

**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.

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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, 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.

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**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 two Specialization Course Modules selected from a list approved from time to time;
  - (ii) the following seven Core Course Modules:
    - Values in Planning;
    - Urban Development Theories;
    - Research Methods;
    - 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.
- (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 year of study, or in a specialised option taken in the third 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.

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**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 G12.
  - (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 G12.
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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.

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**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN PLANNING<sup>1</sup>**

The Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management offers a postgraduate course leading to the degree of Master of Science in Urban Planning.

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**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, the Urban Planning Workshops and a Dissertation. Unless otherwise stated, courses shall normally be offered as a full module. Candidates studying both the full-time and part-time curricula are required to complete 19 modules of study.

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<sup>1</sup> These syllabuses apply to MSc(UrbanPlanning) students admitted in the academic year 2005-06 and later years.

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

Values in Planning;  
 Urban Development Theories;  
 Research Methods;  
 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 two Specialization Course Modules selected from a list approved from time to time. 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 Workshop, and shall present a Dissertation by the prescribed date;

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 four 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 seven are Core Course modules and the equivalent of two are Specialization Course Modules) and shall attend the Urban Planning Workshop in the final year of study, and shall present a Dissertation by the prescribed date.

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**

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.

**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 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.

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**URBP6900. Research Methods**

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.

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**URBP6901. Values in planning**

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.

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**URBP6006. Planning, managing and financing the development process**

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.

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**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.

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**URBP6902. Urban design and place making**

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.

## Specialization Courses

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

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### **URBP6123. Public transport systems**

This course is designed to examine the nature and the role of public transport systems mainly in the urban context with special reference to highdensity 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.

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### **URBP6903. Quantitative methods for 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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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. The course also introduces the functions, principles and methods of valuation.

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### **MHMP7007. International housing policies and practices**

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.

**URBP6904. Housing, planning and sustainability**

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.

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**ENVM7012. Environmental economics and analysis**

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**

This course is dedicated to the construction of an integrated environmental management system (EMS). The course will consider the design of the system, its implementation and issues of continuous improvement. Environmental auditing will be dealt with in the context of the systems-based approach and will examine audit methodology, measurement and quality assurance. The approach will be extended to the auditing of supply chains (particularly in China). Emphasis will be placed on practical approaches to improving environmental performance over time. Methods and techniques of reporting on systems and auditing will include both environmental reports as well as social and sustainable development reporting.

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**ENVM7011. Environmental law and policy in Hong Kong**

This course focuses on the development of environmental law and policy, primarily in the context of Hong Kong. It provides an introduction to the law as promulgated and practiced in relation to environmental concerns. The course discusses the development of the regulatory framework for environmental protection in Hong Kong and relevant ordinances. Policy making processes are reviewed and case studies from Hong Kong and elsewhere are used to illustrate how policy agendas emerge, how policy itself is shaped and formulated, and how it is implemented and evaluated.

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**ENVM8006. Environmental impact assessment**

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**

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.

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### **URBP6905. Globalization and urban and regional development in China**

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.

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### **URBP6906. Urban planning and practice in China**

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.

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### **URBP6907. Special study in urban planning**

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.

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### **Urban Planning Workshops and Dissertation**

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### **URBP6908. Spatial planning workshop**

This is the first of three workshops in the Urban Planning Program and provides the basic foundation for Planning Workshops 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.



**URBP6909. Regional and territorial planning workshop**

The regional component of the workshop will meet for 3 sessions. During the sessions, students will be exposed to the regional planning context of Hong Kong. A fieldtrip to the Pearl River Delta will be arranged to provide a better understanding of the theoretical and practical planning issues. The territorial component of this workshop 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.

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**URBP6910. Community planning workshop**

In this workshop, 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.

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**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 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.