

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME PROGRAM FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (URBAN DESIGN) COURSE INFORMATION

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Master of Arts (Urban Design) program is an intensive course that aims to inculcate in graduates the ability to study the city in more complex and inclusive terms and to design successful urban spaces that take into careful consideration current and future users based on an understanding of a wide range of issues including those impinging on economics, ecology, sociology, environmental psychology, technology, urban geography, cultural theory to real estate.

The rapid urbanisation of the Asian landscape and the equally swift transformation of its cities expose the urgent need in the region for design professionals, especially practising architects and planners, trained to tackle creatively problems of designing within existing urban fabrics as well as at the periphery of rapidly growing cities. They are needed to handle the design of urban areas of different types and scales ranging from the layout of towns and the restructuring of inner cities to the shaping of streets as settings for public life and the provision of open spaces that nurture civic consciousness.

The primary aim of the Master of Arts (Urban Design) is to offer a broad-based education in the theory and practice of urban design to enhance the knowledge and abilities of professionals involved in the design, creation, and evaluation of urban spaces. More specifically, the School hopes to achieve the following objectives:

1. Produce environmentally and socially responsible graduates who are committed to the provision of good urban public areas.
2. Develop analytical and methodological skills that are critical for developing mastery in urban design.
3. Provide exposure, at an advanced level, to the full range of issues that bear upon the design and realisation of urban space.
4. Prepare students for advanced careers in design, consulting, research or public service, or in preparation for further academic training.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor of Architecture / Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) (Hons) OR Master of Architecture OR Honours / Graduate degree in a related discipline (minimum 4-year undergraduate degree is required)
- Interview, and portfolio review where necessary
- Relevant experience in a related discipline is preferred

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Successful completion of the program requires a candidate to:

Option 1 - Complete 1 Dissertation and pass 6 essential modules (including urban design studios) and 1 elective module.
Option 2 - Do 2 elective modules in lieu of Dissertation, ie. Pass 6 essential modules (including urban design studios) and 3 elective modules.

Total number of Modular Credit required is 44

Minimum CAP for graduation is 3.0

FIELD TRIP

Urban Design Studio 2 (UD5602) will include a compulsory 1-week international workshop in the form of a field trip to a regional city to work with the relevant local planning / design authority and academic institution (cost of fieldtrip borne by the student).

PERIOD OF CANDIDATURE

The program can be completed in 1 year on a full-time basis, or in 2 years on a part-time basis. The maximum period of candidature is 4 semesters for full-time candidates, and 6 semesters for part-time candidates.

SYLLABUS

The following modules are being offered; elective courses listed may not be offered in any one academic semester or year. Part time program share the same module content and module schedule with the full time.

Essential Modules

UD5601	Urban Design Studio 1	8 Modular Credits
UD5602	Urban Design Studio 2	8 Modular Credits
UD5221	Theory and Elements of Urban Design	4 Modular Credits
UD5521	Planning Process: Quantitative and Policy Dimensions	4 Modular Credits
UD5622	Methods of Urban Design and Urban Analysis	4 Modular Credits
UD5628	Sustainable Urban Design and Development	4 Modular Credits
UD5641	Dissertation	8 Modular Credits
Elective Modules	Modules offered in the School or University	4 Modular Credits

COURSE SCHEDULE

Part time modules share the same schedule and content as full time modules. Note that most lecture and seminar modules are conducted in the weekday mornings or afternoons (limited night schedule).

Full time (1 year)

Semester 1 (20 - 24MC)

Core UD5601 Urban Design Studio 1 (8MC)
UD5221 Theory and Elements of Urban Design (4MC)
UD5321 Planning Process: Quantitative and Policy Dimensions (4MC)
UD5622 Methods of Urban Design & Urban Analysis (4MC)
Elective UD/AR5XXX (4MC)

Semester 2 (20 – 24MC)

Core UD5602 Urban Design Studio 2 (8MC)
UD5628 Sustainability in Urban Development (4MC)
UD5641 Dissertation (8MC)
Or
Elective DE5107 Environment, Planning (4MC)
AR/UD5XXX (4MC)

Part Time (2 years)

Semester 1 (12MC)

Core UD5601 Urban Design Studio 1 (8MC)
UD5622 Methods of Urban Design & Urban Analysis (4MC)

Semester 2 (12MC)

Core UD5602 Urban Design Studio 2 (8MC)
UD5628 Sustainability in Urban Development (4MC)

Semester 3 (8-12 MC)

Core UD5221 Theory & Elements of Urban Design (4MC)
UD5521 Planning Processes Quantitative & Policy Dimensions (4MC)
Elective AR/UD5XXX (4MC)

Semester 4 (12-16MC)

Core UD5641 Dissertation (8MC)
Or
Elective DE5107 Environmental Planning (4MC)
AR/UD5XX (4MC)

DESCRIPTION OF MODULES

Essential Modules:

UD5641 Dissertation

Modular credits: 8

The dissertation, limited to 10,000 words, offers the opportunity of candidates to conduct independent research and to demonstrate analytical and critical abilities by investigating a topic of interest and of relevance to their course of study.

