



# AD2EXU Degree Project in Urban Planning and Design, Second Cycle 30.0 credits

Examensarbete inom stadsplanering och design, avancerad nivå

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years

## Establishment

Course syllabus for AD2EXU valid from Spring 2017

## Grading scale

P, F

## Education cycle

Second cycle

## Main field of study

Architecture

## Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

## Intended learning outcomes

The aim of the degree project course is to support students in conducting an independent subject area in the field of Urban Design where they apply and further develop the knowledge, design skills and methods gained from previous courses within the Sustainable Urban Planning and Design program. The design-based degree project addresses contemporary urban concerns. The students define their research questions, formulate a design task, identify theories appropriate to arguing their case(s) and methods for conducting their project; they develop responses to their identified tasks. A degree project demonstrates professional maturity when the student is able to:

- acknowledge the complexity of sustainable and resilient urban design approaches by taking into account various scales (physical as well as policies, forms of organization, incentives, planning laws and procedures, etc. and the influence of these factors on personal lifeways and the built environment), and ecologies of the environmental, the social and the mental, as well as the political and aesthetic dimension of urban design approaches, in the formulation of their research questions and design tasks;
- handle wicked problems and develop and reflect upon relevant methodologies and design techniques;
- develop sustainable skillsets using theory and methods;
- address alternatives to current mainstream development paths in their design proposals;
- respect ethical concerns;
- adopt an intersectional perspective of power analysis;
- evaluate and reflect upon the implications of the degree project and the knowledge that has been acquired during the work process; and
- communicate and present the project to a jury, clearly demonstrating acquired knowledge, architecture and urban design skills and abilities.

The thesis work is assessed by external critics, supervisors and the examiner based on the following questions:

- Motivation, standpoint: What notion of sustainability does the thesis put forward? Does the thesis contribute to a contemporary urban discourse on sustainability?
- Concept and originality: Does the thesis show an experimental approach to architecture and urban design, and does it innovate our thinking within the field of sustainable urbanism?
- Critical thinking: Is the thesis a self-driven and independent work?
- Theory and method: Does the thesis show the ability to handle theory and method critically? Does the thesis contribute to the development of methods and processes for the field of Sustainable Urban Planning and Design?
- Form, design, presentation and communication: How comprehensively and skillfully is the thesis communicated conceptually and visually?

## Course contents

The degree project is the concluding work in a two-years master's education. Following the completion of a sequence of urban design studios and theoretical courses that have covered a broad range of topics, the project is undertaken in the 4th semester of the program. Particular

emphasis is placed upon questions of sustainability and resilience which form the core of the program. The master's thesis work is structured around the process of practice-led research.

During the fall semester, before the start of the thesis work, students develop a thesis booklet of 10-15 pages, supported by a series of thesis booklet seminars, containing:

- a working title and an abstract of ca. 300 words describing the theme of the planned project;
- a research question;
- an overview of the theories, practices and methods that will be applied and developed in the thesis;
- an overview of the context that the thesis is set in (site, situation: stakeholders, political agenda, conflicts, etc.);
- a preliminary program for the project;
- 1-3 reference projects; and
- a step-based agenda for the project and a time schedule for the 20 weeks/ 100 days of thesis work.

The thesis booklet is obligatory for registration in the Degree project in Urban Planning and Design. During the degree project course, students work independently with regular tutoring meetings with their thesis supervisors. The work process is structured around three seminars: the midterm critique with guest critics, the “green light” seminar approximately two weeks before the examination, and the examination with international guest critics at the end of the term.

## Specific prerequisites

Students have applied to the program with a portfolio. They hold a bachelor degree in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design or Spatial Planning, and have studied and completed the major part of the program courses in the specialization of UPD. They have completed 60 higher education credits for a Degree of Master of Science in Architecture. The degree project is carried out during the final term of the program. A program and statement of intent (thesis booklet) must be submitted and approved. The student must complete a form to register for the diploma degree before the start of the term.

## Course literature

Course literature list will be announced at the start of the course.

## Examination

- XUP1 - Half-time Seminar, 15.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- XUP2 - Examination, 15.0 credits, grading scale: P, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

- HALV - Half-time Seminar, 15.0, grade scale: P/F
- SLUT - Examination, 15.0, grade scale: P/F All degree projects are presented at public examination days.

## Other requirements for final grade

Practice-led research project, midterm critique, “green light seminar” presentation, visual presentation and examination, 30.0 credits, grade scale: P/F.

## Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.