

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

*These Regulations are applicable to candidates admitted to the Master of Urban Design curriculum in the 2016-2017 academic year and thereafter.*

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)*

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, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree of this University in a relevant subject; or a relevant qualification of equivalent standard 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 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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**Requirements for Graduation**

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

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; 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 normally require one year of full-time study or two years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period

of registration of three years for both full-time and part-time study unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

- (b) To complete the curriculum, candidates
- (i) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (ii) shall take not less than 84 credits in the manner specified in these regulations and the syllabuses, and follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and practical work where appropriate;
  - (iii) shall complete work prescribed in the Urban Design Studio I (12 credits); Urban Design Studio II (12 credits); and Dissertation/Design Thesis (24 credits);
  - (iv) shall normally satisfy the examiners in not less than six courses (36 credits) including five core courses (30 credits):

Introduction to Urban Development and Planning  
Urban Design Theories and Principles  
Physical Environment and Site Planning  
Urban Design Technologies  
Research Methods for Urban Design

and one elective course (6 credits) from an approved list of elective courses comprising courses of other taught postgraduate curricula in the Faculty of Architecture. 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 a related topical area.

Candidates may upon application be granted exemption from one core course except for the capstone experience, on the basis of their previous studies, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty. Candidates who have been granted exemption will be required to take another elective course of the same credit value; and

(v) 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.

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## Assessment

### Ar20

- (a) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at first attempt in not more than 18 credits of the core and elective courses, excluding Urban Design Studio or Dissertation/Design Thesis, followed during an academic year may be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment in the failed courses at a specified date. If they again fail, but in not more than 12 credits of the core and elective courses, excluding Urban Design Studio or Dissertation/Design Thesis, they may be permitted to repeat the relevant curriculum and to present themselves for re-assessment at a specified date in the failed course(s) at a third and last attempt.
- (b) Subject to the provision of Ar20(a), candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in an elective course in the first attempt may be permitted under special circumstances to register

for another elective course as substitution and be assessed at a specified date. If they fail to satisfy the examiners in the substitute elective course, they may be permitted to present themselves for re-assessment 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.

- (c) 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-assessment 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-assessment at a specified date in the work repeated.
- (d) Candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation if they have:
  - (i) failed to satisfy the examiners at a first attempt in more than 18 credits of core and electives courses followed during an academic year; or
  - (ii) failed to satisfy the examiners in any of the failed courses in their third attempt or in any of the failed substitute elective courses in their second attempt; or
  - (iii) failed to satisfy the examiners in their third attempt in any of the work prescribed in the Urban Design Studio or in Dissertation/Design Thesis; or
  - (iv) failed to satisfy all requirements for the award of the degree within three academic years from the commencement of studies; or
  - (v) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in the regulations of the degree.

## Grading System

### Ar21

Individual courses shall be graded according to the following grading system

Grade	Standard	Grade Point
A+	Excellent	4.3
A		4.0
A-		3.7
B+	Good	3.3
B		3.0
B-		2.7
C+	Satisfactory	2.3
C		2.0
C-		1.7
D+	Pass	1.3
D		1.0
F	Fail	0

## Assessment results

### Ar22

- (a) Upon successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

- (b) In consultation with the Internal Examiners and subject to the approval of the Head of Department, the Programme Director may recommend that candidates registered for the Master of Urban Design curriculum be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Urban Design if they have satisfactorily completed the curriculum requirements except the dissertation.
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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF URBAN DESIGN (MUrbanDesign)**

*These syllabuses are applicable to candidates admitted to the Master of Urban Design curriculum in the 2016-2017 academic year and thereafter.*

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate curricula)*

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

### **CORE COURSES**

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#### **ARCH6070 Research methods for urban design (6 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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#### **ARCH6101 Urban design studio I (12 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 students' ability to identify and analyze 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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#### **ARCH6102 Urban design studio II (12 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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#### **ARCH6103 Dissertation/design thesis (24 credits) (Capstone experience)**

Dissertation/design thesis conducts an in-depth investigation of urban design or development issues which relate directly to the physical design of the urban environment. The topic chosen

should be both academic and practical in nature and a report not exceeding 20,000 words or equivalent is required.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**ARCH6104 Urban development and the physical environment (6 credits)**

The course offers a synoptic introduction of the interaction of the physical environment with social, economic, cultural, and political considerations in urban design. Topics covered include site planning; physical environmental assessment methods; sustainable design and development; ecology and aesthetics of landscaping; transport infrastructure for urban and rural development; and planning standards and environmental performance criteria. It also focuses on the social, economic, cultural and regulatory mechanisms which shape the built environment.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**ARCH6122 Introduction to urban development and planning (6 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**ARCH7060 Urban design theories and principles (6 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**ARCH7121 Urban design technologies (6 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. It also includes an overview of computer graphics, hardware, software and their applications in urban design.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**ELECTIVE COURSES<sup>1</sup>**

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**ARCH6067 Location and transport in urban design (6 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**ARCH6072 Special topics in urban design (6 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6017 Geographic information system (GIS) for urban and regional planning development (6 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6131 Transport policy and planning (6 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6904 Housing, planning and sustainability (6 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

**URBP6905 Globalization and urban and regional development in China (6 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.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6906 Urban planning and practice in China (6 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 institutionalisation of planning regulations, systems and hierarchy; the formulation and implementation of plans; and problems of development control will be examined.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6123 Public transport systems (6 credits)**

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 the characteristics of passenger transport, the operation and management of public transit systems, deregulation and privatization, the role of para-transit, and multi-modal cooperation and competition.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**URBP6902 Urban design and place making (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the theories, principles, processes, methods and practice of urban design and place making. Through literature reviews and case studies students begin to clearly understand the importance of policy, planning, design, and management in place making. Students comprehend the value of common visions, cultural diversity and community aspirations in the process of design in the creation of high quality places to live, work and play. Students undertake site specific place making design projects at the development and public realm context. Students are challenged to generate visionary, imaginative and realistic responses through investigation, analysis to make informed design decisions and creative recommendations.

Assessment: 100% continuous coursework assessment

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**Elective Courses Offered by the Master of Architecture, Master of Landscape Architecture or the Architectural Conservation Programmes:**

**MArch**

- ARCH5103 Housing in urban development (6 credits)
- ARCH5105 The design of Chinese cities (6 credits)
- ARCH5111 Contemporary urbanism (6 credits)

**MLA**

- ARCH5102 Chinese landscapes (6 credits)
- ARCH6119 Components of sustainable landscape design (6 credits)
- ARCH7106 History and theory of landscape architecture I (6 credits)
- ARCH7107 History and theory of landscape architecture II (6 credits)
- ARCH7108 Ecology and design (6 credits)

**ACP**

- ARCH8102 Architectural heritage and the built environment (6 credits)
  - ARCH8103 Charters & legislation of conservation (6 credits)
  - ARCH8109 Cultural landscapes (6 credits)
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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 curricula. Please refer to the respective curriculum syllabuses for the course descriptions.