Urban Design

The Master of Urban Design (MUD) degree program is a one-year, advanced, interdisciplinary program of study for students with a prior professional degree in architecture, landscape architecture, or city and regional planning. The program's goals are to further train designers who are able to work effectively in teams across a large range of scales and who have a well-developed understanding of urban places and the interdependencies of the fabric of buildings, landscapes, public ways, and the social interactions that shape them.

The Program in the Design of Urban Places, leading to the Master of Urban Design degree, is a unique, interdisciplinary program of advanced study in which exceptional architects, landscape architects, and planners holding professional degrees partake of an intense, focused learning experience of 12 months' duration. Students share working methods, acquire additional skills, and explore new avenues of development under the supervision of an interdisciplinary group of faculty members in the College of Environmental Design drawn from the Departments of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, and City and Regional Planning.

The program addresses the need for professionals who are specifically concerned with the design of varied urban areas open to public use. The activities of urban design are diverse in both type and scale. Urban designers may be concerned with settlement patterns in urbanizing areas, town layout, the restructuring of inner cities, and the design of streets and open spaces, buildings, and landscape patterns that establish neighborhoods and provide the settings for public life. They may shape the form and space of specific places such as civic or shopping centers, or they may design citywide systems such as streets, lighting, signing, greenways, or bicycle and pedestrian ways. They may work on infill in older towns and cities, or they may prepare plans, guidelines, or standards to manage extensive new development at the metropolitan growth edge.

Admission to the University

Uniform minimum requirements for admission

The following minimum requirements apply to all programs and will be verified by the Graduate Division:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A minimum grade-point average of B or better (3.0);
3. If the applicant comes from a country or political entity (e.g. Quebec) where English is not the official language, adequate proficiency in English to do graduate work, as evidenced by a TOEFL score of at least 570 on the paper-and-pencil test, 230 on the computer-based test, 90 on the iBT test, or an IELTS Band score of at least 7 (note that individual programs may set higher levels for any of these); and
4. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in the given field.

Applicants who already hold a graduate degree

The Graduate Council views academic degrees as evidence of broad research training, not as vocational training certificates; therefore, applicants who already have academic graduate degrees should be able to take up new subject matter on a serious level without undertaking a graduate program, unless the fields are completely dissimilar.

Programs may consider students for an additional academic master's or professional master's degree if the additional degree is in a distinctly different field.

Applicants admitted to a doctoral program that requires a master's degree to be earned at Berkeley as a prerequisite (even though the applicant already has a master's degree from another institution in the same or a closely allied field of study) will be permitted to undertake the second master's degree, despite the overlap in field.

The Graduate Division will admit students for a second doctoral degree only if they meet the following guidelines:

1. Applicants with doctoral degrees may be admitted for an additional doctoral degree only if that degree program is in a general area of knowledge distinctly different from the field in which they earned their original degree. For example, a physics PhD could be admitted to a doctoral degree program in music or history; however, a student with a doctoral degree in mathematics would not be permitted to add a PhD in statistics.
2. Applicants who hold the PhD degree may be admitted to a professional doctorate or professional master's degree program if there is no duplication of training involved.

Applicants may only apply to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission cycle.

Any applicant who was previously registered at Berkeley as a graduate student, no matter how briefly, must apply for readmission, not admission, even if the new application is to a different program.

Required documents for admissions applications

1. **Transcripts:** Upload unofficial transcripts with the application for the departmental initial review. Official transcripts of all college-level work will be required **if admitted**. Official transcripts must be in sealed envelopes as issued by the school(s) you have attended. Request a current transcript from every post-secondary school that you have attended, including community colleges, summer sessions, and extension programs.
   If you have attended Berkeley, upload unofficial transcript with the application for the departmental initial review. Official transcript with evidence of degree conferral **will not** be required if admitted.

2. **Letters of recommendation:** Applicants can request online letters of recommendation through the online application system. Hard copies of recommendation letters must be sent directly to the program, not the Graduate Division.

3. **Evidence of English language proficiency:** All applicants from countries in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This requirement applies to applicants from Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Latin America, the Middle East, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, and most European countries. However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a U.S. university may submit an official transcript from the U.S. university to fulfill this requirement. The following courses will not fulfill this requirement: 1) courses in English as a Second Language, 2) courses conducted in a language other than English, 3) courses that will be completed

after the application is submitted, and 4) courses of a non-academic nature. If applicants have previously been denied admission to Berkeley on the basis of their English language proficiency, they must submit new test scores that meet the current minimum from one of the standardized tests.

Admission to the Program

1. A prior professional degree in architecture (BArch or MArch), landscape architecture (BLA or MLA), or city and regional planning (MCP, MUP with a strong design background)
2. Evidence of high-quality academic and professional work, including GRE and minimum TOEFL/IELTS score requirements
3. Two years of professional experience after completion of the professional degree is recommended but not required. Applicants will be evaluated based on the quality of their work.
4. Recommended: A course in history/theory of urban form (comparable to CY PLAN 240). Students without this course will be expected to enroll in CY PLAN 240 during the program.

Curriculum

Courses Required

ENV DES 201	Urban Places Advanced Design Studio	5
ENV DES 251	Discourse and Methods in Contemporary Urban Design	1,3
CY PLAN 298	Group Studies	1-3
ENV DES 252	Urban Place Studies	3
ENV DES 253	Urban Places Thesis Studio	4
Studio Elective		
Methods Elective		
Elective in urban design history or theory		
Eectives relevant to thesis topic per approved study list		

Urban Design

ENV DES 201 Urban Places Advanced Design Studio 5 Units
An intensive studio involving collaborative work on problems that are large in scope, yet require attention to spatial organization and design details.
The studio course is offered each fall semester and required for incoming graduate students in the Master of Urban Design Program (MUD).
The course is also open to College of Environmental Design graduate students of advanced standing in the Master of City Planning Program/ Urban Design Concentration, the Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture Programs.
Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Students enrolled in the Master of Urban Design program have priority. Others welcome with consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar and 5 hours of studio per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Environmental Design/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

ENV DES 251 Discourse and Methods in Contemporary Urban Design 1 or 3 Units
The course is the first of three courses (ED251, ED252, ED253) directed toward the development of research and design proposals that advance the field of urban design. As the first course in the sequence, ED251 introduces topics and research methods in contemporary urban design. There is a lecture component (Section 1) that is open to the College and campus. Graduate students preparing for theses and professional reports in urban design will enroll in Section 2, which includes attending the lectures as well as a seminar that expands on the lecture topics by exploring various research and design methodologies.
Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: The one unit section is open to all students. The three unit section is for students enrolled in the Master of Urban Design program or those who have obtained the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Environmental Design/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

ENV DES 252 Urban Place Studies 3 Units
Seminar focuses on individual urban design interests, the design
and research work that students are pursuing in other courses, and
development of thesis or final design projects.
Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Students must be in the Master of Urban Design program
or obtain consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Environmental Design/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Southworth

ENV DES 253 Urban Places Thesis Studio 4 Units
A studio for Masters of Urban Design students aimed to support students
during the final months of their thesis work. Faculty will hold bi-weekly
individual desk critiques of student work and organize preliminary reviews
to outside reviewers in preparation of the final review scheduled during
the late August orientation week.
Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 252

Hours & Format

Summer: 10 weeks - 3 hours of seminar and 7 hours of studio per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Environmental Design/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

ENV DES 298 Environmental Design Group Studies 1 - 4 Units
Topics to be announced at the beginning of each semester.
Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be
repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:
4 weeks - 4-14 hours of directed group study per week
15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Environmental Design/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.