

Department of Architecture and Design

Chairperson:	Musfy, Leila
Graduate Programs Coordinator:	Fawaz, Mona
Architecture Program Coordinator:	Najjar, Karim
Binladen Chair for Architecture in the Islamic World:	Damluji, Salma-Samar
Professors:	Al-Harithy, Howayda; Damluji, Salma-Samar; Harb, Mona; Musfy, Leila; Saliba, Robert
Associate Professors:	Fawaz, Mona; Ghaibeh, Lina; Najjar, Karim; Shorto, Sylvia
Assistant Professors:	Abbasy, Ghazal; Abedini, Reza; Aramouny, Carla; Gharbieh, Ahmad; Haddad, Rana; Yertzian, Aram
Visiting Assistant Professor:	Moukheiber, Carole
Senior Lecturers:	Alamuddin, Hana; Assi, Naji; Bou Akar, Hiba; Boyadjian, Rafi; Bustani, Yussef; Freiji, Mayda; Hassan, Sinan; Jamal, Sany; Kosermelli, Simone; Mallat, Bernard; Kadi, Salim; Nader, Karim; Nader, Marc; Samara, Rana
Lecturers:	Aboud, Rania; Apelian, Khajag; Azar, Samia; Hachem, Pascal; Imam, Hatem; Jundi, Moustapha; Nasrallah, Maha; Richani, Sandra; Saikali, Maya; Salem, Carla; Traboulsi, Jana; Youssef, Shawk; Zahreddine, Hassan
Instructors:	Berro, Maher; El-Khoury, Maroun; El Hage, Maie; Farah, Karim; Hayek, Joanna; Marcopoulos, Christos; Noureldine, Ahmad

Graduate Programs

- Master of Urban Design (MUD)
- Master of Urban Planning and Policy (MUPP)

General Information

The MUPP and MUD programs offer a first graduate degree to students interested in acquiring the necessary skills to tackle the challenges of contemporary urbanization while upholding the principles of livability, sustainability and equity. The programs prepare students to be highly qualified, well-rounded professionals who are able to address the multi-faceted issues of today's built environments, focusing especially on Lebanon and the region. The two-year curriculum combines theoretical and methodological seminar courses designed to secure a command of the tools of intellectual inquiry with hands-on studio courses articulated around real-life exercises. The training is multi-disciplinary and research-based. Through these

courses, students learn to analyze urban contexts and formulate interventions in the form of projects and/or policies.

Our graduates work in a wide range of positions, within the private, non-profit and less frequently, public sector. Most are occupying leading positions in the region where they have contributed to forwarding innovative and visionary ideas about the practices of planning and design.

Mission Statements

Master of Urban Design

The Master of Urban Design program aims to prepare highly qualified well-rounded professionals who are able to deal with the multi-faceted design challenges in today's urban environments in Lebanon and the region. The program emphasizes the mastery of the design tools necessary for the effective practice of urban design. Students are exposed to a multi-disciplinary understanding of contemporary urban challenges that trains them to position the design profession amidst other professions of the city. They learn to integrate design tools with policy strategies and institutional analysis. The Master of Urban Design has adopted the studio-based approach to professional education as the main context of learning. The program accepts university graduates and practitioners from design fields and prepares them to occupy leading professional roles in design and planning firms and in public and non-profit agencies.

Master of Urban Planning and Policy

The Masters in Urban Planning and Policy program aims to prepare highly qualified, well-rounded professionals who are able to address the multi-faceted issues of urban planning and policymaking in today's urban environments in Lebanon and the region. The program is designed to provide a broad professional education in urban planning. Emphasis is placed on the development of multi-disciplinary analytical skills necessary to address contemporary urbanization as well as the mastery of the tools and approaches adopted in the contemporary practice of urban planning and policymaking. The program guides students in defining a specific area of expertise within the wider practice of urban planning and in locating their expertise in relation to other professions of the city. The program welcomes university graduates with professional degrees and/or degrees in the social sciences and prepares them to occupy leading professional roles in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Program Structure and Agenda

Each of the two graduate programs spans over two years of full-time enrollment. The MUPP track requires students to take a total of 30 credits with 9 credits of them in a sub-discipline of specialization where planning and policymaking skills are applied and 6 credits in applied studio format. The MUD track requires students to take a total of 33 credits having 12 of them in applied design studios. The two tracks share a common core of 21 credits consisting of three core courses (Research Methods, Planning Theory and Policy, and Urbanism), one planning/design workshop, and a six-credit final thesis. The thesis is research-based and aims at

generating innovative ways of thinking and understanding the context of urban and regional planning and design practice. In addition, all students enrolled in the MUPP/MUD programs are required to register for the 0-credit “City Debates” seminar at least twice during their university enrollment.

