INTRODUCTION

The Master of Urban Design (MUD) provides an education in the design of the built environment for an era of urban challenges. The programme attracts a diverse body of local and international students, most with prior backgrounds in architecture, landscape architecture, urban and transport planning. MUD graduates pursue careers as design professionals and many go on to work in the world’s most dynamic metropolitan areas.

The programme focuses on urban design challenges in Asian cities with an emphasis on international perspectives, exploring topics such as high density urbanization, development, health and quality of life, green infrastructure, sustainable mobility, renewable energy, and climate change. Teaching is informed by cutting edge research and takes full advantage of its location in Hong Kong, a living laboratory for urban design. Students acquire urban design skills through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, design studies, reviews, and local and international field study visits. These are led by academics and practitioners in urban design and related disciplines.

The Master of Urban Design programme is accredited by UK’s Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) under its specialism scheme.

For applicants who satisfy admissions criteria for both the MUD and Master of Science in Urban Planning (MUP) programmes, there is the option of applying for admission to both programmes, and completing both degrees in a period of 26 months. Instead of 3. MUP is fully recognized by the Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP) and Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), and Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT).

The programme welcomes Asian Bank Development ISP postgraduate scholarship applicants.
CURIUMUL

The MUO core courses cover urban design theories, site planning, ecology, research methods, and design technologies. The urban design projects expose students to a range of contemporary urban design issues and challenges. Students are required to attend a compulsory field trip to local or overseas destinations that are related to courses. The department also organizes optional local field trips on monthly basis.

During the 12-months of study in the programme, students are expected to complete a minimum of 84 credits of courses, including 5 core courses, 3 elective courses, 3 studio courses and 1 dissertation or design thesis.

Fall Semester
- ARCH-3100 Urban design studio I (15 credits)
- ARCH-7002 Urban design theory and principles (6 credits)
- ARCH-7012 Introduction to urban development and planning (5 credits)
- ARCH-7054 Urban development and the physical environment (5 credits)

Spring Semester
- ARCH-7002 Urban design studio II (15 credits)
- ARCH-7012 Urban design technology (3 credits)
- ARCH-7070 Research methods for urban design (4 credits)
- Elective course (4 credits)

Summer Semester
- ARCH-7012 Urban design studio dissertation / thesis (15 credits)

ADMISSION

Admission to the MUO program is competitive. Approximately 25-30 students enroll each year from an applicant pool of about 150-200. Most applicants have strong academic backgrounds in the fields of architecture, environmental design, landscape architecture, and urban planning. Some have professional experiences. Applicants are urged to focus on design portfolio, which is the most important document in the admission procedure. Applications for the academic year 2018-2019 will be available on Jun. 1, 2018. All online application forms and supporting materials must be received by Jan. 9, 2017. The application package should be sent to the following address:

Faculty Office, Room 415, 609 Knowledge building, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong (Attn: Mr. William Lo)

LIST OF APPLICATION MATERIALS

- An application form to be completed online
- A Handout of Design Portfolio demonstrating your most important design, research, creative or professional work. There are no limits on format yet the portfolio should not exceed 50 pages. On the content page, you need to mark the date, the nature of project (i.e. academic, personal or professional), and collaboration information. If the project is collaborative work, you need to clearly indicate your role in it. Stating other people’s projects or unacknowledged work are unacceptable and will result in serious consequences.
- A Resume listing your education, employment, extra-curricular activities, honors awards, professional affiliation and accreditation, publications, hobbies. There are no pages limit to a resume.
- A Personal Statement or Essay stating your motivations, career / academic goals, particular domains of interests in urban design, and other credentials that you think is helpful for the selection committee to evaluate your application (Maximum 5000 words)

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

From all undergraduates or graduate studies ever attended. A transcript should include course names, examinations taken, grades, degree or certificates awarded, and dates.

OFFICIAL ENGLISH TEST SCORES

Official test scores are required for applicants whose qualifications are from a university outside Hong Kong where the primary language of teaching or examination is not English.

- TOEFL: 550 or above on the paper-based test or 213 or above on the computer-based test;
- IELTS: A minimum overall band of 6 with no subtest lower than 5.5;
- Overseas General Certificate of Education, or the International General Certificate of Secondary Education, or the Cambridge Test of Proficiency in English Language “Grade C” or above in one of these.

THERE ARE SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTORS, EMPLOYERS, OR OTHERS THAT ARE CAPABLE OF EVALUATING YOUR CREDIBILITY IN URBAN DESIGN.

INTERVIEW

An interview is a required component of MUO admission. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for a Skype interview after the application deadline.

COMPOSITION FEES

The composition fees for the Master of Urban Design in the academic year 2017-2018 is HK$ 35,800. The fee covers tuition for courses offered and student’s usage of university facilities, including health care, sport amenities and library. It does not include costs for textbooks, printing, binding, stationery, books, and model-making.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Application from a list of developing countries in Asia are eligible to apply for the Asian Development Bank - Japan Scholarship (ADB) which provides financial assistance to well qualified candidates to pursue postgraduate studies in any field. More details can be found in the website [http://www.adb.org/TP]. Applying from developed economies, Hong Kong and Mainland China included, are ineligible for the ADB scholarship. For ADB scholarship please see [https://www.adb.org/tp/nc/scholarship/](https://www.adb.org/tp/nc/scholarship/)