

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

(See also General Regulations)

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.

Ar25 Admission requirements

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

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
 - (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;
 - (c) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
 - (d) A candidate who does not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if he demonstrates adequate preparation for studies at this level and satisfies the examiners in a qualifying examination.
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Ar26 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's formal academic ability or his ability 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) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he has satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Ar27 Award of degree

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

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations; and
 - (b) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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Ar28 Length of curriculum

The curriculum shall extend over not less than two academic years of full-time study, or three academic years of part-time study, with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work.

Ar29 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, a candidate

- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and practical work where appropriate;
- (b) shall satisfy the examiners in each of the following courses:
 - (i) the three Specialization Course Modules selected from a list approved from time to time;
 - (ii) the following six Core Course Modules:
 - Urban Planning Theories;
 - Urban Development Theories;
 - Planning Models and Techniques;
 - Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong;
 - Planning, Managing and Financing the Development Process;
 - Planning Sustainable Cities and Regions.
- (c) shall attend the Urban Planning Workshops and present satisfactory reports in the form prescribed by the examiners; and
- (d) shall present a dissertation on an approved topic in their final year of study.

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 no later than June 30 in the candidate's final year of study. The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.

Ar31 Examinations

A full-time candidate

- (a) who has failed to satisfy the examiners in not more than half the number of course modules followed in the first academic year of study may be permitted to present himself for re-examination in the course module or modules of failure at a specified subsequent date;
- (b) who has failed to satisfy the examiners in any of the course modules followed in the second academic year of study, and has presented a satisfactory dissertation and workshop reports, may be permitted to present himself for re-examination in the course module or modules of failure at a specified subsequent date;
- (c) who has satisfied the examiners in all the course modules but has presented an unsatisfactory workshop report may be permitted to revise the workshop report and re-present it by a specified subsequent date;
- (d) who has satisfied the examiners in all the course modules and has presented satisfactory workshop reports but has presented an unsatisfactory dissertation may be permitted to revise the dissertation and re-present it by a specified subsequent date.

A part-time candidate

- (e) who has failed to satisfy the examiners in not more than half the number of course modules followed during the first or second academic year of study may be permitted to present himself for re-examination in the course module or modules of failure at a specified subsequent date;
- (f) who has satisfied the examiners in all the course modules but has presented an unsatisfactory workshop report may be permitted to revise the workshop report and re-present it by a specified subsequent date;
- (g) who has satisfied the examiners in all the course modules and has presented satisfactory workshop reports but has presented an unsatisfactory dissertation may be permitted to revise the dissertation and re-present it by a specified subsequent date.

Ar32 A candidate who is unable because of illness to be present for any paper or papers of the written examinations held in the first academic year of study if he is full-time, or in the first or second academic year of study if he is part-time, may apply for permission to present himself at a supplementary examination in the paper or papers 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 candidate's absence from any examination.

Ar33

- (a) A candidate who is not permitted to present himself for re-examination in any course module or modules in which he has failed to satisfy the examiners or to revise and re-present his workshop report or dissertation shall be deemed to have failed and shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.
 - (b) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in a second attempt in any course module or modules or in his workshop report or dissertation may be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.
 - (c) A candidate who has not satisfactorily completed the practical work where required within the prescribed period at the end of the teaching programme shall be required to repeat all or any part of that practical work and to present himself for re-assessment by a specified date, and if he again fails to satisfy the examiners, shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.
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Ar34 Examination results

At the conclusion of the examination, a pass list of candidates awarded the Master of Science (Urban Planning) degree shall be published. A candidate who has shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded on the candidate's degree diploma.

**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN PLANNING¹**

The Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management 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 nine course modules (which may include both full and half-module courses), the Urban Planning Workshops and a Dissertation. Unless otherwise stated, courses shall normally be offered as a full module. Candidates studying the full-time curriculum are required to complete 20 modules of study, while those enrolled on the part-time curriculum are required to complete 19 modules of study.

¹ These syllabuses apply to MSc(UrbanPlanning) students admitted in the academic year 2003-04 and later years.

