

Department of Architecture and Design

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Professors:	Al-Harithy, Howayda; Damluji, Salma-Samar; Fawaz, Mona; Harb, Mona; Musfy, Leila; Saliba, Robert
Associate Professors:	Abedini, Reza; Abunnasr, Yaser; Ghaibeh, Lina; Kilinc, Kivanc; Najjar, Karim
Assistant Professors:	Abbasy, Ghazal; Alamuddine, Ibrahim; Aramouny, Carla; Gharbieh, Ahmad; Haddad, Rana; Khoury, Yara; Mismar, Omar; Yerezian, Aram
Visiting Assistant Professor:	Acikgoz, Umit; Nouredine, Ahmad
Adjunct Professors:	Farhat, Ramzi; Yazigi, Serge
Senior Lecturers:	Al Abed, Zeina; Al-Kadi, Makram; Boyadjian, Rafi; Freiji, Mayda; Genz, Bettina; Hassan, Sinan; Hayek, Joanne; Jamal, Sany; Kadi, Salim; Kosermelli, Simone; Makhzoumi, Jala; Mallat, Bernard; Nader, Karim; Nader, Marc; Samara, Rana
Lecturers:	Abi Hanna, Ghita; Baz, Joan; Apelian, Khajag; Azar, Samia; Bastormagi, Etienne; Bou Nasr, Roland; Fares, Alia; De Maussion, Sabine; El Rouss, Anastasia; Fayad, Nicolas; Frem, Sandra; Hachem, Pascal; Imam, Hatem; Jazairly, Aya; Kanaan, Joy; Kraftt, Cornelia; Majzoub, Raafat; Nasrallah, Maha; Richani, Sandra; Saikali, Maya; Salem, Carla; Salameh, Ghassan; Sinno, Tarek; Youssef, Shawki; Zahreddine, Hassan; Zahzah, Abdul-Rahman
Instructors:	Berro, Maher; Farah, Karim; Kanaan, Mohamad; Mezher, Fouad; Saber, Romy
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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 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 multidisciplinary 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 occupy 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 at preparing highly qualified, well-rounded professionals who are able to deal with the multifaceted design challenges in today's urban environments in Lebanon and the region. The program emphasizes mastery of the design tools necessary for the effective practice of urban design. Students are exposed to a multidisciplinary understanding of contemporary urban challenges that trains them to position the design profession amidst other city professions. 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 Master of Urban Planning and Policy program aims to prepare highly qualified, well-rounded professionals who are able to address the multifaceted 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 multidisciplinary analytical skills necessary to address contemporary urbanization as well as 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 city professions. 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 two years of full-time enrollment. The MUPP track requires students to take a total of 30 credits of which 9 are to be taken in a sub-discipline of specialization where planning and policymaking skills are applied and 6 in applied studio format. The MUD track requires students to take a total of 33 credits of which 12 are to be taken 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 6-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

MUPP Courses

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

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 approval of the academic advisor.

Urban Planning and Policy

First Year

Fall term		Credits
URPL 631	Introduction to Planning Theory and Policy	3
	One Concentration Area Elective	3
		Total 6
Spring term		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 term		Credits
URPL 661	Planning and Design Workshop	6
	One Concentration Area Elective	3
URPL 662	Comprehensive Exam in the Field	0
		Total 9
Spring term		Credits
URPL 663	Urban Planning Thesis	6
URPL 660	City Debates Seminar	0
		Total 6

Urban Design

First Year

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

Second Year

Fall term		Credits
URDS 602	Planning and Design Workshop	6
	One Approved Elective	3
		Total 9
Spring term		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 the AUB and MSFEA regulations governing admission to graduate study, including acceptable AUB Readiness for University Studies in English (refer to the Readiness for University Studies in English (RUSE) page 44), 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 the AUB and MSFEA requirements governing admission to graduate study, including acceptable AUB Readiness for University Studies in English (RUSE) (refer to the Readiness for University Studies in English (RUSE) page 44), 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.

The Department of Architecture and Design may recommend waiving up to nine credits of course work for students who have completed a Bachelor of Architecture degree and are applying for admission to the Master of Urban Planning and Policy or the Master of Urban Design programs.

