INTRODUCTION

The Master of Urban Design (MUD) provides an education in the design of the built environment for an era of urban challenges. Urban design is emerging as a distinct knowledge domain. The Programme attracts a diverse body of local and international students, most with prior backgrounds in architecture, landscape architecture, urban and transport planning and related disciplines. MUD graduates pursue careers as design professionals and many go on to work in the world's most dynamic metropolises.

The Programme focuses on urban design challenges in Asian cities with an emphasis on international perspectives, exploring issues such as high-density urbanization, development, health and quality of life, green infrastructure, sustainable mobility, renewable energy, climate change and design thinking. Teaching is informed by cutting-edge urban design research and takes full advantage of its location in Hong Kong, a living hyper-density laboratory for urban design. Students acquire urban design skills through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops, design studios, design 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 Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design (HKUID) and the UK's Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) under its specialist scheme. The MUD Programme can run over three semesters (equivalent to 3.5 years). The MUD Programme is equivalent to European Master’s Degree measured by the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Upon completing the MUD programme, graduates are entitled to a one-year HKIE working visa which can be extended by employers.

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. Admission to both programmes is to the fall intake. Each of the first two years is 25% of the total programme of study. Both programmes are fully recognized by the Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP) and Chartered Institute of Town Planning (RTPI) and Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT).

The Programme welcomes Asian Bank Development JP postgraduate scholarship applicants.
CURRICULUM

The MUoD core courses cover urban design theories, site planning, ecology, research methods, design technology and design history. The elective courses are open to 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 local field trips on monthly basis. During the 3 semesters, 12 months programme, students are expected to complete a minimum of 50 credits courses, including 5 core courses, 1 elective course, 2 studio courses and 1 dissertation and design thesis.

Fall Semester

MUO2001 Hong Kong urban design studio (2.0 credits)
MUO2002 Urban design technologies & Innovations (2.0 credits)
MUO2012 Introduction to urban development and planning (2.0 credits)
MUO2013 Metahygiene & Urban design theories (1.0 credits)

Spring Semester

MUO2003 Research methods for urban design (2.0 credits)
MUO2004 International Urban design studio (2.0 credits)
MUO2005 Values of urban design: urban, social, and environmental economics
Elective courses (1-2.0 credits)

Summer Semester

MUO2014 Dissertation: design thesis (1-2.0 credits)

Urban design knowledge, design and research skills across spatial scales are sought after by consulting firms, development organizations, communities and local, metropolitan, regional and national authorities where they are engaged in urban design appraisal and evaluation, the intervention process, and the decision-making process. Urban design professionals need to have a high level of design skills, professional guidelines, masterplans and projects, as well as be involved in management of urban place making. Urban design social media commentators and practitioners in education are also in demand.

ADMISSION

Admission to the MUoD Programme is competitive. Approximately 25-30 students enroll each year from an applicant pool of over 100. The programme requires a high academic background in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning and related disciplines. In addition to these professional experiences, Applicants are urged to focus on design portfolio, which is an important document in the admission procedure. All online application forms and supporting materials must be received by 31 December 2023. The application package should be sent to the following address:

Faculty Office, Room 415, A/F Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

LIST OF APPLICATION MATERIALS

- An application form to be completed online
- A hardcopy of Design Portfolio demonstrating your most important design, research, drawing, creative or professional work. There are no limits on format, yet the portfolio should not exceed 50 pages. On the portfolio, you need to clearly indicate your role in it. Stating other people’s projects or undeterred team work are unacceptable and will result in serious consequences.
- A Resume listing your education, employment, extracurricular activities, honors, awards, professional affiliations and accreditation, publication, hobbies. There are no page limit to a resume.
- A Personal Statement or Essay stating your motivations, career or academic goals, particular domains of interest in urban design, and other credentials that you think is helpful for the admission committee to evaluate your application (Maximum 1000 words)
- Official Transcripts from all undergraduate or graduate studies ever attended. A transcript should include course names, examinations taken, grades, degree or certificates awarded, and dates.
- Official English 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 subject lower than 5.0.
- 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.
- Three letters of recommendations from university instructors, employers, or others that you think are capable of evaluating your potential/credentials in urban design.
- An Interview is a required component of MUoD 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 2029-2030 is HK$ 477,000 (subject to approval). The fee covers tuition for courses on offer and students’ usage of university facilities, including health clinics, sports centre 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 city and building-related fields. The Scholarship covers tuition fees and living expenses during the study in Hong Kong. More details can be found in the website [http://www.aid.org/lof]. Applicants from developed economies, Hong Kong and Macao China included, are not eligible for the ADB scholarship. For ADB scholarship please see [https://www.aidb.org/en/lof/asia/japan-scholarship-program/ min].