Common Core MUPP/MUD

URPL	630	Research Methods	3
URPL	631	Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy	3
URPL	632	Urbanism	3
URPL/ URDS	661 601	Planning and Design Workshop	6
URPL	660	City Debates Seminar	0
URPL/ URDS	662 603	Comprehensive Exam in Field	0
URPL/ URDS	663 604	Thesis in Field	6
			Total 21

MUPP Courses

MUPP students are required to take three courses (9 credits) in a field of applied social science or engineering (such as sociology, economics, public administration, civil or environmental engineering) leading toward a concentration area such as urban policy, community development, transportation, labor, housing, or environmental sustainability. Other options may be agreed upon with the MUPP/MUD academic advisor.

Three courses in area of concentration	9
Total 9	

MUD Courses

MUD students are required to take one design studio and two approved electives (12 credits).

URDS	602	Urban and Landscape Design Studio	6
Two approved electives			6
			Total 12

Program Agenda

The typical course load for the Urban Planning and Policy and Urban Design tracks is normally distributed over two years as shown below. Course distribution is subject to the approval of the academic advisor.



Urban Planning and Policy

First Year

Fall Semester			Credits
URPL	631	Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy	3
		One Concentration Area Elective	3
			Total 6
Spring Semester			Credits
URPL	632	Urbanism	3
URPL	630	Research Methods	3
		One Concentration Area Elective	3
URPL	660	City Debates Seminar	0
			Total 9

Second Year

Fall Semester			Credits
URPL	661	Planning and Design Workshop	6
		One Concentration Area Elective	3
URPL	662	Comprehensive Exam in the Field	0
			Total 9
Spring Semester			Credits
URPL	663	Urban Planning Thesis	6
URPL	660	City Debates Seminar	0
			Total 6

Urban Design

First Year

Fall Semester			Credits
URPL	631	Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy	3
		One Area Elective	3
			Total 6
Spring Semester			Credits
URDS	601	Urban and Landscape Design Studio	6
URPL	632	Urbanism	3
URPL	660	City Debates Seminar	0
			Total 9

Second Year

Fall Semester			Credits
URDS	602	Planning and Design Workshop	6
		One Approved Elective	3
			Total 9
Spring Semester			Credits
URPL	660	City Debates Seminar	0
URPL	630	Research Methods	3
URDS	603	Comprehensive Exam in the Field	0
URDS	604	Urban Design Thesis	6
			Total 9

Admission Qualifications

Applicants who meet all of the AUB and SFEA regulations governing admission to graduate study, including acceptable AUB English Language Proficiency requirements (refer to the English Language Proficiency Requirements ELPR page 40), and who hold the equivalent of an undergraduate degree in architecture, landscape architecture, environmental design, urban or regional planning, engineering, public health, economics, public administration, sociology, or other social science degree, may be admitted to the Master of Urban Planning and Policy Program as regular graduate students.

Applicants who meet all of the AUB and SFEA requirements governing admission to graduate study, including acceptable AUB English Language Proficiency requirements (refer to the English Language Proficiency Requirements ELPR page 40), and who hold the equivalent of a professional Bachelor of Architecture or a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree, may be admitted to the Master of Urban Design Program as graduate students.

Course Descriptions

Mandatory Core Courses

Each of the following courses is required for MUPP/MUD students. Non-majors must secure the approval of the program advisor and the instructor concerned to enroll in any of the courses listed below.

URDS 601 Planning and Design Workshop 6 cr.
 This course seeks to introduce students to the actual practice of urban planning and design. It engages them in a cyclical process of documenting and analyzing a real-life setting, “framing” issues to be addressed (problems and assets), in a multi-disciplinary way, conceptualizing, formulating and developing interventions that work across small and large scales. Students become familiar with local planning tools and learn how to borrow and adapt experiences and approaches developed elsewhere. They also learn how to work in multi-disciplinary teams, to talk across the various disciplines of design and planning (e.g. landscaping, traffic, land use), and to translate and communicate their ideas to stakeholders. The course is open only to students enrolled in the MUPP/MUD programs.



URDS 602 Urban and Landscape Design Studio 6 cr.

The aim of this course is to build on students' knowledge and skills for improving the quality of the physical urban environment, and reinforcing the identity of place through design intervention. Students investigate a selected study area in terms of its morphological evolution and unique physical features, alongside a clear reading of the social, institutional, and economic dynamics impacting urban form. Through a critical assessment of development and planning processes, students articulate a set of design guidelines on sector, subsector and block levels. The outcome consists of scale drawings and 3D representations with an explicative written report emphasizing design problematic, methodology, recommendations and implementation framework.