UD5601 & UD5602 Urban Design Studio 1 & 2

Modular credits: 8

The urban design studio is where the synthesis of theoretical and practical aspects of urban analysis and design takes place. Using urban design projects of different scales that deal with programming, planning and design, the studio encourages the integration of political, social, economic, environmental, and physical concerns in the design of urban spaces. The studio will also analyse successful urban design projects in the form of case studies.

Note: Urban Design Studio 2 will include a compulsory 7-10 day international workshop in the form of a field trip to a regional city to work with the relevant local planning/design authority and academic institution (cost of fieldtrip is borne by the student, and the student must budget an approximate amount equivalent to S\$1400).

UD5221 Theory and Elements of Urban Design

Modular credits: 4

This course introduces the different theoretical approaches to urban design and provides the philosophical underpinnings to the various bodies of theories. The application of these theories to the design of urban environments will be examined. With a greater understanding of the various theories, this course will serve as a base from which students can develop their own convictions and approaches to urban design. It also examines the fundamentals of urban design and the factors in the related fields of urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture that influence the creation of urban spaces. Ranging from the macro to the micro, the impact of these factors on the urban environment will be analysed individually as well as acting in conjunction. With particular emphasis on formal and perceptual analysis of urban spaces, examples of urban spaces will be used to highlight the importance of design elements on the integrity of an urban space. The course will also highlight the impact of transportation in the making of urban spaces.

UD5622 Methods of Urban Design and Urban Analysis

Modular credits: 4

This course is taken in conjunction with urban design studios. Methods of urban analysis and urban design will be taught to enable the students to tackle urban design projects of varying scales introduced in UD5601 and UD5602. The various aspects of urban growth, city limits/boundaries, urban structure, urban architecture, typologies as well as infrastructural planning, parcellation, public space and design guidelines will be introduced. The critical role that transportation plays in structuring the city will also be examined. This course will be conducted intensively on a daily basis over a period of three weeks (usually beginning on the third week of Semester 1).

UD5628 Sustainable Urban Design and Development

Modular credits: 4

The module engages the contemporary issues of urban ecology and its articulation to design and development in urban settings. The new commitment of the co-habitation of nature and built environment has drawn attentions of the architects, urban designers and environmental professionals. The discourses of urban sustainability have to move away from social sufficiency, ecological efficiency to ecosystem compatibility by linking the forms and flows of urban, industrial and natural systems. The new challenges of urban ecological issue require design and environmental professionals to deal with how urban and environment spaces could be analyzed, designed, managed, evaluated, represented and changed for responding to the cutting-edge sustainable issues. Divided by two main categories, *Spatial Typologies* and *Ecological Flows*, the series of lecture covers the trends and issues of sustainable urban design and development. The sessions conclude with the discussion of representational dimension of urban and environmental design that is essential to the professional practices of ecologically sound urban and environmental design.

UD5521 Planning Process: Quantitative and Policy Dimension

Modular credits: 4

This course aims to equip participants with a good knowledge of the urban planning process, particularly the quantitative, research, and policy considerations. It examines the relationship between urban planning and urban design from the practitioner's perspective. Extensive reference with case studies will be made to the Singapore planning process at the various levels. It also helps participants to develop a sound understanding of the integrated nature of urban planning and the urban design processes and how this can be reinforced to achieve a more efficient and attractive urban environment.

Elective Modules:

Modular credits: 4

Selection of current Elective Modules: (modules may not be available in any one semester or year). Elective module fulfilment may be selected from appropriate modules (approved by Program Director) offered by other departments in the University.

DE5107 Environmental Planning

The module will introduce students to the multi-disciplinary nature of environmental planning, by exploring the basic principles of sustainable development and the physical planning instruments that can be employed to achieve it. The course will include an introduction to urban and regional planning theory as the framework for the discussion of environmental planning procedures. The decision environment involving the policy framework and resources, the use of strategic, sectoral, master and local plans, regulatory instruments, economic measures, participatory processes and public investment projects will be covered. Processes of identifying desired developments and intensities, site selection, planning, design and construction management, mitigation and augmentation of environmental impacts would be discussed. The course will include a master planning project, that will demonstrate the technical, decision-making and plan formulation, site planning and design procedures involved.

AR5011 Research Methodology

The course deals with the foundations of research, its constitution and conduct in universities. It begins by sketching a history of research and its ideological bases, and then proceeds to discuss changing definitions as well as premises and approaches. There will be discussion of structure, method and language.

AR5312 Typo-Morphological Approach in Architectural Research and Design

This is an elective module on Typo-Morphology, a strong rationalist analytical tool for architecture and urban studies and research which is also useful in the architectural and urban design process. Architecture is seen as the totality of different layers (morphologic, sociologic, philosophic) on different scale levels (from dwelling unit, urban segment, city, to region) transformed over historical periods (time). Architecture is analyzed by both synchronic and diachronic readings.

For further information on the Program, please contact:

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Every effort is made to ensure that the information is accurate and current. However, the University and the School reserve the right to make alterations without notice.