

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Master of Science in Urban Planning

1. Applications are invited for admission in September 2024 to read for the degree of Master of Science in Urban Planning.
2. To be eligible for admission to the programmes, a candidate shall satisfy both the University Admissions Requirements and the Programme Specific Requirements:
 - (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
 - (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to high degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and,
 - (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

3. The curriculum extends over two years of full-time study. The programme is accredited by the Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP). Its graduates can become full corporate members of the HKIP after completing two years of relevant working experience and professional assessments.
4. Starting from the 2024/25 academic year, the programme will offer two streams, Urban Planning stream (UP) and subject to the University's approval, an additional stream called Urban and Regional Planning (URP).
5. The UP stream provides comprehensive training in the theory, methodology and practice of urban planning, preparing students for a career in urban planning and related fields in the public and private sectors. As urban planning requires multidisciplinary perspectives, our students come from a variety of related disciplines, including architecture, civil engineering, environmental sciences, geography, urban studies, social sciences, real estate, urban design, and surveying. Graduates can also become corporate members of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) in the UK after going through the assessment of professional competency. MSc(Urban Planning) graduates specialising in transport planning can apply for membership of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong (CILTHK). The UP stream is funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC).
6. The new URP stream offers comprehensive professional training in urban and regional planning and targets students who wish to work effectively in and outside Hong Kong after graduation. The URP stream places emphasis on a regional approach or perspective with various urban issues, aiming to nurture future generations of planners equipped with systematic knowledge and skills in regional planning. The new stream will utilise Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area, and China as living laboratories and undertake field trips to leading "Bay Areas" in the world for students to learn about interactions among cities, regions, and countries. URP stream will be on a self-financed mode.
7. The MSc(UrbanPlanning) programme comprises the core elements of lecture courses and studios, focusing on spatial planning in dynamic, high-density urban environments. Students are also required to develop their specialism in a sub-field of urban planning, such as transport, housing, environment, conservation, urban design and international planning, through taking elective courses and completing a dissertation related to the specialised area. Please visit the Department's website at www.arch.hku.hk/upad for further information.
8. Applications for a taught postgraduate programme should be submitted via our on-line application system at <https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>.

9. For UP stream, the University Grants Committee (UGC) has ruled that non-local students admitted to UGC-funded UG and TPG programmes will be charged a higher than standard tuition fee. According to the UGC's definition, non-local students are "*person entering Hong Kong for the purpose of education with a student visa/entry permit issued by the Director of Immigration*". For the 2024/25 intake, non-local students admitted to the Urban Planning stream under the MSc(Urban Planning) full-time programme will be charged HK\$182,000* per annum for 2024/25 intake (subject to change and final approval by the University).
10. For URP stream, the tuition fee for both local and non-local students will be HK\$190,000* per annum for 2024/25 intake (subject to change and final approval by the University).
11. The closing date for application is **12:00 noon (GMT+8), 2 January 2024**.
12. Successful applicants will be notified no later than June 2024. If you do not receive any notification by the end of June 2024, please call 3917 2721 to enquire about the status of your application.
13. Interested applicants can join the Department's Admissions Talk to be held on 25 November 2023 (Saturday) at 10:00 am (HKT) in Room 730, 7/F., Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong and via online Zoom at the same time. For registration to attend the admission talk, please register: https://hkuems1.hku.hk/hkuems/ec_hdetail.aspx?guest=Y&ueid=90842 on or before 12:00noon, 24 November 2023 (Friday).

November 2023

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following are some frequently asked questions raised by potential applicants.

What are the admission requirements?

- A Bachelor's degree of The University of Hong Kong; or, an equivalent qualification from another university or comparable institution.
- As urban planning is a multi-disciplinary subject, we encourage applications from graduates in different fields of study.
- All ADB applicants and applicants who do not hold a degree from an institution using English as the language of instruction and/or examination are required to obtain a score of 550 or above (paper-based test) or 80 or above (internet-based test) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Those taking the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) should have a minimum overall band of 6 with no subtest lower than 5.5.

Who is eligible to apply for an Asian Development Bank scholarship?

- For details, please refer to ADB website at <http://www.adb.org/site/careers/japan-scholarship-program/main>.

Who can be nominated as professional referees?

- Friends and relatives' reference letters will not be considered.
- A professional referee should be the applicant's colleague who is in a senior position, and can comment on the applicant's professional ability.
- This senior person does not need to be in the field of planning.

Is it necessary for overseas students to attend an interview?

- Telephone or Zoom interviews will be conducted with overseas applicants.

Are there field trips?

- Field trips are compulsory and will be organized by the Department to fulfil the academic requirements of the curriculum.

How can graduates become urban planners?

- Upon completion of the MSc(Urban Planning), graduates satisfy the academic qualifications of the various accreditation institutions.
- A graduate normally needs at least two years of relevant working experience in the planning field before he/she is eligible to apply for full membership of the professional institutes.