

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT (MHousMan)**

*To be applicable to all students enrolled for 2015-16 academic year 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**

- 1 To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Housing Management a candidate
- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations; and
  - (b) shall hold
    - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours of this University; or
    - (ii) a qualification of equivalent standard of this University or another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; or
    - (iii) a Certificate in Housing Management or a Diploma in Housing Management or Professional Diploma in Housing Management awarded by the School of Professional and Continuing Education (formerly known as Department of Extra-Mural Studies) and have at least five years' work experience in the housing field; or
    - (iv) the MCIH or MHKIH professional designation and have at least five years' work experience in the housing field (at least two of which must be post-qualification).
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### **Qualifying examination**

2 Applicants seeking entry to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Housing Management under the provisions of 1(b) (iii) and (iv) above, if selected, shall not be offered admission until they have satisfied the examiners in a qualifying examination to test their academic ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. The qualifying examination shall consist of one or more written papers and shall be set prior to the final selection of candidates for admission into the degree programme.

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### **Professional experience**

3 Candidates applying under the provisions of 1(b)(i) or (ii) should note that whilst professional experience in the housing field is not a requirement for admission, it will nevertheless be an advantage for applicants of the Professional Stream of the part-time programme.

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### **Award of degree**

- 4 To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Housing Management 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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### **Length of curriculum**

5 The curriculum shall extend over one academic year and include a summer semester of full-time study, or two academic years of part-time study, with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work and shall include written examinations.

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### **Completion of curriculum**

- 6 To complete the curriculum, a candidate
- (a) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and field work;
  - (b) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on a subject within his approved field of study; and
  - (c) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of assessment.
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### **Title of dissertation**

7 The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by no later than 31-January of the second semester for the full-time programme, and 15-April of the Year I study of the part-time programme and the dissertation shall be presented by a date as prescribed in the syllabuses; the candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree.

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### **Assessment**

8 Each course will be assessed through a combination of written examination paper and coursework assessment, or by coursework assessment alone. The final grading for each course will be determined by performance in the written examination paper and an assessment of coursework.

9 A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners at his first attempt in not more than half of the number of courses to be assessed, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic years of study, may be permitted

- (a) to present himself for re-assessment in the course or courses of failure, with or without repeating any part of the curriculum; or
- (b) for candidates of the part-time mode of study, to repeat a year of the curriculum and present himself for assessment in the courses prescribed for the repeated year.

10 A candidate who has failed to present a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation within a specified period.

11 A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in any prescribed field work or practical work may be permitted to present himself for re-assessment in field work or practical work within a specified period.

12 A candidate who is unable because of his illness to be present for one or more papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present himself at a supplementary examination 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 the examination.

13 A candidate who

- (a) is not permitted to present himself for re-assessment in any written paper or any course assessed

- by means of coursework assessment, or in field work in which he has failed to satisfy the examiners and is not permitted to repeat a year of the curriculum under Regulation 9; or
- (b) has failed to satisfy the examiners in any written paper or any course assessed by means of coursework assessment, or field work or practical work at a second attempt; or
  - (c) is not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation; or
  - (d) has failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised dissertation under the provision of Regulation 10 may be required to discontinue his studies.
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### **Assessment results**

- 14 A list of candidates who have successfully completed all the degree requirements and are to be awarded the Master of Housing Management shall be published. Candidates who have shown exceptional merit at the whole assessment may be awarded a mark of distinction, and his mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diplomas.
  - 15 Candidates who present themselves for re-assessment in any subject shall not be eligible for the award of more than a pass mark in that subject.
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**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT  
(ACADEMIC STREAM)**

*(To be applicable to all students enrolled for 2015-16 academic year and thereafter)*

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**1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME**

The master's degree is an interdisciplinary programme. It aims to upgrade the intellectual ability and skills of public and private sector professionals already working in housing. It is anticipated that this target group would have already obtained professional recognition through the Professional Diploma in Housing Management offered by the School of Professional and Continuing Education of the University of Hong Kong or equivalent. This programme also aims to provide intellectual training to those wishing to specialize in the housing area at postgraduate level.

In accordance with the above aims, the programme intends to achieve the following objectives: (i) it elucidates and analyses the contexts of housing, both nationally and globally, and in terms of political, economic and social developments; (ii) it provides a critical evaluation of international housing systems; (iii) it provides a deeper level of knowledge and understanding of some selected urban and housing issues such as housing finance, property development and urban management models; (iv) it equips students with useful techniques and skills in the analysis of urban and housing issues; and (v) it enables students to specialize in some aspects of housing by taking optional courses and completing a dissertation on an approved topic of his own choice.

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**2. COURSE STRUCTURE**

The programme is offered on a part-time basis and is of two years' duration. The first year of the programme comprises five taught courses while the second year of study comprises two courses and a dissertation. Certain existing courses offered by other programmes are used in whole or in part where the content is appropriate but a number of compulsory courses are specifically offered for this programme.