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

Urban Planning Theories;
 Urban Development Theories;
 Planning Models and Techniques;
 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 three Specialization Course Modules selected from a list approved from time to time. Specialization modules will be organized into a number of streams. Individual modules or streams may not necessarily be offered in each academic year. A candidate is required to select two full modules from the sectoral streams and one module equivalent from the integrative studies stream. A candidate's selection of courses shall be approved by the Director of the Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management. In addition, a candidate is required to complete satisfactorily the Urban Planning Workshops and submit before June 30 in the final year of study a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words.

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 Workshops; and
- (b) shall follow the equivalent of three course modules in the final academic year of study and shall attend the Urban Planning Workshops, and shall present a Dissertation by the prescribed date;
- (c) shall attend the Seminar on Contemporary Urban and Regional Planning Issues.

A part-time candidate

- (a) shall follow a minimum of four and a maximum of six course modules in the first academic year of study;
- (b) shall follow a minimum of the equivalent of three and a maximum of six course modules in the second year of study and shall attend the Urban Planning Workshops; and
- (c) shall follow a maximum of the equivalent of two course modules (up to the required total of nine course modules, of which six are Core Course modules and the equivalent of three are Specialization Course Modules) and shall attend the Urban Planning Workshops in the final year of study, and shall present a Dissertation by the prescribed date.

Part-time candidates are encouraged to attend the Seminar on Contemporary Urban and Regional Planning Issues. A part-time candidate wishing to defer a course module or course modules to his or her final year of study shall seek the approval of the Director of the Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management.

C. SYLLABUSES

Urban Planning Core Course Modules

Students are required to take all Core Courses:

URBP6002. Urban development theories

The course reviews theoretical frameworks for the understanding of urban and regional development processes. It analyses spatial, socio-economic and political dimensions of urban and regional activities.

The topics that will be discussed include the relation between capital accumulation and urban development; the role of the state and public policy; and the dynamics of urbanization in the contemporary world system. The role of planning in the urban development process is critically evaluated. Issues surrounding urban governance and its interface with urban planning are also addressed.

URBP6003. Planning practice, law and ethics in Hong Kong

This course provides a detailed understanding of professional planning practice in Hong Kong. It deals with the practical dimensions of planning including: planning principles, history, policies, strategies, procedures, administration, legislation and common law. It also examines issues surrounding the ethical basis of professional planning activity.

URBP6004. Planning models and techniques

This course examines the analytical models and management techniques commonly used to assist decision-making in the urban and regional fields, and will focus on some selected models and techniques: population estimation, social and spatial analysis, economic base and multiplier analysis, optimization methods, system simulation and dynamics, project appraisal and planning, programme evaluation, urban and regional modeling and urban policy analysis.

URBP6005. Urban planning theories

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the theoretical basis of urban and regional planning. It examines the nature of the planning process and various traditions of planning theories. It also focuses on the relationship between planning, social reform and the creation of social capital, the role of advocacy planning, and policy analysis in planning. Issues surrounding the nature of the public interest and planning for equal opportunities are also addressed.

URBP6006. Planning, managing and financing the development process

Planning in a development process needs to take into account a variety of spatial, sectoral, management and financial factors. This course examines how planning is applied in industrial development, housing, transport, infrastructure provision and land development, with an emphasis on experience in Hong Kong. The intersectoral and spatial implications of planning in these sectors will be explored through case studies of planning at different geographical scales.

URBP6007. Planning sustainable cities and regions

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.

Urban Planning Specialization Streams and Courses

(Not all specialization streams and courses are available each year. Applicants should consult the Centre for further information.)

Stream I. Transport Policy and Planning

URBP6123. Public transport systems

This course is designed to examine the nature and the role of public transport systems in mainly the urban context with special reference to high-density development. The topics will include, among others, the nature and characteristics of passenger transport, the operation and management of public transit system, deregulation and privation, the function of para-transit, and multi-modal operation and competition.

URBP6130. Methods and techniques in transport planning

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

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

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.

