



Programme syllabus

[An accessible version of the syllabus can be found in the Course and programme directory.](#)

Master's Programme, Urbanism Studies 60 credits

Magisterprogram, urbana studier

Valid for students admitted to the education from autumn 17 (HT - Autumn term; VT - Spring term).

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

Programme objectives

The information applies to students starting their studies in the academic year 2017.

The master of urbanism studies aims to help students develop a capacity to look comprehensively and holistically into the theory and practice of the urban design and city planning fields, especially the issues of the design of the public realm and the effects urban form has on social life and human behavior. Additionally they should be able to understand the complexity and diversity of different public realms design-wise, but also get a clear and present picture and a comprehension of the plan-making processes. All of this will be dealt with within a wide range of scales—metropolitan, city, district and neighborhood level—in a sustainable and effective manner. The primary purpose of the program is to prepare students to become creative, problem-solving professionals working in the urban design, planning, landscape, architecture and development sector in Europe and internationally with the necessary skills, tools, knowledge, understanding, and abilities to address and face the complex urban challenges of our age and understand, plan, appraise and deliver future urban public spaces and places in an integrative way.

The program offers further studies for those students with initial training in urban-city planning, architecture, and landscape architecture and design, who wish to complete or expand their professional education with a special focus on the public realm. In addition to the general objectives for Masters Programs as stated in the national degree ordinance and the local degree policy of KTH, specific learning outcomes are defined for the Master's program in Urbanism Studies (TURSM). After completing the program requirements students shall be able to demonstrate the following aspects:

Knowledge and understanding

- Be acquainted with the theoretical foundations and present developments within urban design and urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture and design and their value and implementation in the work with the public realm.
- Have a sound knowledge of processes and forces that determine urban change and renewal, the actors that are involved in these processes, and the aesthetic, spatial, social, economic, real estate, institutional and planning determinants that contribute to liveable city design.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the tools and methods that can be applied to analyze the current condition of cities and regions, especially in and for the public realm and the prerequisites for future change in urban spaces and public places.
- Comprehend the relationship between theory and practice in urbanism, i.e. urban planning and urban design, and the connections to other disciplines involved in urban and city planning and design on the local and metropolitan level.
- Are qualified to track developments within the disciplines of urban design and urban planning and analyze how these will affect city development and planning practice in terms of public realm.

Skills and abilities

- Are qualified to carry out advanced studies on contemporary urban spaces and public places problems and future plans and by that contribute to the development of the field of knowledge as well as relate them to their political, social, economic, environmental and real estate context
- Are qualified to have proficiency in qualitative and quantitative research skills and their application to theory-building, data-collection, analysis and synthesis, as well as policy-making processes.
- Are qualified to convey own results and others viewpoints in a coherent and qualitative way through drawings, sketches, essays, social media, films, group narratives and oral presentations.
- Are qualified to make effective oral and written presentations of complex tasks in urbanism and the use of all modern communication techniques and tools to illustrate and visualize design, city plans, new concepts, scenarios and strategies.
- Are qualified to have proficiency of communication skills for public (community) and policy settings and be able to organize and lead multi-disciplinary groups with experts on current planning and design problems, tasks and projects and thereby be able to practice in the private

and public sectors, and accept leadership roles in the design, planning and development of the built environment.

Ability to make judgements and adopt a standpoint

Through studio work, module and seminar discussions, design and strategic project work and examinations in urbanism, the program aims to equip and prepare students to be capable of debating, reasoning, arguing, self-reflecting and proposing solutions and putting forward ideas throughout their studies. This also entails making sound judgments and coming up with new ideas, theories and designs on issues relating to the multifaceted elements of urbanism. In particular we aim to train and educate our students to be able to contextualize plans, concepts and policies in different temporal, cultural and institutional backgrounds. They should be qualified to reflect critically on the nature and manner of dealing with problems at hand in planning and design. Last but not least the students should also be qualified to have a very strong awareness and sensitivity towards the political, social, environmental and ethical issues inherent in design work and the planning practice, as related to minority or -and disadvantaged urban communities, either formal or informal ones.

Extent and content of the programme

The Master's program in Urbanism Studies 60 credits consists of two terms of coursework and integrated master's degree project, together 1 full year of study. The coursework encompasses a substantial share of three studios and projects. All seven modules (courses) in the program are at advanced level and feed into the studios. The language of instruction is English only.

Eligibility and selection

The general admission requirement for masters programmes at KTH is a completed Bachelor's degree, equivalent to a Swedish Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS), or equivalent academic qualifications from an internationally recognized university. In addition, students have to meet following specific requirements:

- Bachelor's degree, or equivalent, in the field of architecture (B.Arch. or M. Arch.), or landscape architecture (B.L.A. or M.L.A.) or, urban design & physical planning (M.C.P., M.U.P.)
- A minimum of 30 ECTS is required either in Architecture, Physical Planning or Urban Design, and –or Landscape Architecture.
- Portfolio is compulsory and will be considered in the selection process.
- Admission to the program requires proficiency in English equivalent to the Swedish grade English B. Applicant must provide a proof of their proficiency in English.