The first year of the programme aims to deepen and widen students' understanding of housing policy in the local, international, economic and urban contexts, and to prepare them for the dissertation project. The specific objectives are to enable students to: a) develop a critical understanding of the policy context of housing issues including a comparative dimension; b) be conversant with the major policy context pertinent to housing management; and c) apply basic research methods in housing analysis.

The second year of the programme aims to deepen students' insight into the theoretical aspects of housing and to specialize in areas of their own choice. The specific objectives are to enable students to: a) develop critical understanding of housing issues from the sociological perspectives; and b) specialize in housing-related areas as selected from the optional courses on offer, and completing the dissertation project.

Each student is required to complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on an approved topic which will form part of the overall assessment of the programme. Work on the dissertation commences at the end of the first year of study with a submission deadline of 15 July in the second year of study. Each student will be assigned a supervisor from among the teachers contributing to the programme.

### *Year One Studies*

During the first year of study students are required to take the following compulsory courses:

MHMP6858	Housing economics
MHMP7007	International housing policies and practices
MHMP8002	Foundation course on research methods
MHMP8006	Housing, planning and sustainability

Students are also required to take one optional course from a list of those on offer. This list may vary from year to year.

### *Year Two Studies*

During the second year of study students are required to take the following compulsory course:

MHMP8008	Transitional Cities: Urban and Housing Development
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Students are also required to take *one* optional course from a list of those on offer. This list may vary from year to year.

List of optional courses:

MHMP6702	Sociology of housing
MHMP8003	Practices of housing management and maintenance (only offered to Year One students)
RECO6031	Alternative dispute resolution
RECO7084	Strategic Facility Planning & Asset Management
URBP6003	Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong
URBP6131	Transport policy and planning
URBP6905	Globalization and urban and regional development in China

Optional courses available may change from year to year.

Students are also required to complete the dissertation requirement.

### *Course Duration and Assessment*

Each course extends over one semester of study (i.e. 12 weeks), except MHMP8002 Foundation course on research methods, and all courses are assessed through examination (0% - 75%) and/or coursework assessment (25% - 100%).

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## **3. SYLLABUSES**

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### **Compulsory Courses**

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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 and 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.

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**MHMP8002 Foundation course on research methods**

This course aims to prepare students for the dissertation by briefing them the research process, especially the identification of research problems and the formulation of research design and data collection methods. It also provides them a foundation in basic statistical analysis including issues in problem formulation, measurement and sampling, descriptive statistics, and basic inferential statistics.

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**MHMP8006 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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**MHMP8008 Transitional Cities: Urban and Housing Development**

Building upon comparative concepts and introductory materials of local knowledge, this course aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore contemporary urban changes both in the countries that are undergoing the transition from the planned to a market-oriented economy and in newly industrialised economies. The course has a regional focus on cities in Pacific Asia, in particular Chinese cities, and cities in Central and Eastern Europe. By the end of the course, students should be able to gain an empirical understanding of diverse local contexts and to broaden the concepts discussed in urban and housing studies.

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**Dissertation**

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**MHMP6866 Dissertation**

Each student is required to produce a dissertation on a topic approved by the Board of the Faculty of Architecture. The submission date for the dissertation shall be 15 July in the second year of study. The dissertation should be of between 15,000-20,000 words in length. Each student is assigned a dissertation supervisor from among the teachers contributing to the programme.

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**Optional Courses**

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**MHMP6702 Sociology of housing**

This course provides a review and critical assessment of various sociological perspectives on housing in contemporary urban societies. Drawing upon theoretical developments in this area the course explores problems of housing provision and allocation in relation to changing political, economic and social circumstances in the cities of the industrialized and developing nations.

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**MHMP8003 Practices of housing management and maintenance**

This course aims to introduce and consolidate student's understanding of major concepts and practices of housing management in Hong Kong, including the management of building maintenance. Its objectives are to discuss the contexts and concepts of housing management; to canvass the tasks and skills in the management of residential properties and related community and commercial facilities; to introduce students to major building structures, building fabrics and building materials and their maintenance problems and maintenance policies and their implementation; and to identify the role of housing managers in the maintenance of residential properties.

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**RECO6031 Alternative dispute resolution**

This course examines the theory and practice of dispute resolution: negotiation; mediation; litigation; arbitration and adjudication; practice and procedure; application in the real estate and construction industry.

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**RECO7084 Strategic Facility Planning & Asset Management (6 credits)**

This course covers strategic dimensions of facility and asset management in corporations. Facility planning as a strategic process should be considered at the policy formulation and portfolio level. Need for a whole-life asset management framework for managing buildings as a special class of durable assets. Principles of asset management, asset management processes, applications and case studies.

