

REGULATIONS FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN URBAN DESIGN (PDipUrbanDesign)

(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 postgraduate diploma.

Admission requirements

Ar141 To be eligible for admission to the curriculum leading to the Postgraduate Diploma in Urban Design, a candidate shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) hold a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field of this University or from a comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
 - (c) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required;
 - (d) demonstrate a good command of spoken and written English as a prerequisite for acceptance.
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Qualifying examination

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- (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;
 - (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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Transfer of candidature into the Master of Urban Design programme

Ar143

- (a) A candidate who has registered for the PDip(Urban Design) programme will be permitted to transfer the candidature to the Master of Urban Design programme **before** the commencement of the second semester.
 - (b) A candidate who has transferred his candidature to the Master of Urban Design programme will not be awarded the PDip(Urban Design) upon the successful completion of the requirements for the award of the PDip(Urban Design) programme; instead, he will undertake and fulfill the additional requirements of the Master of Urban Design programme.
 - (c) A candidate having graduated with a PDip(Urban Design) may be admitted to and get exemptions from selected courses of study for the Master of Urban Design programme of this university.
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Award of postgraduate diploma

Ar144 To be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Urban Design, a candidate shall

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

Curriculum

Ar145

- (a) The curriculum shall extend over not less than one academic year of study with normally 36 units¹ of enrolled courses, and shall include all examinations and urban design project reports as detailed below.
- (b) To complete the curriculum, a candidate
- (i) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and practical work where appropriate;
 - (ii) shall normally satisfy the examiners in six courses including five core courses:

Introduction to urban planning principles
 Urban design principles
 Physical environment and site planning
 CAD in urban design
 Financial analysis for urban projects

and the balance from a list of elective courses approved from time to time. Candidates may be required to study courses like Introduction to graphics for urban design and Introduction to computers in urban design as determined by the Programme Director in order to strengthen their academic background and as programme pre-requisites for the courses selected; such pre-requisite courses will not count towards the minimum of six courses required. A list of elective courses is given below. The list may vary from year to year and will be announced at the beginning of each year.

Conservation management and practice
 Location and transport in urban design
 Techniques in urban design
 Advanced market analysis in urban design
 History and theory of landscape architecture I
 Ecology and Design
 Project management for urban design
 Economics for design and development
 Research methods for urban design

Selection of elective courses shall be made in consultation with the Programme Director and be subject to the approval of the Head of Department.

Candidates may upon application be granted exemption from one core course on the basis of their previous studies;

- (iii) shall complete work prescribed in the Urban design studio I (9 units) and Urban design studio II (9 units); and
 - (iv) shall satisfy the examiners in each of the courses followed either by a written paper or an assessment of coursework, or a combination of these methods. The examiners may at their discretion prescribe an oral examination in any course or on any work prescribed in the Urban design studio.
- (c) Subject to the approval of the Head of the Department on the recommendation of the Programme Director, a candidate may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to select an additional elective course.

¹ 1 unit = 8 teaching hours per semester (or 3-unit course = 2 teaching hours per week)

Examinations

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- (a) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in not more than two courses (core or elective) may be permitted to present himself for re-examination. If they fail again to satisfy the examiners at the second attempt, they shall be permitted to repeat the course(s) of failure in the following academic year and present themselves for re-examination at the third and final attempt;
 - (b) If a course that a candidate is required to repeat is not available in the following academic year, the candidate shall undertake the study of an alternative course as specified by the Programme Director and take the prescribed examination(s) which is counted as the second attempt;
 - (c) Candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under General Regulation G12 if
 - (i) they have failed to satisfy the examiners in more than two courses at the first attempt;
 - (ii) they have failed to satisfy the examiners at the third attempt.
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Examination results

Ar147 At the conclusion of the examination, a pass list of candidates awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Urban Design shall be published. A candidate who has shown exceptional merit at the whole examination process may be awarded a mark of distinction and this mark shall be recorded in the candidate's postgraduate diploma.

SYLLABUSES FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN URBAN DESIGN

For the purpose of these syllabuses, the teaching of each course will be conducted within one semester.

PRE-REQUISITE COURSES

ARCH6064. Introduction to computers in urban design (3 units)

This is an introductory course dealing with the following topics: hardware and software basics, file management, network communications, office software; 2-D CAD drafting and 3-D CAD modelling; multimedia; statistics and database tools; presentation and image processing software.

ARCH6065. Introduction to graphics for urban design (3 units)

Introduction to urban design graphics and computer aided design: an introduction to basic drafting, graphics and computer-related tools and techniques in professional practice.