URDS 603 Comprehensive Exam 0 cr.

This course is 0 credit; Grading Mode: Pass/Fail; Type: Urban Design Comprehensive Exam.

URDS 604 Urban Design Thesis 6 cr.

Supervised research and design is conducted individually by the student leading first to a thesis proposal approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and culminating in a final thesis in urban design. A thesis is expected to test either an approach/tool in the local context or inform a conception/theorization of a particular planning and/or design issue on the basis of a grounded investigation. All theses need to lead to practical recommendations and/or a well-formulated proposal for an intervention that qualify them as contributions to the field of urban design.

URPL 630 Research Methods 3 cr.

This course trains students to developing the research skills needed for the practice of urban planning and design. It takes them through the process of formulating and elaborating the research required for grounding and guiding their planning of design thesis proposal. Students learn to identify an issue characterizing a particular urban condition and to problematize this issue vis-à-vis a relevant conceptual frameworks. They are introduced to research design and to qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry. Students also learn to analyze the data and articulate substantiated findings on the basis of which urban planning, policy and/or design goals, guidelines and strategies can be formulated.

URPL 631 Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy 3 cr.

This course is designed to introduce students enrolled in the urban design or urban planning and policy programs to current debates and practices in the field of urban planning and design in lower income countries. It looks at how, where, and by whom interventions in the city are being generated and how the goals of such interventions have evolved over the past decades. The course is conducted in seminar format where students learn to discuss and interpret approaches and test their applicability to the local and regional context of the Middle East. Special value is placed on allowing students to articulate their own positions as future professional urban planners and/or urban designers.

URPL 632 Urbanism 3 cr.

This is an introductory course to contemporary debates in the field of urban studies within the social sciences and their implications for the practices of architecture, urban design and urban planning. Special emphasis is placed on understanding processes of place making (that is looking at the forces behind the production of space) and the influence of place on its dwellers (that is seeing how places/spaces influence/dictate how people act). Course readings and class discussions will pay particular attention to the relevance of these theoretical

URPL 666 Transportation Planning and Policy**3 cr.**

The course focuses on transportation policy and planning for transportation facilities and services as well as the interaction between transportation and built, natural, and social environments. The course's intent is to provide students with the necessary knowledge for analyzing transportation problems in the field, as well as the policy framework for examining the broader social, economic, and environmental implications of alternative transportation planning decisions. The course discusses policy making and policy instruments, considers alternative institutional arrangements for policy development and implementation, and evaluates the efficacy of different policy interventions. The interaction between technical analysis and policy making is also addressed.

URPL 668/ Heritage Management Policies**3 cr.**

The course explores how different threads of professional practice can be engaged in heritage protection, valuation, and administration. It examines the different stakeholders and their roles in heritage preservation, ranging from local authorities, antiquities departments, the courts, local businesses, NGOs, regional and international organizations, UNESCO, etc. The course focuses on regulatory framework and tools of urban heritage preservation; economic and social valuation of urban heritage; site management and integrated approaches; as well as the role and agency of different stakeholders, and negotiation frameworks.

URDS 624 Hybrid Beirut: Morphogenesis of the Contemporary City**3 cr.**

Looking East and West, Beirut has developed its own response to early modernization through the assimilation of Western urban models and architectural trends. The resulting cultural hybridity and townscape diversity can only be understood by exploring the transitional years of the city formation and transformation from a medieval Arab-Islamic town in the 1840s to a showcase of the French Mandate in the Levant in the 1920s and 30s. This course is an attempt to read contemporary Beirut through its recent colonial past, and to trace the continuity and change in its social, economic and cultural conditions, as mirrored in the urban structure and building typologies.

URDS 632 From Urban Design to Landscape Urbanism**3 cr.**

This course explores the changing conception of city space examining the shifts in environmental design theory and practice from the 1970s until now. The class covers the foundation of urban design as a traditional discipline while opening up to emerging design ideologies and tactics in response to contemporary urban mutations. The course will appeal to students in architecture, landscape architecture and physical planning who are interested in crossing the boundaries between disciplines and exploring new potentialities in design thinking.

URDS 664 Ecological Landscape Design and Planning**3 cr.**

The course which is an introduction to the theory and methodology of ecological landscape design and planning, aims to introduce the holistic approach of landscape ecology and its application to the sustainable management of natural and cultural landscapes/ecosystems. The course syllabus is planned to prioritize Mediterranean ecosystems and landscapes and equally to promote interdisciplinary collaboration in research and project management.