

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF ARTS IN TRANSPORT POLICY AND PLANNING  
MA(TranspPol&Plan)**

*(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**

MAT 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Transport Policy and Planning, candidates

- (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; or a relevant professional qualification of equivalent standard and membership of an appropriate professional body accepted for this purpose<sup>1</sup>, with relevant experience; and
  - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
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**Qualifying examination**

MAT 2.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their 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) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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**Award of degree**

MAT 3. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Transport Policy and Planning, candidates

- (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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**Length of curriculum**

MAT 4. For the full-time study, the curriculum shall extend over not less than one academic year. The curriculum shall normally extend over (a) not less than two academic years for the part-time two-year study, or (b) not less than three academic years for the part-time three-year study. In all three modes of study, the curriculum requires a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work, which shall include examinations and coursework assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> Chartered Membership of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Hong Kong) – CMILT is accepted by the Faculty of Social Sciences for this purpose.

**Completion of curriculum**

- MAT 5. To complete the curriculum, candidates
- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
  - (b) shall participate and present research findings in the MATPP dissertation seminar series;
  - (c) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on a subject within their approved field of study; and
  - (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.

The examiners may also prescribe an oral examination.

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**Title of dissertation**

- MAT 6. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MAT 5(c)
- (a) for the full-time study, the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than December 1 of that academic year;
  - (b) for the part-time study, the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than December 1 in the candidates' final year of study;
  - (c) both full-time and part-time candidates shall submit a statement declaring that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree; and
  - (d) Application for extension of dissertation submission deadline, with supporting reasons, should be made by writing to the Head of Department of Geography at least 1 month before the submission deadline. The recommendation of the Head of Department of Geography on the application will be considered by the Higher Social Sciences Degrees Committee and the Faculty Board.
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**Course selection**

- MAT 7.
- (a) To complete the curriculum, candidates (full-time or part-time) are required to complete a total of 8 core courses, 1 elective course and a dissertation (equivalent to 3 courses).
  - (b) For the 2-year part-time study, candidates are permitted to study a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 courses (core and elective) in each academic year.
  - (c) For the 3-year part-time study, candidates are permitted to study a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 courses (core and elective) in each academic year.
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**Examinations**

- MAT 8.
- (a) Coursework or a dissertation shall constitute part or whole of the examination for one or more courses.
  - (b) An assessment of the candidates' coursework during their studies, including completion of written assignments and participation in practical work, as the case may be, may be taken into account in determining the candidates' result in each written examination; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute the examination of one or more courses.
  - (c) Examinations will be held at the end of the semester in which the courses are taken.
- MAT 9. Full-time and part-time candidates who
- (a) have presented an unsatisfactory dissertation may be permitted to revise and re-present the dissertation within a specified period of not less than two months and not more than twelve months after receipt of a notice that it is unsatisfactory; and

- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in not more than two courses taken in the academic year may be required to repeat the failed course(s) and to present themselves for re-examination in the failed course(s).
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### **Supplementary examination**

MAT 10. Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present for any written examination may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination, which shall be held at a time to be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree of Master of Arts in Transport Policy and Planning. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of absence from any examination. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the supplementary examination shall be required to repeat the failed course.

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### **Discontinuation**

MAT 11. Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination in any course(s) in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners or to revise and re-present their failed dissertation within the specified period shall be deemed to have failed and shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provisions of General Regulation G12;
  - (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners at a second attempt in the failed course(s) or in their revised dissertation may be required to discontinue their studies; and
  - (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners in three or more courses in the academic year may be required to discontinue their studies.
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### **Examination results**

MAT 12. A pass list of candidates who have successfully completed the degree requirements and are to be awarded the Master of Arts in Transport Policy and Planning shall be published. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit at the whole examination may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree certificates.

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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN TRANSPORT POLICY AND PLANNING**

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### **PURPOSE**

The programme aims at providing the expanding transport sector in Hong Kong with a steady supply of well-trained professionals at the executive level, as well as providing training for graduates aspiring to pursue careers in the transport field. The programme offers those already working in the sector opportunities for updating themselves with the latest developments in transport studies. Graduates of this programme will be exempted automatically from the examination requirements leading to the qualification of Chartered Membership of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Hong Kong) - CMILT.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Coursework teaching conforms to the dates of semesters of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Examinations will be held at the end of the semester in which the courses are offered. Candidates must take nine courses in the programme, eight of which are core courses (as listed in A below) and one of which is an elective course (to be chosen from those listed in B below):

### A. Core Courses

#### **GEOG7001. Survey and data analysis in transport studies**

Surveys are commonly used to collect useful data in transport studies. A myriad of survey methods and instruments are available. This course covers the major aspects including survey design, sampling, hypothesis testing, interview and questionnaire design, survey implementation and administration, computer-based data processing, analysis and retrieval and report writing. Different aspects of surveys are discussed with reference to the transport-related professions and disciplines in different political and socio-economic contexts. Examples include travel characteristics, origin-destination, freight and public transport surveys conducted in Hong Kong and the other parts of the world. The applications of geographic information system (GIS) in transport studies are also covered.

