Programme syllabus

Master's Programme, Urban Planning and Design, 120 credits
Masterprogram, urban planering och design
120.0 credits

Valid for students admitted to the education from autumn 09 (HT - Autumn term; VT - Spring term).

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

Programme objectives

In addition to the general objectives for Masters programmes as stated in the national degree ordinance and the local degree policy of KTH, specific learning outcomes are defined for the Masters programme Urban Planning and Design.

Knowledge and understanding

After completing the programme requirements students shall:

- Comprehend more clearly the relation between theory and practice in urban planning and design and the plethora of disciplines involved in bridging architecture and planning on micro and meso scales.
- Have good knowledge and understanding of problems that arise in creating and maintaining environments for urban activities as well as approaches and methods of urban planning and design in helping to cope with such problems.
- Have good knowledge and understanding of various contemporary approaches and trends to everyday urbanism problems in cities and suburban areas.
- Have sound knowledge on the processes that determine urban change, the actors that are involved, and the aesthetical, social, economic and environmental determinants that contribute to a sustainable society.
- Understand theoretically and practically the complexities of urban design issues in not just designing but also retrofitting suburban, town or central urban areas.

Skills and abilities

After completing the programme requirements students shall:

- Understand theoretically and practically the complexities of spatial planning and urban design issues and relate them to their social, economical, environmental, political context.
• Be able to carry out advanced studies on current problems, opportunities and future needs in the field of planning and urban design at the local, national and international level
• Have advanced skills of studio work in order to comprehend major urban issues both as end users and as researchers and technical experts.
• Ability to apply concepts, tools and theoretical approaches in the process of design and planning. Be able to carry out analyses on current trends and future needs related to urban planning and design.

**Ability to make judgements and adopt a standpoint**

After completing the programme requirements students shall be able to:

• Analyse the merits of theoretical concepts, policies, plans and projects based on a comprehensive assessment
• Detect the implicit assumptions in theoretical and societal views on urban planning problems
• Contextualise design objectives and policies in different timely, cultural and institutional backgrounds
• Develop their own opinion on the nature and manner of dealing with new planning and design problems

**Extent and content of the programme**

The Masters programme Urban Planning and Design counts 120 hp and consists of three terms of coursework and one term for the Degree project, together 2 years. The programme focuses on the aesthetic and functional issues related to urban development.

The course-work encompasses a substantial share of studios and projects that aim to train students practical skills in planning and urban design and to gain a better understanding of planning practice.

The programme consists of 120hp of courses at advanced (2nd cycle) level; half of these (60hp among these the Degree project) The language of instruction in all courses is English.

**Eligibility and selection**

*General admission requirements*

The general admission requirements are the same for all programmes General admission requirements (http://www.kth.se/studies/master/application?l=en)

*Specific admission requirements*

The specific requirements may be assessed as not fulfilled if

1. the average grade is in the lower third on the grading scale used (above pass level)
2. the degree awarding institution is not considered to meet acceptable quality standards by the authorities of the country in which the institution is located
3. the degree does not qualify for admission to equivalent Master level in the country where the degree is awarded
The specific admission requirement for the Master’s programme Urban Planning and Design is a Bachelor degree in architecture, planning or landscape architecture. Applicants are required a good knowledge of English, equivalent to Eng B.

The selection process for the Masters programme Urban Planning and Design is based on a total evaluation of the following selection criteria: university, GPA, thesis proposal and working experiences.

**Implementation of the education**

**Structure of the education**

The academic year covers 40 weeks, starting in September divided into two terms, which each consists of two study periods (KTH-Handbook 2, Flap 4.2). Each study period concludes with a regular examination period of at least one week. If no exams are scheduled, the regular examination period can be used for seminars and concluding studios.

The Programme begins with the pillars of urban planning and design, a group of courses that provides a thorough introduction to the knowledge area of urban planning and design, related to theory building, analysis tools and practical applications. Courses are developed in a stringent sequence of urban design studios that are integrated with academic courses in theory, history, methodology, analysis and practice.

The Programme continues with components and compositions in urban planning and design, a number of selected courses where implementation and process is combined with in-depth studies in different material and appraisal aspects of urban design and planning.

The term is concentrated around groupwork in studios with the further analysis and design of selected projects in given locations, with appreciation for the nuances of specific places, cultures and environments. The Programme is furthermore deepened by analysis and synthesis in urban planning and design, the final courses that deal with different studio projects where the first has a clear concentration on analysis and the second on synthesis.

The aim is that the first project will be a theoretical in-depth study that introduces students to knowledge development within urban planning and design i.e. a preparation for research. The core of the second project lies in the practical in-depth study in the form of synthesized plan solutions in a complex urban design setting.

