

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

*These regulations are applicable to candidates admitted to the master of science in urban planning curriculum in the 2016-17 academic year and thereafter.*

*(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.

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**Ar25 Admission requirements**

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Science in Urban Planning, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (b) shall hold
    - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
    - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
  - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
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**Ar26 Qualifying examination**

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their abilities to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
  - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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**Ar27 Requirements for graduation**

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Urban Planning, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
  - (b) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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**Ar28 Period of Study**

- (a) The curriculum shall normally require two academic years of full-time study, or three academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of four academic years of full-time study, or five academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.
- (b) Candidates who are being granted advanced standing according to Ar36 shall complete the curriculum in not more than three years' time.

### **Ar29 Completion of curriculum**

To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all written work and practical work as prescribed in the syllabuses;
  - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and studios and in all prescribed form of assessment; and
  - (d) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation as prescribed in the syllabuses.
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### **Ar30 Dissertation**

The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by 15 November in the final year of study. The dissertation shall not exceed 15,000 words in length and must be presented in the candidates' final year of study on a date to be specified by the Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Design. Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree. The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.

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### **Ar31 Assessment**

Full-time candidates

- (a) who have achieved a Semester GPA of 1.7 or above in the first two semesters of study may be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment in the course(s) of failure at a specified subsequent date;
- (b) who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any of the courses in the last two semesters of study, and have presented a satisfactory dissertation and studio reports, may be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment in the course(s) of failure at a specified subsequent date;
- (c) who have satisfied the examiners in all the courses but have presented an unsatisfactory studio report may be permitted to revise the studio report and re-present it by a specified subsequent date;
- (d) who have satisfied the examiners in all the courses and have presented satisfactory studio reports but have presented an unsatisfactory dissertation may be permitted to revise the dissertation and re-present it by a specified subsequent date.

Part-time candidates

- (e) who have achieved a Semester GPA of 1.7 or above in the first two semesters of study, may be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment in the course(s) of failure at a specified subsequent date;
- (f) who have satisfied the examiners in all the courses but have presented an unsatisfactory studio report may be permitted to revise the studio report and re-present it by a specified subsequent date;
- (g) who have satisfied the examiners in all the courses and have presented satisfactory studio reports but have presented an unsatisfactory dissertation may be permitted to revise the dissertation and re-present it by a specified subsequent date.

**Ar32** Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present for assessment(s) held in the first academic year of study if they are full-time, or in the first or second academic year of study if they are part-time, may apply for permission to present themselves again in the assessment(s) to be held before

the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made in writing within two weeks of the first day of the candidates' absence from any assessment.

### **Ar33**

Candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they:

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment in any course(s) in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners or to revise and re-present their studio report or dissertation shall be deemed to have failed; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in a second attempt in any course(s) or in his studio report or dissertation; or
- (c) have exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in these regulations of the degree.

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### **Ar34 Grading systems**

Courses shall be graded according to the following grading systems as determined by the Board of Examiners:

- (a) 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

and

- (b) "Pass" or "Fail" for URBP6911 Foundation course on statistics and quantitative methods.

Course which is graded according to (b) above will not be included in the calculation of the GPA.

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### **Ar35 Assessment results**

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.

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### **Ar36 Advanced standing**

- (a) Advanced standing shall be granted to candidates who have successfully completed a cognate Masters degree of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard accepted for this purpose.
- (b) Advanced standing of up to 30 credits may be granted by the Board of the Faculty of

Architecture subject to the condition that the application for advanced standing is received within five years of successful completion of the degree accepted for this purpose.

- (c) Applications for advanced standing shall normally be made at the same time of application for admission to the Master of Science in Urban Planning curriculum, and should be accompanied by copies of academic transcripts to support the application.
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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN PLANNING (MSc[UrbanPlanning])**

*These syllabuses are applicable to master of science in urban planning candidates admitted to the curriculum in the academic year 2016-2017 and thereafter.*

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

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### **A. CURRICULUM STRUCTURE**

The curriculum shall include assessment of the prescribed and elective courses 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 a total of 126 credits of courses.

Candidates are required to follow courses of instruction and satisfy the examiners in the “Foundation Course on Statistics and Quantitative Methods” and in each of the following seven Core Courses:

- 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 Elective Courses (normally 6 credits each) as specialization selected from a list approved from time to time. Candidates’ selection of courses shall be approved by the Head of the Department. In addition, candidates are 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.

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### **B. ASSESSMENT**

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

Full-time candidates

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

Part-time candidates

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

Part-time candidates wishing to defer or advance a course or courses to another year of study shall seek the approval of the Head of the Department in writing.

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## **C. COURSE LIST**

### **Foundation Course**

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#### **URBP6911 Foundation course on statistics and quantitative methods (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **Urban Planning Core Courses**

Students are required to take all Core Courses:

#### **URBP6002 Urban development theories (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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#### **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.

Assessment: 60%-70% continuous coursework assessment and 30%-40% examination

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#### **URBP7003 Research Methods in Spatial Planning (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 30%-40% continuous coursework assessment and 60%-70% examination

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**URBP6901 Values in planning (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6006 Planning, managing and financing the development process (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6007 Planning sustainable cities and regions (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6902 Urban design and place making (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**Elective Courses**

(Students shall take no less than 18 credits of elective courses as specialization 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 (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6903 Quantitative methods for transport planning (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6157 Transport economics (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 40%-60% continuous coursework assessment and 40%-60% examination

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**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 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.

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**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.

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**URBP6904 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**ENVM7012 Environmental economics and analysis (3 credits)**

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.

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**ENVM8011 Environmental auditing and reporting (3 credits)**

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.

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**ENVM7016 Environmental policy (3 credits)**

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.

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**ENVM8006 Environmental impact assessment (3 credits)**

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 (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6906 Urban planning and practice in China (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6907 Special study in urban planning (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**RECO6066 Real estate development and land policies (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 40% coursework and 60% examination

### **ARCH7260 Housing in urban development (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **ARCH7261 The design of Chinese cities (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **ARCH7264 Contemporary urbanism (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **ARCH6104 Urban development and the physical environment (6 credits)**

The course offers a synoptic introduction of the interaction of the physical environment with social, economic, cultural, and political considerations in urban design. Topics covered include site planning; physical environmental assessment methods; sustainable design and development; ecology and aesthetics of landscaping; transport infrastructure for urban and rural development; and planning standards and environmental performance criteria. It also focuses on the social, economic, cultural and regulatory mechanisms which shape the built environment.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **CONS8102 Architectural heritage and the built environment (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

### **CONS8103 Charters and legislation of conservation (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **CONS8109 Cultural landscapes (6 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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### **Urban Planning Studios and Dissertation**

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#### **URBP7001 Spatial planning studio (12 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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#### **URBP7002 Regional and territorial planning studio (12 credits)**

This studio is designed to enhance student's understanding of the complex multi-faceted nature of planning in the international, regional and metropolitan context. Students will be exposed to the strategic planning context of Hong Kong. A compulsory fieldtrip outside Hong Kong will be arranged to provide a better understanding of the international 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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#### **URBP8001 Community planning studio (12 credits)**

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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6865    Dissertation (24 credits) (Capstone experience)**

The candidate shall present a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words no later than June 30 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.

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