

REGULATIONS FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN URBAN DESIGN (PDipUrbanDesign)

These regulations and syllabuses apply to students admitted in the academic year 2007-2008 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 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

Ar142

- (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 may be permitted to transfer the candidature to the Master of Urban Design programme upon a mid-semester assessment to be made in the second semester by the Programme Director in consultation with Internal Examiners.
 - (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 credits¹ 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 postgraduate courses in the Faculty of Architecture approved from time to time. The list 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 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

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, taken as extra curricular studies, will not be counted towards the minimum of the six courses required.

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 credits) and Urban design studio II (9 credits); 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 credit = 8 teaching hours per semester (or 3-credit course = 2 teaching hours per week)

Examinations

Ar146

- (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.

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 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

ARCH 6071. Introduction to visual communications in urban design (3 credits)

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

ARCH4006. Urban design principles (3 credits)

This course is an introduction to the subject area of urban design, within the broader field of architecture. Topics covered include: city forms and design in history, issues and dimensions in contemporary urban design, methods and techniques for urban design inquiry.

ARCH6101. Urban design studio I (9 credits)

The urban design studio is the core component of the Master of Urban Design curriculum. In Studio I, students learn to acquire basic urban design skills through a series of project-based exercises that (1) introduce the students to a basic vocabulary for examining physical urban form; (2) develop the students' ability to identify and analyze into urban design issues and problems; (3) initiate the students on basic skills to develop urban design scheme in two-dimensional and three-dimensional form. This studio is conducted over one semester.

ARCH6102. Urban design studio II (9 credits)

Conducted over one semester, Studio II would normally consist of urban design projects with progressively larger scale and complexity, which aims to: (a) enhance and further develop the students' analytical and design ability for handling real-life urban development, renewal and/or re-development projects; (b) prepare the students for conducting more advanced studies leading to large, comprehensive urban design schemes.

ARCH6104. Physical environment and site planning (3 credits)

The course offers a synoptic introduction of site planning as urban design technique, and focuses on major factors that interact with, and directly determine the shaping of physical urban 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 credits)

This course examines the financial feasibility dimension in urban design and development projects. Lecture topics covered include, cost and investment analysis for urban design; the financial and commercial context of real estate development; the development process, marketable designs and budget; methods of market analysis for housing, shopping, office and hotel facilities and the property circles; resources and policy implications for urban design; and the impact of globalization.

ARCH6107. CAD in urban design (3 credits)

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 credits)

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

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

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.

ARCH6072. Special topics in urban design (3 credits)

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.

ARCH6070. Research methods for urban design (3 credits)

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 credits)

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.

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

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.

ARCH7108. Ecology and design (3 credits)

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.

² Not all of the courses are offered every year.

ARCH5105. The design of Chinese cities (3 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.

ARCH5102. Chinese landscapes (3 credits)

Beginning with a background survey of the varied landscapes of China – physical, functional, pictorial, cultural – the course proceeds to focus on an 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.

ARCH8102. Cultural heritage and the built environment (3 credits)

This course focuses on heritage places and 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 places, and how to use these values to create a viable conservation plan.