

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE**  
**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN DESIGN AND TRANSPORT (MSc(UDT))**

**CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT**  
**(applicable to students admitted in 2026-27 and thereafter)**

The University's credit unit system is based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The normal study load per credit consists of 25 hours ( $\pm 5$ ) of student learning (with a range of 20 to 30 hours), which includes all learning activities and experiences, both within and outside the classroom, and any assessment tasks and examinations required to achieve the learning outcomes of a course.

**Overview**

The Master of Science in Urban Design and Transport (MSc(UDT)) programme is a 2 years 4 semesters programme. The curriculum requires 120 credits with a range of 342 to 420 contact hours and 2,730 to 3,270 student learning hours. The MSc(UDT) curriculum consists of 4 types of course with distinctive teaching and learning objectives and modes. The majority of the courses are 6-credit courses. The norm for a 6-credit course represents 150 hours of student learning activity (including both class contact hours and other student learning efforts), whereas a range of 240 to 360 hours of students learning activity will be the norm for each 12-credit studio and 300 to 450 hours of student learning activity for each 15-credit capstone experience course. The contact hours and output requirements for different types of courses vary according to the learning modes employed.

They include 8 Core Courses of 48 credits, and 3 Elective Courses of 18 credits. Studios and Capstone Experience Courses are 12-credit and 15-credit courses respectively, as they require more intensive student-staff interaction and/or greater student learning inputs than other courses. The MSc(UDT) curriculum includes 2 Studio Courses of 24 credits and 2 Capstone Experience Courses of 30 credits. The 4 course categories are summarized as follows:

**Core Courses (6 credits each)**

These are the foundation and essential courses that provide students with the theoretical and practical knowledge in different areas related to mobility and urban design, including urban and transport planning, urban design, and urban analytics. Eight courses fall into this category. These courses are delivered primarily by means of lectures and/or tutorials/seminars and practical sessions for urban analytics (normally 24 contact hours in total). Assessment methods are decided by the individual teachers to tally with the intended learning outcomes of the courses. Assessment tasks may include the writing of essays, reports in the range of 3,000 to 5,000 words, in-class tests, class participation, teamwork performance, continuous assessment, examination and so on. The coursework occupies 40-100% and examination 0-60%.

**Elective Courses (6 credits each)**

These are specialization courses in connection with the sub-fields of urban design and transport to be selected and approved by the Department from time to time. These sub-fields cover advanced transport modelling, economics, smart cities, urban sustainability, planning laws, laws and regulations, Housing and Geographical Information Systems. Students are required to take 3 elective courses (normally 24 contact hours in total for each course). The selection of courses shall be approved by the Department and normally shall be related to the topic of the final-year dissertation to be completed by the student. Assessment methods are decided by the individual teachers to tally with the intended learning outcomes of the courses. Assessment tasks may include the writing of essays, reports in the range of 3,000 to

5,000 words, in-class tests, class participation, teamwork performance, continuous assessment, examination and so on. The coursework occupies 30-100% and examination 0-70%.

### **Studio Courses (12 credits each)**

These courses, using the format of experiential learning design studio are teaching students the use of research about design, research for design and research by design which blend analytical, generative and synthesis deployment of practical professional skills through a simulated real-life environment and providing them with the opportunity to integrate theory with application in tackling urban design, transport and mobility problems through design thinking and learning-by-doing. Two Studios are offered in the programme which covers different urban scales and functions. Class contact hours range from 24-48 hours (240-360 hours of student learning activities). The assessments for these courses require development of knowledge and methods in urban design, transport and accessibility, as well as teamwork both inside and outside the classroom.

Formative assessment:

- Required design seminar and discussion/workshop participation
- Required weekly tutorial attendance and design progress presentation/discussion (40-45 min each)
- Required progress presentation/discussion (40-45 min each) at baseline and design strategies, options and variations and preferred option
- Design Review: equivalent to at least 3-4 A0 at options stage and 4-5 A0 at preferred option stage with adequate text.
- Individual and group Urban Design Brief, physical and digital simulation model making and so on.
- Urban design summative assessment: final submission of design boards: equivalent to at least 5-6 A0 with adequate text.

All assessment results will contribute to final result of Studio and is 100% based on coursework.

### **Capstone Experience Courses: Urban Design & Transport Research Dissertation (15 credits) and Urban Design & Transport Thesis Project (15 credits)**

Urban Design & Transport Research Dissertation and Urban Design & Transport Thesis Project are the Capstone Experience Courses that aim at providing students with an opportunity to demonstrate their interests and capacity at both research and practice in urban design, transport and accessibility under the supervision of a teacher.

Contact hours for both Capstone Experience Courses are flexibly organized between students and supervisors; and a range of 30 to 60 contact hours for each are required (total 300 to 450 hours of student learning activities for each). The teaching of Urban Design & Transport Research Dissertation and Urban Design & Transport Thesis Project consist of three components:

1. A research about urban design, transport, and accessibility in the manner of academic research aiming at contributing to the scholarly knowledge of the discipline (6,000 words and figures  $\pm 10\%$  excluding abstract, bibliography, list of figures and tables, appendices, etc.).
2. A comprehensive urban design, transport, and accessibility project proposal in the manner of a design project. The urban design project assessment follows the studio assessment format (formative and summative).
3. An urban design, transport, and accessibility thesis project report in the manner of a design brief & design report (3,000 words and figures  $\pm 10\%$  excluding abstract, bibliography, list of figures and tables, appendices, etc.).

The urban design, transport and accessibility project should be informed by the research dissertation component. Demonstration of knowledge use and limitations of research about design, research for design and research by design should be provided.

A briefing will be held at the beginning of Capstone Experience Courses. Additional seminars and training on research methodology are provided starting from the spring semester (Year 1, semester 2).

Individual students are required to defend their work at the final dissertation review, apply for research ethical clearance (if applicable) and regularly report their research progress to their supervisor(s). All assessment results will contribute to final result of Urban Design & Transport Research Dissertation and Urban Design & Transport Thesis Project and are 100% based on coursework.