

REGULATIONS FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN URBAN DESIGN (PDipUrbanDesign)*

These regulations and syllabuses apply to students admitted in the academic year 2010-2011 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.

* Not offered in 2010-2011.

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 development and planning
 Urban design principles
 Physical environment and site planning
 Computer in urban design
 Research methods for urban design

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
 Chinese landscape
 Geographic Information System (GIS) for Urban and Regional Planning
 Development
 Transport Policy and Planning
 Housing, Planning and Sustainability
 Urban planning and practice in China
 Globalisation and Urban and Regional Development in China

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.

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

- (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.

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 themselves 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 normally consists 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.

ARCH6121. Computer 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.

ARCH6122. Introduction to urban development and planning (3 credits)

This course examines the framework of urban development and urban planning within which urban design is undertaken and implemented. Topics covered include urban development process, urban spatial structure, and nature and function of urban planning.

ARCH6070. Research methods for urban design (3 credits)

The course introduces students 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.

ELECTIVE COURSES¹

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. Students 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.

URBP6017. Geographic information system (GIS) for urban and regional planning development (3 credits)

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.

URBP6131. Transport policy and planning (3 credits)

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.

URBP6904. Housing, planning and sustainability (3 credits)

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.

¹ Not all of the courses are offered every year.

URBP6905. Globalization and urban and regional development in China (3 credits)

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.

URBP6906. Urban planning and practice in China (3 credits)

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 institutionalization of planning regulations, systems and hierarchy; the formulation and implementation of plans; and problems of development control will be examined.

Elective Courses Offered by MArch, MLA or ACP:

ARCH5102	Chinese landscapes
ARCH5105	The design of Chinese cities
ARCH7106	History and theory of landscape architecture I
ARCH7107	History and theory of landscape architecture II
ARCH7108	Ecology and design
ARCH8102	Architectural heritage and the built environment
ARCH8103	Charters & legislation of conservation

Choice of the above courses is subject to prior approval by the Head of Department/Programme Director concerned. Priority will be given to students of the relevant programmes. Please refer to the respective programme syllabuses for the course descriptions.