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**URBP6003 Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong (6 credits)**

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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**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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**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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**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT  
(PROFESSIONAL STREAM)**

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**1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME**

The programme aims to provide high quality professional education to practitioners in the housing management industry as well as to those who intend to seek professional careers in the industry. Graduates of the programme will be (i) proficient in the theory and practice of housing locally and internationally; (ii) conversant with the skills and knowledge of housing management practice in Hong Kong which are generally applicable to China and elsewhere; and (iii) well equipped to analyse contemporary and future housing issues independently and critically.

In accordance with the above aims, the Programme intends to achieve the following objectives: (i) to elucidate and analyses housing issues in local, national and global contexts, and in terms of political, economic and social developments; (ii) to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills required of a professional housing manager in Hong Kong; (iii) to enable students to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing housing system of Hong Kong; (iv) to enable students to have a firm grasp of housing policy and property management issues in China; (v) to equip students with useful techniques and skills in the analysis of urban and housing issues; and (vi) to enable students to specialize in some aspects of housing by taking optional courses and completing dissertations of their own choice.

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**2. COURSE STRUCTURE**

**Full-time mode**

The first half year of study aims to provide students a firm conceptual and empirical foundation in housing management and to develop their management skills and technical knowledge. The specific objectives are to enable students to develop a critical understanding of: a) the urban and policy contexts of housing issues; b) the essentials of housing management and maintenance practices and skills; and c) the legal basis of housing management. Another objective is to cultivate the research ability of the students.

As students come from diverse academic backgrounds, some flexibility in the curriculum is allowed. Apart from the compulsory courses, students are allowed to take one optional paper chosen from a wide range of electives according to their background and interests.

The second half year of study aims to broaden and deepen the students' understanding of the conceptual contexts of housing management, to further develop their legal knowledge and analytical skills. The specific objectives are to enable students to be conversant with: a) the global trends of housing policy and practice; b) the economic dimensions of housing; c) property laws related to housing management. Other objectives are to equip students with the necessary communication skills in discharging housing management duties, and to enable them to specialize in housing issues of special interests.

Each student is required to complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on an approved topic which forms part of the overall assessment of the programme. Work on the dissertation commences in the first semester with a submission deadline of 10 August. Each student will be assigned a supervisor from among the teachers contributing to the programme.

## **Part-time mode**

The first year of study aims to provide students a firm conceptual and empirical foundation in housing management. The specific objectives are to enable students to develop a critical understanding of: a) the global, urban, economic and policy contexts of housing issues; b) the essentials of housing management and maintenance practices; and c) the legal basis of housing management. Another objective is to equip students with the necessary communication skills in discharging housing management duties, and the basic research skills.

The second year of study aims to equip students with the technical knowledge and skills involved in housing management, to deepen their analytical skills, and to specialize in an area of interest. The specific objectives are to enable students to be conversant with: a) the technicalities of building maintenance; b) basic management and accounting skills; and c) to develop critical understanding and specialization on selected topics.

As students come from diverse academic backgrounds, and their work requirements may also differ, some flexibility in the curriculum is allowed. Apart from the compulsory courses, students are allowed to take one optional paper chosen from a wide range of electives according to their background and interests.

Each student is required to complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on an approved topic which forms part of the overall assessment of the programme. Work on the dissertation commences at the end of the first year of study with a submission deadline of 15 July in the second year of study. Each student will be assigned a supervisor from among the teachers contributing to the programme.

## **Compulsory Courses**

Full time mode

Students are required to take the following compulsory courses:

MHMP6858	Housing economics
MHMP8009	Principles of Law
MHMP7005	Building services
MHMP7007	International housing policies and practices
MHMP8010	Housing Management Law and Land Law
MHMP8002	Foundation course on research methods
MHMP8003	Practices of housing management and maintenance
MHMP8004	Workshop on communication skills
MHMP8005	Organizational and financial management
MHMP8006	Housing, planning and sustainability

Students are also required to complete the dissertation requirement.

Part time mode

*Year One Studies*

During the first year of study students are required to take the following eight compulsory courses:

MHMP6858	Housing economics
MHMP8009	Principles of Law
MHMP7007	International housing policies and practices
MHMP8010	Housing Management Law and Land Law

MHMP8002	Foundation course on research methods
MHMP8003	Practices of housing management and maintenance
MHMP8004	Workshop on communication skills
MHMP8006	Housing, planning and sustainability

### *Year Two Studies*

During the second year of study students are required to take the following two compulsory courses:

MHMP7005	Building services
MHMP8005	Organizational and financial management

Students are also required to complete the dissertation requirement.