Applicants who at the time of application have no degree certificate of at least 180 credits, may be granted conditional admission. Conditional admission granted if the above requirements of the degree are expected to be fulfilled by the time of registration. A Certificate from university /college,

proving that the student is enrolled in a study program which if completed will lead to the degree must accompany the notification.

Selection

The selection process is based on the following selection criteria: University, previous studies (for instance GPA, grades in specific subjects and English), motivation for the studies (for instance letter of motivation, references, thesis proposal and relevant work experience). The evaluation scale is 1-75.

Implementation of the education

Structure of the education

Studios

The aim for our studios is to foresee urban planning and design issues and problems that will be coming into the public focus in the near future. The academic year is based on four periods, following the KTH academic calendar, each defined by a studio container course that consists of multiple modules. Each module is run as a course, ranging from 3.0 - 7.5 credits and a final studio degree project. Studios act as the container for other modules that will feed into the studio project.

Modules – Shorter and medium courses that feed into the studio

A strong emphasis in the program will be advancing exploratory methods and tools in urban analysis – not only producing design solutions, but also critically analyzing urban design proposals. Modules prepare the students for main theme in each studio and equip them with the necessary tools and skills to complete the tasks given, as well as advancing seminal and contemporary theoretical knowledge and paradigms.

Reading Seminar Series and Urban Film Series

Reading seminars and urban film series make up a minor part of the content in each studio and will complement the focus of the studio and the semester theme. This is an extended integrated part of the program that stretches from Period 1 to Period 3.

Degree Project

Students are required to demonstrate a capacity for in-depth critical thinking through both research and design. This is done in the form of: Capstone Project –Final Integrated Studio, Degree Project 15 credits. This final degree project work is a unique composite project work synthesizing all of the results of previous course work into a final product that students can utilize as a portfolio of their studies. This final product is a “living book” of the accumulated knowledge from the beginning that

will act as an advanced postgraduate theoretical, strategic, and design portfolio. This Project also includes attention to Methodologies in Urban Design Research, Public Life Studies and Researching the City, plus a research seminar focused on degree project preparation.

Compulsory, recommended, and elective courses

All courses are compulsory as the nature of this program is an intensive and concise program designed around a one-year curriculum that is interconnected by a succession of learning, substitutions are not allowed.

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.

Information regarding the scale found in the curriculum.

Conditions for participation in the programme

A prerequisite for a students' participation in studies at KTH is that the student performs a course registration and semester registration for each semester.

Registration is done under the personal menu on the KTH:s webb page

Course registration is done by all students on the program www.antagning.se

Recognition of previous academic studies

Students are able to apply to receive credit for the results of the course/courses at another college/ university within the country or abroad.

For more information please refer to KTH's regulations in www.kth.se and program's student guidance counselling.

Studies abroad

Additionally the program has collaboration with ETH Zürich, UCL London and CED UC Berkeley, and other universities where students will spend some short time abroad.

Degree project

Capstone Project –Final Integrated Studio, Degree Project 15 ECTS credits. The final degree project is a unique composite project work synthesizing all of the results of previous course work into a final product that students can utilize as a portfolio of their studies. This final product is a “living book” of the accumulated knowledge from the beginning that will act as an advanced postgraduate theoretical, strategic, and design portfolio. This Project also includes attention to Methodologies in Urban Design Research, Public Life Studies and Researching the City, plus a research seminar focused on degree project preparation.

The thesis work is graded pass (P) or fail (F).

Degree

To obtain the master's degree students must have passed courses of at least 45 higher education credits, of which all the courses (mandatory) and a 15-credit degree project within the master program – Final Integrated Studio Degree Project.

The application for degree is done under the personal menu on KTH web page.

Appendix 1 - Course list

Appendix 2 - Programme syllabus descriptions



Appendix 1: Course list

Master's Programme, Urbanism Studies (TURSM)

General courses

Year 1

Mandatory courses (60.0 Credits)

Code	Name	Credits	Edu. level
AG2135	Challenges for Metropolitan Urban Regions	7.5 hp	Second cycle
AG2182	Histories and Contemporary Theories of Urban Form - Fundamentals of Urbanism	6.0 hp	Second cycle
AG2183	Public Life Studies and Tools for Urban Analysis	3.0 hp	Second cycle
AG2184	New Urban Sociology and Environmental Psychology for Urban Design	6.0 hp	Second cycle
AG2185	Higher Seminar in Public Places and Urban Spaces Studies	3.0 hp	Second cycle
AG2186	Nordic Studio- Designing Urban Public Places	7.5 hp	Second cycle
AG2187	Advanced Urbanism Studio- Urban Spaces of the City	6.0 hp	Second cycle
AG2188	International Placemaking Studio- Rethinking the Public Realm	6.0 hp	Second cycle
AG218X	Degree Project in Urban Studies, Second Cycle	15.0 hp	Second cycle



Appendix 2: Specialisations

Master's Programme, Urbanism Studies (TURSM)

This programme has no specialisations.