

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Master of Urban Studies and Housing Management Programme

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

The Master of Urban Studies and Housing Management Programme comprises several categories of courses using distinctive teaching and learning modes. The majority of the courses are 6-credit courses. The norm for a 6-credit course represents 150 hours of total student learning activity including 24 contact hours. There are a 3-credit foundation course on research methods, a 12-credit capstone project course and a 24-credit dissertation course. Courses are assessed by means of coursework (including continuous assessment), or by a combination of coursework assessment and written examinations. Under a normal progression pattern, students of the professional stream are required to complete a total of 87 credits, and students of the urban studies stream are required to complete a total of 69 credits. In total, there are 2,175 hours of student learning activity including approximately 256-324 contact hours for the Professional Stream, and 1,725 hours of student learning activity including approximately 188-256 contact hours for the Urban Studies Stream. The categories of courses are summarized as follows:

1. *Theory and policy courses* (6 credits each)

These courses aim to provide students with strong conceptual and empirical foundations for understanding housing issues and to help students build up critical insight into housing policy issues and the operation of the housing market. The teaching and learning strategies are comprised of lectures, class discussions and class presentations by students. Assessment methods mainly include essay writing, group research projects, presentation of research findings and portfolios. The coursework : examination ratio for courses in this category is typically 100% : 0%. Each course contains 150 hours of student learning activity including 24 contact hours. The total written output varies among different courses and ranges from 2,500 to 8,500 words.

2. *Research course and Capstone experience* (3 credits, 12 credits and 24 credits)

These courses aim at equipping students with research skills and providing them opportunities to pursue their own research interests under the guidance of supervisors.

i) *Research course* (3 credits)

The course contains 75 hours of student learning activity including 10 contact hours. The coursework : examination ratio for this course is 100% : 0%. The total written output in this course is approximately 3,000 words.

ii) *Capstone project* (12 credits) (applicable to Urban Studies Stream only)

The course contains 300 hours of student learning activity including 30 contact hours. Students are expected to work on their own most of the time, though there will be bi-weekly group meetings with their supervisors in the early stages, for guidance and feedback. The coursework : examination ratio for this course is 100% : 0%. The total written output in this course is 26,000 words (20,000-word group report and 6,000-word individual paper).

iii) *Dissertation* (24 credits)

The course contains 600 hours of student learning activity including 10 contact hours. Contact hours are minimal as students are expected to work on their own most of the time, only consulting their supervisors for guidance and feedback. The coursework : examination ratio for this course is 100% : 0%. The total written output in this course is 15,000-20,000 words.

3. *Housing management courses* (6 credits each) (applicable to Professional stream only)
These courses aim at equipping students with the necessary knowledge and skills associated with the practices of professional housing management. They are generally taught by lectures supplemented with class discussion, but also include workshops applying the experiential learning pedagogy. In designing assessment methods, teachers would take into account of the nature of the courses and the stated learning outcomes. A variety of assessment tasks are adopted, including essays, short assignments, in-class tests, group projects, performance in group and class activities, and written examinations. Each 6 credit course contains 150 hours of student learning activity including 24 contact hours, except the Workshop on Communication Skills, which involves 20 contact hours. The coursework : examination ratio for courses in this category is typically 100% : 0%. The total written output varies among different courses and ranges from 500 to 7,500 words.

4. *Legal studies courses* (6 credits each) (applicable to Professional stream only)

These courses aim to provide students a good grounding in the legal contexts of housing management, and enable them to be conversant with the legal tools of housing management. The courses are taught by lectures and discussions on court cases. Assessments are through essays and written examination testing students' ability to apply the legal knowledge to simulated legal cases. Each course contains 150 hours of student learning activity including 24 contact hours. The coursework : examination ratio for courses in this category is typically 30% : 70%. The total written output varies among different courses and ranges from 2,000 to 3,000 words.

5. *Optional courses* (6 credits each)

Students are free to choose an optional course from a variety of courses offered by the postgraduate programs in the departments. The aim is to allow students to either widen their horizon or deepen their understanding in an area of their interests. Teaching and assessment methods vary according to the nature of the courses. Each course contains 150 hours of student learning activity including 24 contact hours. The coursework : examination ratio for courses in this category varies among different courses. While the majority of the courses have a coursework : examination ratio of 100% : 0%, some courses have a ratio of 40% : 60% / 0% : 100% The total written output varies among different courses and ranges from 3,000 to 5,500 words.