submission date for the dissertation shall be 10 August for full-time programme, and 15 July in the second year of study for the part-time programme. The dissertation should be of between 15,000-20,000 words in length. Each student is assigned a dissertation supervisor from among the teachers contributing to the programme.

Optional Courses

MHMP6702. Sociology of housing (6 credits)

This course provides a review and critical assessment of various sociological perspectives on housing in contemporary urban societies. Drawing upon theoretical developments in this area the course explores problems of housing provision and allocation in relation to changing political, economic and social circumstances in the cities of the industrialized and developing nations.

RECO6031. Alternative dispute resolution (6 credits)

This course examines the theory and practice of dispute resolution: negotiation; mediation; litigation; arbitration and adjudication; practice and procedure; application in the real estate and construction industry.

RECO7084. Strategic Facility Planning & Asset Management (6 credits)

This course covers strategic dimensions of facility and asset management in corporations. Facility planning as a strategic process should be considered at the policy formulation and portfolio level. Need for a whole-life asset management framework for managing buildings as a special class of durable assets. Principles of asset management, asset management processes, applications and case studies.

URBP6003. Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong (6 credits)

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.

URBP6131. Transport policy and planning (6 credits)

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.

URBP6905. Globalization and urban and regional development in China (6 credits)

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.

MHMP8008 Transitional Cities: Urban and Housing Development (6 credits)

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.
