

## **DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**

### **MA in Transport Policy and Planning**

#### **CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**

The Master of Arts in Transport Policy and Planning curriculum consists of broadly five different types of courses which are taught using distinctive learning modes. The majority of courses are 6-credit courses, but we also have a 18-credit dissertation course. The total study load of the curriculum is 1,800 hours.

Although we use 150 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) as the norm for a 6-credit courses, the contact hours and output requirements for different types of courses vary according to the learning modes employed. Normally, the contact hour for a standard 6-credit course is ranging from 30 to 36 hours.

#### *1. Thematic courses (6 credits)*

These courses focus on thematic contents and introduce subject-specific skills in the field of transport policy and planning. They are taught by a combination of lectures (24 hours), class discussions, exercises and presentation. Assessment is generally by means of end-of-semester examination and/or a variety of coursework assignments with output not exceeding 3,000 words (30-100% coursework, 0-70% exam).

#### *2. Laboratory-based courses (6 credits)*

These courses aim at introducing and enriching the students' discipline-specific skills. They are taught by a combination of lectures and laboratory-based practicals (with a minimum of 36 contact hours). Assessment is by practical assignments, and group and individual projects with output not exceeding 3,000 words (100% coursework).

#### *3. Field trip course (6 credits)*

The Master of Arts in Transport Policy and Planning curriculum offers a 6-credit field trip course. This field trip course aims at giving students an opportunity to external exposure to transport-related issues outside of Hong Kong, through a variety of contexts. The course consists of a small number of lectures and a 4-5 days field trip in a destination outside of Hong Kong. Assessment is by a combination of field participation and a written report (3,500 words) (100% coursework).

#### *4. Research method course (6 credits)*

The aim of this course is to provide students with basic concepts and principles relevant to transport research. In this full-year course, students will learn how to prepare research proposal and write a good dissertation. Teaching normally takes the form of 2-hour lectures and seminars through the first and second semesters. Assessment is based on class participation, assignments and research proposals, with output not exceeding 3,000 words (100% coursework)

#### *5. Capstone experience course (18 credits)*

The capstone experience course takes the form of dissertation writing, which is compulsory to all students. Dissertation writing will last for two semesters for a total of 18 credits. Students are required to design an empirical research study, collect and analyze data, and write a formal dissertation at about 10,000-20,000 words. In addition, students also need to give a seminar presentation on their research work as part of the formal assessment. Students are required to have at least 10 meetings with the supervisors (100% coursework).