

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Master of Science in Urban Planning (Urban Planning stream)

(Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Programme (ADB-JSP) Applicant)

1. Applications are invited for admission in September 2025 to read for the degree of Master of Science in Urban Planning.
2. To be eligible for admission to the programmes, a candidate shall satisfy both the University Admissions Requirements and the Programme Specific Requirements:
 - (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
 - (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to high degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and
 - (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

3. The curriculum extends over two years of full-time study. The programme is fully recognised for membership purposes by the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, the Royal Town Planning Institute of the United Kingdom. Students specialized in transport planning are also recognized by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong.
4. The programme consists of two major components: a spatial planning component with core courses and studios in spatial, strategic and community planning; and a specialist planning component which allows students to develop an area of specialism in planning through the completion of optional courses and a dissertation that is directly related to the chosen area of specialization. The Department also organizes field trips as part of the programme. Please visit the Department's website at www.arch.hku.hk/upad for further information.
5. Applications for a taught postgraduate programme should be submitted via our on-line application system at <https://admissions.hku.hk/tpg/programme-list>.
6. The following are the eligibility requirements of the ADB-JSP:
 - Be a national of an eligible ADB borrowing member country* and Japanese ODA scholarship-eligible country.
 - Not hold dual citizenship of any developed country.
 - Have gained admission to an approved master's course at a Designated Institution.
 - Hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent with superior academic record.
 - Have at least two (2) years of full-time professional working experience (acquired after a university degree) at the time of application. Must have proficiency in oral and written English communication skills to be able to pursue studies.
 - Not be more than 35 years old at the time of application, unless waived in exceptional cases with the expressed endorsement of the Government of Japan.
 - Be in good health.
 - Agree to return and work in his/her home country for at least two (2) years after completion of studies under the Program in order to contribute to its development.

- Not be an Executive Directors, Alternate Directors, management, staff and consultants of ADB, or the close relatives of the aforementioned by blood or adoption with the term “close relative” defined as: spouse, mother, stepmother, father, stepfather, sister, stepsister, brother, stepbrother, son, daughter, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew.
 - Not be staff of DB-JSP Designated Institutions.
 - Not be living or working in a country other than his/her home country; and
 - not be already enrolled in graduate degree programs.
 - (<https://www.adb.org/site/careers/japan-scholarship-program/main>)
7. The closing date for application by ADB-JSP applicants is **12:00 noon (GMT+8), 28 January 2025.**
8. Successful applicants will be notified no later than July 2025.

** The eligible countries are:*

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

9. Interested applicants can join the Department’s Admissions Talk to be held on 23 November 2024 (Saturday) at 10:00 am (HKT) in Room 820, 8/F., Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong and via online Zoom at the same time. For registration to attend the admission talk, please register: https://hkuems1.hku.hk/hkuems/ec_hdetail.aspx?guest=Y&ueid=96668 on or before 12:00 noon, 22 November 2024 (Friday).

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The University of Hong Kong has not entered into any agreement or collaboration with any intermediary agencies for overseas studies in respect of a mechanism of “quota for direct admission”. Applicants are strongly advised not to engage any agency to submit an application or any application materials on their behalf. Applicants should prepare and submit their applications and supporting documents directly to HKU.

September 2024

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following are some frequently asked questions raised by potential applicants.

What are the admission requirements?

- A Bachelor's degree of The University of Hong Kong; or, an equivalent qualification from another university or comparable institution.
- As urban planning is a multi-disciplinary subject, we encourage applications from graduates in different fields of study.
- All ADB-JSP applicants and applicants who do not hold a degree from an institution using English as the language of instruction and/or examination are required to obtain a score of 550 or above (paper-based test) or 80 or above (new internet-based) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Those taking the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) should have a minimum overall band of 6 with no subtest lower than 5.5.

Who is eligible to apply for an Asian Development Bank scholarship?

- For details, please refer to ADB website at <http://www.adb.org/site/careers/japan-scholarship-program/main>.

Who can be nominated as professional referees?

- Friends and relatives' reference letters will not be considered.
- A professional referee should be the applicant's colleague who is in a senior position, and can comment on the applicant's professional ability.
- This senior person does not need to be in the field of planning.

Is it necessary for overseas students to attend an interview?

- Telephone or SKYPE interviews will be conducted with overseas applicants.

Are there field trips?

- Field trips are compulsory and will be organized by the Department to fulfill the academic requirements of the curriculum.

How can graduates become urban planners?

- Upon completion of the M.Sc. (Urban Planning), graduates satisfy the academic qualifications of the various accreditation institutions.
- A graduate normally needs at least two years of relevant working experience in the planning field before he/she is eligible to apply for full membership of the professional institutes.