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#### **GEOG7002. Transport and development**

This course examines the interrelation of, and interaction between transport and economic, social and technical development at global, national, regional and local levels. Topics include the political and social settings for transport development, the role of transport in development, analysis of the spatial structure of transport networks, national strategy for transport development, analysis of port-city relationships, and theories of territorial organization and planning in relation to transport hub and corridor development.

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#### **GEOG7003. Transport economics**

This course covers in-depth discussion on a number of basic topics in transport economics – cost benefit analysis, vehicle operating cost and travel time valuation, uncertainty and sensitivity analysis, basic financial analysis, pricing theories and practice, congestion pricing and use of technology, the principle of user pays and considerations of equity.

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#### **GEOG7006. Engineering for transport systems**

This course provides the students an engineering appreciation of the transport systems, including planning, policy formulation, design, implementation and operation. It covers both the theoretical frameworks and practical examples under various topics in transportation engineering. Key aspects of transport infrastructure development, choice of transportation systems, road safety, application of technology in transport etc. will be presented.

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#### **GEOG7007. Analysis, modelling and project appraisal in transportation**

This course examines traffic demand modeling process and transport project appraisal concepts and methods. It is designed to discuss applications and advantages/disadvantages of existing theories and techniques, and illustrate case studies in passenger and freight transport forecast, analysis and planning.

**GEOG7011. Research methods in transport studies**

This course comprises of two components and aims to guide students through the process of identifying and developing a research/dissertation proposal. The first component consists of regular meetings with the course teachers to facilitate the successful development of a research/dissertation proposal. Students may be required to deliver oral and written presentations on their research/dissertation proposals at the end. This component must be taken concurrently with the dissertation. The second component consists of a series of guest speakers' seminars. Scholars and practitioners in the transport and logistics field will be invited to give seminars. Students are required to attend a total of 4-6 lectures on the first component scheduled in both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semesters, and no less than 4 guest speakers' seminars in their entire period of study. An attendance sheet will have to be signed for each seminar.

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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 high density development. Topics include the nature and characteristics of passenger transport, the operation and management of public transit systems, deregulation and privatization, the role of para-transit, and multi-modal co-operation and competition.

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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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**B. Elective Courses**

Students will also need to take any one of the following six elective courses:

**GEOG7009. Transport logistics planning and services management**

(offered in biennial even years)

Logistics has to do with the movement of logistics and the corresponding areas of inventory management, warehousing, packaging and information systems. This course introduces and applies management techniques to supply chain management in a global setting and in the context of public policy and corporate operations. It introduces principles and approaches, leading to student knowledge and experience in management decision making applied to business logistics. It uses readings, lectures, presentations, group work, and cases, using a largely qualitative approach. Topics include the management process, management decision making, supply chain management, information systems, logistics networks and channels, risk management in global operations, performance measurement, public policy issues in logistics, and corporate structures and approaches.

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**GEOG7010. Transport law and management**

(offered in biennial odd years)

This course covers the legal framework for carriage and the mechanisms of transport management. Under transport law, topics covered include the contracts of carriage, bills of lading, charterparties, freight and demurrage, master's authority, shipowner's duties, loading and unloading, exclusion and

limitation of liability, introduction to admiralty jurisdiction, the comparative aspects of Hong Kong and mainland Chinese shipping law, marine pollution, marine insurance and protection and indemnity clubs (P & I Clubs) and an introduction to carriage by the air and by road. Under transport management, the topics are pricing versus regulation, traffic management and traffic restraint, and management of vehicle movements and access.

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### **GEOG7012. Transport field trip**

(offered in biennial even years)

This programme-based field trip is designed to provide opportunities for students to examine first hand transport-related developments and problems in China or nearby region with a comparison to the situation in Hong Kong. Before the field trip, students are required to attend a number of pre-trip lectures. After participating in the field trip, students are required to submit a field trip report and attend de-briefing sessions. The report will be formally assessed. The field trip will be organized during the reading week either in the first semester or second semester, subject to the final decision of the field trip co-ordinator.

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### **GEOG7222. GIS in transport planning and management**

(offered in biennial odd-years)

A theoretical framework and the various aspects (economic, social, ecological, and behavioural) of transportation systems are essential to put transportation issues in a societal context. This course introduces the spatial structures and developments of transport systems and the ways they are examined. It covers analytical tools and major techniques used in the transportation field concerning spatial arrangements and impacts.

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## **C. Dissertation**

### **GEOG7013. MATPP Dissertation**

To complete the curriculum, a candidate must also complete a topical study or research project in two parts. The first part is a dissertation of 10,000 - 20,000 words, with a focus on one of the passenger or freight transport modes and on a global, regional, or local scale. The second part is a presentation of research findings in the 'dissertation seminars' series. (Attendance and participation in the 'dissertation seminars' series are required.)

The dissertation carries a weight approximately equivalent to three courses. Successful dissertations to be lodged in the Library shall be subject to the correction of typographical, grammatical and/or other errors as determined by the examiners.

The date for submitting the dissertation would be announced at the start of the first year of study (for full-time candidates) or at the start of the final year of study (for part-time candidates).