CORE COURSES

ARCH4006. Urban design principles (3 units)

This course is an introduction to the subject area of urban design, within the broader field of architecture. Topics covered include: city forms in history, urban design concepts and approaches, contemporary urban design issues, techniques and evaluation criteria for urban design inquiry, city building trends in Hong Kong, China and the region.

ARCH6101. Urban design studio I (9 units)

Urban design project 1: a series of sessions examining basic design concepts, and developing practical drawing and sketches of urban design proposals for selected sites in Hong Kong. Urban design project 2: Design to professional standard involving a large site and its implementation, taking into account issues such as land acquisition, planning approvals, concept development, financing, the consultancy team, construction, marketing among others. This studio is conducted over one semester.

ARCH6102. Urban design studio II (9 units)

Real-life large-scale urban design and development projects involving land reclamation and infrastructure provision leading to a 3-D built form. Designed to professional standards involving relevant urban design theory and implementation criteria, and conducted with participation of professionals in both public and private sectors. This is normally done as joint studio projects with candidates from the architecture and landscape design streams, under the guidance of professionals involved with all aspects of the built environment. This studio is conducted over one semester.

ARCH6104. Physical environment and site planning (3 units)

The course reviews theory and methods of land use, site planning and design, and focuses on the interaction with the physical environment. Topics include location and site analyses; land use planning and programme development; environmental standards and facilities; infrastructure for urban and rural development; site formation and landscape planning.

ARCH6106. Financial analysis for urban projects (3 units)

The course develops skills essential for examining financial and marketing aspects of large privately funded urban design projects. Topics include cost and investment analysis for urban design; the financial and commercial context of development; the development process, marketable designs and the budget; urban development goals, resources and policy implications; impact of globalisation.

ARCH6107. CAD in urban design (3 units)

The course focuses on computer-related tools and techniques in professional urban design practice, and enables designers to fully exploit computers as design and presentation tools: overview of computer graphics, hardware, software and their applications in urban design.

ARCH6108. Introduction to urban planning principles (3 units)

This course examines the framework of urban planning within which urban design is undertaken and implemented. Topics covered include urban planning theories, nature and function of planning process, plan-making at the regional, district and local levels. Case studies on Hong Kong planning and development issues will be presented.

ELECTIVE COURSES²**ARCH6063. Economics for design and development (3 units)**

This course introduces principles of micro-economics and macroeconomics relevant to the design and development professions. Topics include: constraints and economic choice; demand, supply, returns and cost; land and rent; capital and interest; resources and productivity; economics of firms; banking and financial markets; factor prices; national income and business fluctuations; aspects of design and development decisions.

ARCH6066. Advanced market analysis in urban design (3 units)

The course focuses on trends in demand and supply of developments, considering location, patterns of regional changes, national economic cycles, technology and quality with a view to evolving marketable design. Emphasis is on evaluation of design process from the perspective of a private developer, emphasizing inter-relationship of land use, efficient form, function and financial returns. Case studies will be presented.

ARCH6067. Location and transport in urban design (3 units)

This course will focus upon the key determining factors that create the reciprocal relationship between land use, population and building densities and transport. Candidates will be introduced to methods of evaluation of urban morphology. Case studies with particular reference to Hong Kong will be presented.

ARCH6068. Techniques in urban design (3 units)

The course seeks an understanding of logic, methods and skills required in advanced urban design. Emphasis is on key design concepts and applications; evaluation of context, information base and project goals; evaluation and phasing of designs in terms of alternative physical forms, costs, benefits, and practicability; computer aided design.

ARCH6069. Project management for urban design (3 units)

The course focuses on key management tasks in the investigations, design, financing, procurement and construction phases of large scale urban design projects. Topics include: value analysis during design; cost planning; resources and design management; procurement systems and implications for productivity; organisation of mega projects; site organisation and management; international projects.

² Not all of the courses are offered every year.

ARCH6070. Research methods for urban design (3 units)

The course introduces candidates to research methodology appropriate for urban design. Topics include: formulation of research questions; qualitative and quantitative research methods; environmental design attributes and research paradigms; formulation of research proposals; use of computers in urban design research.

ARCH7106. History and theory of landscape architecture I (3 units)

Illustrated lectures will be given on the historical development of landscape design in its various cultural contexts. Basic theory of design as related to landscape architecture will be dealt with as a basis for the studio course in landscape planning and design. Coursework may include studies on selected topics and a sketch book assignment.

ARCH7108. Ecology and design (3 units)

The course covers the basic principles of ecology, with special emphasis on urban environments and the impact of construction and land development on natural processes.

ARCH8104. Conservation management and practice (3 units)

This course focuses on the management problems unique to conservation projects in Hong Kong, Macau, Mainland China and Southeast Asia, and systematically explores the responsibilities of heritage practitioners in carrying out conservation work from project planning and implementation to post-project assessment and maintenance.