

Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies BA(UrbanStud)

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies aims to train students to become professionals who can deal with development issues in the built environment and prepare them to pursue another post-graduate professional programmes in urban planning, urban design, housing management, landscape architecture, conservation, real estate, and transport policy and planning offered by the University of Hong Kong and other universities abroad. Students can also further pursue MPhil and PhD studies or work in the private and public sectors related to urban planning and design, land development, urban management, housing management, transport, urban renewal, conservation, and public policy. The multi-disciplinary characteristics of the programme and the multi-dimension nature of urban issues will produce graduates who can approach problems from multi-disciplinary perspectives.

Core Courses

The Core courses of the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies consist of 4 different types of courses that are taught using distinctive learning modes. All courses are 6 credit courses with the exception of the studio courses which have 6 or 12 credits. The Programme uses 150 hours of student learning activity as the norm for the 6-credit courses, and 300 hours of student learning activity for the 12-credit courses. The four categories of Core courses may be summarised as follows:

1) Studio Courses (6 or 12 credits each). Each of the studio courses is a semester course.

These studios engage students, under staff guidance and supervision, through a range of problem-based exercises addressing core and related issues essential to urban studies and development. The studio courses provide opportunities to further develop and apply multidisciplinary urban theories and concepts learned in concurrent courses and also develop quantitative, qualitative and design skills in urban studies and development. The Design Graphics and Urban Analytics studios introduce students to the essential skills and tools in the communication of their ideas and proposals via multimedia, and teach the fundamentals of design communication in describing space visually to prepare them for studying in related professional post-graduate programmes. Students learn the preparation of planning and development reports, freehand drawing, computer aided design and physical model building. They investigate approaches and techniques to manage, manipulate, and envision information, using various computer software to link photography, drawing, and other media.

Teaching is conducted in lectures/workshops/review sessions (48 contact hours for a 6-credit course or 96 contact hours for a 12-credit course), and involves working on projects in both group and individual formats. Work is regularly presented and discussed in critical review sessions. Site visits, data research and practical workshops are required. The courses are assessed on the

portfolio of project work produced, as well as contributions to discussions and activities in the studio sessions. Assessment is 100% continuous coursework assessment of drawings, diagrams, photos, renderings, animations, physical models, prototypes, reports (not less than 2,000 words and up to 10,000 words for a 6-credit course; and up to 12,000 words for a 12-credit course) and project presentation. Urban Process and City Design Studio will be on development issues related to local districts and Development Appraisal Studio will be on development issues related to the whole city. Students are required to do the Advanced Development Scenarios and Impact Assessment Studio, and Urban Research Studio in the final year which is a capstone experience in integrating all they have learnt in the programme to work on individual and group projects on contemporary urban studies and development issues.

2) Urban Studies Theory Courses (6 credits each).

Collectively these courses examine multidisciplinary theories of urban and regional development that help studies to understand the development and planning issues facing cities. Teaching is conducted in lectures (24-36 contact hours per course), and the course work includes reading of critical texts, site visits, research, case studies and the preparation of assignments, essays and reports. The courses are assessed through a combination of continuous coursework assessment (20%-100%) and examination (0%-80%). Continuous assessment is usually by various methods including PowerPoint Presentation, reports (up to 10,000 words), essays (1,500 – 3,000 words), quizzes, and project reports (up to 10,000 words).

3) Urban Policy and Development Courses (6 credits each).

These courses examine how urban policies and plans are formulated and issues in governing and managing urban development. They will also examine the legal and financial aspects of urban development. Contact hours range from 24-36 hours per course. The courses are assessed through a combination of continuous coursework assessment (20%-100%) and examination (0%-80%). Continuous assessment is usually by various methods including PowerPoint Presentation, reports (up to 10,000 words), short essays (1,500 – 3,000 words), quizzes, and project reports (up to 10,000 words).

4) Research Methodology Course (6 credits).

This course explores issues of fundamental quantitative and qualitative methods in analysing urban problems. Teaching is conducted in lectures (24-36 contact hours per course), and activities include site visits, case studies, assignments and reports. The course is assessed through a combination of continuous coursework assessment (40%) and examination (60%). Continuous assessment is usually by various methods including homework, quizzes, practicals, and projects (up to 3,000 words).