Stream II. Housing Policy and Planning

MHMP6701. Management theories and techniques in housing

This course reviews and evaluates the theoretical models of management and specific management techniques commonly used to assist decision making in the urban context in general and in the housing sector in particular. Topics covered include: application of management theories for the public and private housing sectors, demographic trends and housing demand forecasting, optimization methods, system simulation and dynamics, plan and programme evaluation and policy analysis.

MHMP6858. Housing economics

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.

MHMP6859. Comparative housing policy and management

This course provides an international comparative dimension in the analysis of housing issues focusing on experiences and practices outside Hong Kong. It examines and analyses the evolution and the social goals of housing policies, modes of intervention in the housing market, the role of the public and private sectors in housing provision, housing finance systems, the relationships between housing standards and societal conditions, and the management of housing development in both industrialized and developing countries.

URBP6208. Housing policy and management

Housing is an important element in the study and planning of the built environment. This course deals with the theoretical and practical aspects of housing, making special reference to their relationships with urban planning. It aims to provide a more integrative and in-depth understanding of the workings of Hong Kong's housing system. More emphasis will nevertheless be given to public housing development and other forms of state intervention as they have more bearing to urban planning. Major topics include the objectives and formulation of public housing policies, the planning issues, privatization, rental policies, management of housing estates, the housing market and affordability. Housing development in Singapore and China will also be discussed to provide comparison.

Stream III. Environmental Policy and Planning

ENVM7002. Environmental economics

Economic analysis approaches environmental management questions through the systematic comparison of benefits and costs associated with the various technological and planning options. Often, in the case of the environment, such comparisons are particularly difficult because the benefits (and sometimes the costs) are not in money terms. The first part of this course provides a summary of basic concepts in economic analysis (e.g., comparing of marginal costs and benefits). The second part focuses on topics of particular importance to the economic assessment of the environment (e.g., externalities, common property resources) and an introduction to project evaluation techniques.

ENVM8005. Environmental auditing and management systems

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.

ENVM7011. Environmental law and policy in Hong Kong

This course consists of two major elements:

- (a) decisions about how to implement environmental policy may be just as important as the initial decision about the level of environmental quality a society is able and willing to pay for. This part of the course (i) compares different types of environmental laws and regulations considering the potentials and limitations of each and (ii) considers the role of our incomplete knowledge of many environmental problems when deciding whether to address them and if so how.
- (b) Legal aspects of environmental pollution, primarily in the Hong Kong context; the basic features of the Hong Kong legal system; common law applicable to environmental control, focusing on such matters as strict liability and the torts of nuisance, trespass and negligence; statutory controls relating to environmental protection including general controls in the Summary Offences Ordinance and Public Health and Urban Services Ordinance and delegated legislation, the Water Pollution Control Ordinance, Waste Disposal Ordinance, Air Pollution Control Ordinance, and Noise Control Ordinance.

ENVM8006. Environmental impact assessment

This course consists of two basic elements:

- (a) The nature and objectives of urban development planning including the evolution of urban planning approaches; relevant methodologies; the nature of urban planning institutions; the role of urban planning as a mechanism for environmental protection and management.
- (b) Environmental impact assessment (EIA) including the origins and development of EIA; impact assessment methodologies; case study applications.

Stream IV. Integrative Studies (1/2 modules)

URBP6008. Regenerating cities and regions

This course focuses on issues of urban and regional regeneration. It reviews the theory and practice of regeneration initiatives and illustrates the effectiveness of these by reference to case studies drawn from Hong Kong and various countries around the world.

URBP6009. Globalization, trade and regional and urban development

This course examines the impact of processes of globalization and the development of the international trading system (particularly the World Trade Organization) on patterns of regional and urban development and change. The course places special emphasis on emerging trends in Hong Kong, China and South East Asia.

URBP6010. Ecological modernisation and the city

The course explores Ecological Modernisation Theory as a guide for the development of policies to improve the environmental efficiency of cities and their surrounding regions. The conceptual basis and practical implications of ecological modernisation are reviewed in light of policy initiatives that are designed to reduce the rate of environmental damage caused per unit of output. The course also explores the emergence of new environmental policy instruments (NEPIs) in support of ecological modernization initiatives.