### **Optional Courses for both Full time and Part time Modes**

Students are required to take *one* optional course from a list of those on offer. This list may vary from year to year. These courses may include the following:

MHMP6702	Sociology of housing
RECO6031	Alternative dispute resolution
RECO7084	Strategic Facility Planning & Asset Management
URBP6003	Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong
URBP6131	Transport policy and planning
URBP6905	Globalization and urban and regional development in China
MHMP8008	Transitional Cities: Urban and Housing Development

### **Course Duration and Assessment**

Each course extends over one semester of study (i.e. 12 weeks), except MHMP8002 Foundation course on research methods and MHMP8004 Workshop on communication skills, and all courses are assessed through examination (0% - 75%) and/or coursework assessment (25% - 100%).

## **3. SYLLABUSES**

### **Compulsory Courses**

#### **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 and 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.

**MHMP8009 Principles of Law**

This is a foundation course in legal studies. The course is intended to provide students with the basic knowledge of the concepts of law, the legal system of Hong Kong, and laws related to housing management, including contract, tort, criminal and land laws.

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**MHMP7005 Building services**

This course introduces concepts and practices on building services. It covers the five major building and utilities services in Hong Kong. These major services include plumbing and drainage, fire, electrical, air conditioning and utilities services. The course will introduce knowledge on the various systems, regulations and standard requirements for different building services.

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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.

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**MHMP8010 Housing Management Law and Land Law**

This course examines laws and ordinances related to housing management. It aims to provide students with a good understanding of the key concepts in land ownership and other rights in land and buildings and their acquisition and protection, government leases, rights and obligations of landlord and tenant, and the ownership and management of multi-storey buildings (including Building Management Ordinance and Road Traffic Regulations).

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**MHMP8002 Foundation course on research methods**

This course aims to prepare students for the dissertation by briefing them the research process, especially the identification of research problems and the formulation of research design and data collection methods. It also provides them a foundation in basic statistical analysis including issues in problem formulation, measurement and sampling, descriptive statistics, and basic inferential statistics.

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**MHMP8003 Practices of housing management and maintenance**

This course aims to introduce and consolidate student's understanding of major concepts and practices of housing management in Hong Kong, including the management of building maintenance. Its objectives are to discuss the contexts and concepts of housing management; to canvass the tasks and skills in the management of residential properties and related community and commercial facilities; to introduce students to major building structures, building fabrics and building materials and their maintenance problems and maintenance policies and their implementation; and to identify the role of housing managers in the maintenance of residential properties.

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**MHMP8004    Workshop on communication skills**

This experiential learning workshop on communication skills aims to enable students to handle negotiation, mediation, residents and concerned groups, holding of meetings and interviews, and dealing with crisis situations.

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**MHMP8005    Organizational and financial management**

This course aims to discuss the concepts, principles and techniques in managing organizations to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency in meeting organizational goals. It will also enable students to understand skills and techniques in preparing budgets, financial statements and other basic tools in financial planning and control.

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**MHMP8006    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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**Dissertation**

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**MHMP6866    Dissertation**

Each student is required to produce a dissertation on a topic approved by the Board of the Faculty of Architecture. The submission date for the dissertation shall be 10 August for full-time programme, and 15 July in the second year of study for the part-time programme. The dissertation should be of between 15,000-20,000 words in length. Each student is assigned a dissertation supervisor from among the teachers contributing to the programme.

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**Optional Courses**

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**MHMP6702    Sociology of housing**

This course provides a review and critical assessment of various sociological perspectives on housing in contemporary urban societies. Drawing upon theoretical developments in this area the course explores problems of housing provision and allocation in relation to changing political, economic and social circumstances in the cities of the industrialized and developing nations.

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**RECO6031    Alternative dispute resolution**

This course examines the theory and practice of dispute resolution: negotiation; mediation; litigation; arbitration and adjudication; practice and procedure; application in the real estate and construction industry.

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**RECO7084 Strategic Facility Planning & Asset Management (6 credits)**

This course covers strategic dimensions of facility and asset management in corporations. Facility planning as a strategic process should be considered at the policy formulation and portfolio level. Need for a whole-life asset management framework for managing buildings as a special class of durable assets. Principles of asset management, asset management processes, applications and case studies.

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**URBP6003 Planning Practice, Law and Ethics in Hong Kong (6 credits)**

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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**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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**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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**MHMP8008 Transitional Cities: Urban and Housing Development**

Building upon comparative concepts and introductory materials of local knowledge, this course aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore contemporary urban changes both in the countries that are undergoing the transition from the planned to a market-oriented economy and in newly industrialised economies. The course has a regional focus on cities in Pacific Asia, in particular Chinese cities, and cities in Central and Eastern Europe. By the end of the course, students should be able to gain an empirical understanding of diverse local contexts and to broaden the concepts discussed in urban and housing studies.

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**4. EXEMPTION**

Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and normally no more than two courses can be exempted. Students receiving exemption would be required to do replacement courses chosen from the optional courses. Each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit.

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