

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF URBAN DESIGN  
(MURbanDesign)**

*These regulations and syllabuses apply to students admitted in the academic year 2006-2007 and thereafter.*

*(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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**Admission requirements**

**Ar16** To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Urban Design, a candidate

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) shall hold
    - (i) a Bachelor's degree of this University in a relevant subject; or
    - (ii) a Master of Architecture degree of this University; or
    - (iii) another relevant 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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**Qualifying examination**

**Ar17**

- (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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**Award of degree**

**Ar18** To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Urban Design, a candidate

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

**Ar19**

- (a) The curriculum shall extend over not less than one year of full-time study or two years of part-time study and not more than three years in all cases, with normally 48 units<sup>1</sup> of enrolled courses, and shall include all examinations, urban design project reports, and a dissertation as detailed below.

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

- (b) To complete the curriculum, candidates
- (i) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and practical work where appropriate;
  - (ii) shall complete work prescribed in the Urban design studio I (9 units); Urban design studio II (9 units); and Dissertation/Design thesis (12 units);
  - (iii) shall normally satisfy the examiners in not less than 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 postgraduate courses in the Faculty of Architecture approved from time to time. The list of elective courses may vary from year to year and will be announced at the beginning of each year. Selection of elective courses shall be made in consultation with the Programme Director concerned to secure specialization in either urban design or real estate development. A list of elective courses is given below:

Conservation management and practice  
 Cultural heritage and the built environment  
 Location and transport in urban design  
 Special topics in urban design  
 History and theory of landscape architecture I  
 History and theory of landscape architecture II  
 The design of Chinese cities  
 Ecology and Design  
 Research methods for urban design  
 Chinese landscape

Candidates may upon application be granted exemption from one core course on the basis of their previous studies; candidates who have been granted exemption may be required to take an elective course in lieu of and be granted permission by the Head of Department upon the recommendation of the Programme Director.

Depending on their academic background and field of specialization, candidates may be required to study "Introduction to visual communications in urban design" as pre-requisite upon recommendation of the Programme Director. Such pre-requisite course will be taken as extra-curricular studies and will not be counted towards the minimum of six courses required.

- (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.

- Ar20** Candidates who are MArch graduates and have registered for the MUD:
- (a) shall complete the curriculum in not less than 9 months of full-time study;
  - (b) shall gain 6 units of common MArch/MUD courses and 9 units of MArch/MUD joint studio course and shall complete work prescribed in one urban design studio (9 units), Dissertation/Design thesis (12 units) and in not less than four courses including three core courses.

## Examinations

### Ar21

- (a) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at first attempt in not more than three courses (core or elective) followed during an academic year may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination in the failed courses at a specified date. If they again fail, but in not more than two courses, they may be permitted to repeat the relevant curriculum and to present themselves for re-examination at a specified date in the failed course(s) at a third and last attempt. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in one or more electives in their first attempt may be permitted under special circumstances to register for alternative courses and be examined at a specified date. If they fail to satisfy the examiners, in any of the substitute courses, they may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination only once more at specified date. If any of the failed courses is not being offered in the particular academic year, this may be construed as a special circumstance for the purpose of this article.
- (b) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in any academic year in work prescribed in the Urban Design studio or in the Dissertation/Design Thesis may be permitted to present themselves for re-examination at a specified date. If they again fail to satisfy the examiners in any work, they shall be required to repeat all or part of the work prescribed during the academic year and to present themselves for re-examination at a specified date in the work repeated.
- (c) Candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation under the following circumstances:
  - (i) if they fail to satisfy the examiners at a first attempt in more than three courses followed during an academic year;
  - (ii) if they fail to satisfy the examiners in any of the failed courses in their third attempt or in any of the failed substitute courses in their second attempt;
  - (iii) if they fail to satisfy the examiners in their third attempt in any of the work prescribed in the Urban design studio or in Dissertation/Design Thesis;
  - (iv) if they fail to satisfy all requirements for the award of the degree within three academic years from the commencement of studies.

## Examination results

### Ar22

- (a) After presentation of the dissertation and after conclusion of the examination, a pass list of candidates awarded the Master of Urban Design 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 certificate.
- (b) In consultation with the Internal Examiners and subject to the approval of the Head of Department, the Programme Director may recommend that a candidate registered for the Master of Urban Design Programme be transferred to the candidature of PDip(Urban Design) if he is unable to continue with his dissertation.

## SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF URBAN DESIGN

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

### PRE-REQUISITE COURSES

#### **ARCH 6071. Introduction to visual communications in urban design (3 units)**

This course is designed for students with non-architecture background to understand the role of visual communications in urban design, and to acquire basic skills for design communication using both

traditional and digital media. The course consists of two parts: (1) traditional drawing techniques covering design drafting and presentation drawing, free hand drawing and sketching, site observation and documentation graphics; (2) entry-level computer skills for generation and representation of architectural and urban designs in 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional forms, and image-processing.

## **CORE COURSES**

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **ARCH6103. Dissertation/design thesis (12 units)**

Dissertation/design thesis: an in-depth investigation of urban design or development issues which relate directly to the physical planning problems and potentials of urban areas. The topic chosen should be both academic and practical in nature and a report not exceeding 20,000 words or equivalent is required.

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### **ARCH6104. Physical environment and site planning (3 units)**

The course offers a synoptic introduction of site planning as urban design technique, and focuses on different factors and determinants and their interaction with the physical environment. Topics covered include the art and mechanics of site planning; ecology and aesthetics of landscaping; transport infrastructure for urban and rural development; programming and land use planning for urban development, and planning standards and environmental performance criteria.

**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.

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**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.

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**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 COURSES<sup>2</sup>****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.

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**ARCH6072. Special topics in urban design (3 units)**

This course offers a closer examination of selected urban design issues in history and in contemporary time. Topics covered include, urban design concepts and models in history and their applications, contemporary city building issues, and, future urban forms. Illustrated lectures will be combined with seminars/workshops to enable in-depth study of urban design topics in context.

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**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.

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<sup>2</sup> Not all of the courses are offered every year.

**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.

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**ARCH7107. History and theory of landscape architecture II (3 units)**

As a continuation of History and theory of landscape architecture I, this course continues to examine the historical development of landscape design in its various geographic and cultural context, including recent and contemporary designs. The theory and practice of contemporary landscape architecture will be dealt with. Coursework may include studies on selected topics and a sketchbook assignment.

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**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.

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**ARCH5105. The design of Chinese cities (3 units)**

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.

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**ARCH5102. Chinese landscapes (3 units)**

Beginning with a background survey of the varied landscapes of China – physical, functional, pictorial, cultural – the course proceeds to focus on a unique landscape type: the Chinese garden. Its tangible elements, both natural and man-made, together with its intentions, poetics and symbolisms will be analyzed, leading to an appreciation of integrated compositions as exemplified by well-known gardens from that historical tradition. Theories on their aesthetics and design as well as their relationship with Chinese architecture, philosophy, literature and painting will also be explored and discussed.

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**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.

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**ARCH8102. Cultural heritage and the built environment (3 units)**

This course focuses on heritage buildings and their settings within a socio-cultural context. Built heritage in Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China is emphasized.