The Department of Architecture and Design may further recommend waiving up to six credits of coursework for students who have completed a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree and are applying for admission to the Master of Urban Planning and Policy or the Master of Urban Design programs. The Department of Architecture and Design may also recommend waiving up to six credits of coursework for students who have completed a Bachelor of Engineering degree and are applying for admission to the Master of Urban Planning and Policy program. Waiving of credits is subject to approval by the program coordinator, chairperson, and the MSFEA Graduate Studies Committee. To apply, the student must have completed the advanced courses with a grade of at least B+ or 80 or equivalent.

Course Descriptions

Mandatory Core Courses

Each of the following courses is required for MUPP/MUD students. Non-majors must secure 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 multidisciplinary way; and 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 multidisciplinary teams, talk across the various disciplines of design and planning (e.g. landscaping, traffic, land use), and 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 is a 0-credit course. 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

URPL 660 City Debates Seminar 0 cr.
 The yearly seminar titled City Debates addresses various urban issues. In particular, it tackles ongoing planning and design concerns from a multidisciplinary perspective related to Lebanon's post-war development in its regional context. *Spring term. Annually.*

URPL 661 Planning and Design Workshop 6 cr.
 See description of URDS 601.

URPL 662 Comprehensive Exam 0 cr.
 This is a 0-credit course. Grading mode: Pass/Fail; Type: Planning Comprehensive Exam.

URPL 663 Planning Thesis 6 cr.
 Supervised research conducted individually by the student leading to a thesis proposal approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and culminating in a final thesis in urban planning and policy. A thesis is expected to build on a real case study context, and either test an approach/tool in the local context or inform a conception/theorization of a particular planning and/or design issue on the basis of grounded investigation. All theses need to lead to practical recommendations and/or a well-formulated proposal for an intervention that can be qualified as contributions to the fields of urban planning and policy.

Elective Courses

MUPP/MUD elective courses are open to graduates and senior undergraduates from all AUB departments.

URPL 621 Urban Form and Transformation 3 cr.
 The course examines the formation and transformation of cities through the analysis of their urban fabrics in terms of buildings, lots, blocks and streets, and their dynamic relationship through space and time. Students are exposed to the theories and methods of typo- morphological analysis as a bridge between architecture and urban design. The goal is to build their ability to understand urban physical layouts and structures and to explain their underlying shaping processes. The course concludes by considering ways in which this operational knowledge of urban form contributes to the practice of physical planners and designers through the investigation of case studies.

URPL 623 Urban Economics 3 cr.
 The course introduces students to the analytical tools necessary for study of the development and growth of urban areas as well as the analysis of specific urban issues such as pollution, housing, land use and public transportation. The course places special emphasis on the national and regional contexts.

**URPL 637/
ARCH 036 Illegal Cities 3 cr.**
 This seminar is designed as an introduction for students enrolled in Architecture, Urban Planning and Policy, and Urban Design to the ongoing debates about the relationship between law and the building process, specifically looking at its actual materialization in illegal/informal settlements. The course is based on a combination of lecture/seminar sessions in which various theorizations of the city/law nexus are explored and on field studies/class discussions in which the applications of these theories are investigated using a local case study.

URPL 641 Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis 3 cr.
for Planning and Architecture

This course offers an introduction to geographic information systems (GIS) as applied to urban and regional planning, community development and local government. Emphasis is placed on learning GIS technology and spatial analysis techniques through extensive hands-on exercises using real-world data sets, such as the census of population and housing. The course includes a small project on an urban planning problem involving the selection of appropriate methods, the use of primary and secondary data, computer-based modeling and spatial analysis.

URPL 664 Urban Land Use Planning 3 cr.

This course examines the theory and practice of land use planning as it has developed within the wider practice and theorization of planning. The course explores ways in which land use controls have been developed and managed in different institutional and regional contexts, unraveling the different conceptualizations of planning that support each of them. Special emphasis is placed on the case of Lebanon where the practice of land use planning is explored through a detailed introduction to planning institutions, agencies and regulations.

URPL 665/ Development and Planning Policies 3 cr.
ARCH 062

The course examines local and regional development and spatial planning projects and policies. It investigates policy governance and institutional setup of projects, the role of professional expertise, as well as spatial impacts, socio-economic and political impacts on cities and regions. Using case-study analysis, students learn how the built environment's growth and development is being managed across different contexts by a constellation of stakeholders negotiating conflicting interests, often yielding unequally distributed benefits and costs.

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.

**URDS624 / Hybrid Beirut: Morphogenesis of the Contemporary City 3 cr.
ARCH024**

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.