The programme concludes with a Degree project in which students address selected problems in Urban Planning and Urban Design.

**Courses**

The programme is course-based. Lists of courses are included in appendix 1.

**Grading system**

Courses in the first and the second cycle are graded on a scale from A to F. A-E are passing grades, A is the highest grade. The grades pass (P) and fail (F) are used for courses under certain circumstances.
Conditions for participation in the programme

Students who have been admitted to the programme have to attend the registration meeting in order to enroll for the programme. If a student is not able to attend the registration meeting for reasons beyond his/her control he/she should register not later than two weeks after the start of the courses.

After registration in the programme students will be registered for term 1 and 2. For registration in term 3 students should have completed at least 45hp.

For registration in term 4 students should have completed at least 67,5 hp of the compulsory courses.

Through signing the attendance list during the first week of the course, students will be registered for the course. If a student for reasons beyond his/her control is not able to attend during the first week he/she has to contact the course administrator.

Conditions for being promoted to the next level

For studies in study year 2: At least 45 higher education credits from study year 1 must be completed by the exam period in August. Students which have not fulfilled this requirement must set up an individual study plan. The main goal with the study plan is that the student should complete the remaining courses during the next study year. In the study plan, the remaining elements and also suitable courses from the next study year are included. Special regard should be taken to the courses prerequisites.

Recognition of previous academic studies

The Royal Institute of Technology has a policy for recognising previous academic studies. The decision on recognising documented results from similar education at other universities is taken by the vice dean of education at the School of Architecture and the Built Environment upon application by the student.

Studies abroad

The programme offers no opportunities for studies abroad except for the Master’s Degree project where the student can choose to carry out a study at an organization outside Sweden. However, the School of Architecture and the Built Environment has no resources to pro-vide support so the student should make such arrangements.

Degree project

The Degree project comprises 30hp and provides students with the opportunity to in-vesti-gate a problem in depth under the supervision of experienced practitioners and researchers.

For registration of the Degree project students should have com-pleted at least 67,5 hp of the compulsory courses. Students can choose between either a Degree project in Architecture or Regional Planning.

If a student intends to carry out a Degree project within another field of studies, he/she should apply for exemption from the vice dean of education.
The Degree project is graded on a scale A-F, where A-E are passing grades with A as the highest grade. Guidelines concerning the grading of Degree projects are to be developed.

**Degree**

Students who have fulfilled all course requirements in the Master's programme (120 ECTS) will be awarded a "Teknologiemasterexamen", translated into English as "Degree of Master of Science (two years)".

An application for the degree certificate should be submitted to the programme coordinator, together with a copy of a student union card, copy of receipts or a certificate from the student union office, and an attested photocopy of the previous university degree (B.Sc. or a B. Eng, or equivalent). The degree certificate will be mailed to the student’s permanent address by registered mail.

Please note that this degree do not correspond to the Swedish degree "Civilingenjör".

[Appendix 1 - Course list](#)
[Appendix 2 - Programme syllabus descriptions](#)
# Appendix 1: Course list

Master's Programme, Urban Planning and Design, 120 credits (TUPDM), Programme syllabus for studies starting in autumn 2009

## General courses

### Year 1

**Mandatory courses (60.0 Credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Edu. level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AD2815</td>
<td>Public Places and Spaces</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD2820</td>
<td>Structural Components in Urban Planning and Design</td>
<td>15.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD2835</td>
<td>Stockholm Urban Lab II</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD2840</td>
<td>Sustainable Design in the Urban Space</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2108</td>
<td>Urban Theory, Advanced Course</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2109</td>
<td>Planning Theory, Advanced Course</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2123</td>
<td>Stockholm Urban Lab I</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 2

**Mandatory courses (90.0 Credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Edu. level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AD2845</td>
<td>Principles of Real Estate and Urban Economics</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD2855</td>
<td>Contemporary Trends in Urban Planning and Design II</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD2UPX</td>
<td>Degree Project in Urban Planning and Design, Second Cycle</td>
<td>30.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG210X</td>
<td>Degree Project in Regional Planning, Second Cycle</td>
<td>30.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2118</td>
<td>Research Methodology and Scientific Writing for Architects, and Planners</td>
<td>3.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2124</td>
<td>Contemporary Trends in Urban Planning and Design I</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AK2032</td>
<td>Theory and Methodology of Science (Social Science)</td>
<td>4.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2: Specialisations

Master's Programme, Urban Planning and Design, 120 credits (TUPDM), Programme syllabus for studies starting in autumn 2009

This programme has no specialisations.