URBP6011. Planning the world city

This course focuses on the world city debate. It examines theoretical propositions underpinning this debate, the various interpretations of the meaning of the 'world city', the characteristics of existing and aspiring world cities, and the policies that have been developed and implemented to manage urban development and change in these cities. The course draws on case study material relating to London, New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong as well as various other candidates for world city status in Asia and the Pacific and elsewhere.

URBP6012. Sustainable development practice

This course reviews contemporary approaches in urban and regional planning practice that are designed to enhance sustainability and assist in the transition to sustainable development. The course adopts a case study approach and examines how Agenda 21 and Local Agenda 21 initiatives have helped to shape planning initiatives in various planning systems around the world. The course also investigates the various institutional, political and policy barriers to the creation of more sustainable cities and regions.

URBP6013. Urbanization and urbanism in China

This course reviews the urbanization pattern and its developmental context in the People's Republic of China, focusing on the evolution of urban development, population and human capital, agricultural and industrial policies, rural urbanization and the development of the urban system and regional and spatial development.

URBP6014. Urban and regional development in China in a global context

This course focuses on processes of urban and regional development in China in the context of the emergence of a global economy and the development of the international trading system. It examines the way in which processes of urban and regional change in the country are being shaped by globalization and the impact of China's accession to the WTO. The course also examines these trends in the broader international context, particularly within the Asia-Pacific Region.

URBP6015. Sustainable transport for modern cities

The quality of life in many modern cities is compromised by its transport. Environmental pollution, congestion and reduced accessibility are just a few of the problems caused by much of today's transport and its interaction with land-use. This course explores the issue of transport sustainability and the methods that can be used to make a city more livable from a transport perspective. Using examples from cities all over the world, the elements of a sustainable transport system will be introduced and students will be asked to devise their own sustainable transport policies.

URBP6016. Transport and development in Asia

How necessary is transport to economic and social development? How can transport affect land-use development and vice-versa? How has transport in Asian cities developed to meet the needs of the traveler as opposed to the requirements of the bureaucrat? Does transport facilitate or hinder development? These are the types of questions that will be analyzed in this course. The course will investigate both theory and practice to gain insights into the transport and development debate.

URBP6017. Introduction to geographic information system for urban and regional development and management

This course introduces the basic concepts and skills in the use of geographic information system in different areas of urban and regional development and management, such as environmental management, urban planning, transport, housing management, and land development and planning. It examines the basic principles and functions of geographic information system in data input, manipulation, retrieval, and mapping of geographical data.

URBP6018. Applications of geographic information system for urban and regional development and management

This course examines the applications of geographic information system in different areas of urban and regional development and management, such as environmental management, urban planning, transport, housing management, and land development and planning. It examines the advanced manipulation and modelling of geographical data using geographic information system and the use of geographic information system as a decision support tool in urban and regional development and management.

URBP6019/URBP6020. Special studies in urban planning I and II

Detailed study or studies on a topic or topics in contemporary urban and regional planning approved by the Director of the Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management.

Additional Specialization Courses

Students wishing to apply for membership of the Royal Town Planning Institute of the United Kingdom are required to satisfy the examiners in the following specialization course which must be taken in addition to meeting the other requirements of the MSc (UrbanPlanning) programme:

URBP6021. Planning law and practice in the United Kingdom and European Union

This course is intended to provide students with an understanding and working knowledge of planning law and practice in the United Kingdom and the implications and impact of European Union directives and regulations, together with a general appreciation of legislation in related fields and its implications for the planning process. The course also aims to develop in students a critical awareness of planning procedures and the role and responsibilities of the professional planner in the United Kingdom context.

Urban Planning Workshops and Dissertation

URBP6805/URBP6839. Urban planning workshops I and II

Development of basic design and communications skills for planners; basic principles of economics and economic analysis for planners; project work simulating real practical situations at the territory-wide and district levels in Hong Kong; meetings and discussions with planning professionals and other stakeholders, understanding and articulating stakeholder interests; application of techniques and methods; communication and presentation techniques; and analysis of planning practice.

URBP6865. Dissertation

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 examiners may prescribe an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.