

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF ARTS IN TRANSPORT POLICY AND PLANNING  
MA(TranspPol&Plan)**

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)*

*These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Arts in Transport Policy and Planning in the academic year 2017-18 and thereafter.*

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

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**Admission requirements**

MAT 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Transport Policy and Planning, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall hold
  - (i) a Bachelor's degree of this University or
  - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose<sup>1</sup>;
- (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 higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b); and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

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**Qualifying examination**

MAT 2.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
- (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.

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**Award of degree**

MAT 3. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Transport Policy and Planning, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
- (b) shall complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

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<sup>1</sup> Qualifications which are accepted include the Chartered Membership of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Hong Kong).

## **Period of study**

MAT 4. The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year for full-time study or two academic years for the two-year part-time study or three academic years for the three-year part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three academic years for full-time study, or four academic years for the two-year part-time study, or five academic years for the three-year part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

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## **Completion of curriculum**

MAT 5. To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (b) shall complete 7 compulsory courses, 2 elective courses and a dissertation as prescribed in the syllabuses;
  - (c) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
  - (d) shall participate and present research findings in the MATPP dissertation seminar series;
  - (e) shall complete and present a satisfactory dissertation on a subject within their approved field of study; and
  - (f) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.
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## **Dissertation**

MAT 6. Subject to the provisions of Regulation MAT 5(e)

- (a) for the full-time study, the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than December 1 of that academic year;
  - (b) for the part-time study, the title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval not later than December 1 in the candidates' final year of study; and
  - (c) both full-time and part-time candidates shall submit a statement declaring that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.
  - (d) Except with prior approval from the Head of Department of Geography, students who are unable to submit the dissertation title by December 1 will not be allowed to do presentation in the Dissertation Seminar to be held in the second semester.
  - (e) Except with prior approval from the Head of Department of Geography, students who are absent from OR unable to do presentation in the Dissertation Seminar will not be permitted to submit their dissertation for assessment purpose.
  - (f) Application for extension of dissertation submission deadline, with supporting reasons, should be made by writing to the Head of Department of Geography at least 1 month before the submission deadline. The recommendation of the Head of Department of Geography on the application would be considered by the Higher Social Sciences Degrees Committee and the Board of the Faculty.
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## Course selection

### MAT 7.

- (a) To complete the curriculum, candidates (full-time or part-time) are required to complete not less than 72 credits, including 7 compulsory courses, 2 elective courses and a dissertation (equivalent to 3 courses).
  - (b) For the 2-year part-time study, candidates are required to take at least 4 and not more than 6 courses (compulsory and elective) in the first year of study, and the remaining courses in the final year of study.
  - (c) For the 3-year part-time study, candidates are required to take at least 3 and not more than 5 courses (compulsory and elective) in each of the first and second years of study, and the remaining courses in the final year of study.
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## Assessment

MAT 8. Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

MAT 9. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MAT 10. Candidates who

- (a) have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than two courses, not including the dissertation, in an academic year may be permitted to repeat the failed course(s) by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments;
- (b) have presented an unsatisfactory dissertation may be permitted to revise and re-present the dissertation within a specified period of not less than two months and not more than twelve months after receipt of a notice that it is unsatisfactory.

MAT 11. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves for a supplementary examination of the same course, which shall be held at a time to be determined by the Board of Examiners. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the supplementary examination shall be required to repeat the failed course.

MAT 12. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MAT 13. Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to repeat any failed course(s) or to revise and re-present their failed dissertation ; or
  - (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners at a second attempt in any failed course(s) or their dissertation; or
  - (c) have failed to satisfy the examiners in three or more courses, not including the dissertation, in an academic year; or
  - (d) have exceeded the maximum period of registration
- may be required to discontinue their studies.
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## Grading system

MAT 14. Individual courses shall be graded according to the following grading system:

<i>Grade</i>		<i>Standard</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>
A+	}	Excellent	4.3
A			4.0
A-			3.7
B+	}	Good	3.3
B			3.0
B-			2.7
C+	}	Satisfactory	2.3
C			2.0
C-			1.7
D+	}	Pass	1.3
D			1.0
F		Fail	0

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## Classification of awards

MAT 15. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

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## SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN TRANSPORT POLICY AND PLANNING

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### PURPOSE

The curriculum aims at providing the expanding transport sector in Hong Kong with a steady supply of well-trained professionals at the executive level, as well as providing training for graduates aspiring to pursue careers in the transport field. The curriculum offers those already working in the sector opportunities for updating themselves with the latest developments in transport studies. Graduates of this programme will be exempted automatically from the examination requirements leading to the qualification of Chartered Membership of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Hong Kong) - CMILT.

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## CURRICULUM

Coursework teaching conforms to the dates of semesters of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Examinations will be held at the end of the semester in which the courses are offered. To complete the curriculum, candidates shall successfully complete 7 compulsory courses (6 credits each), 2 elective courses (6 credits each) and a capstone experience dissertation course (18 credits), with a total of 72 credits.

### *Compulsory Courses*

Students shall complete all of the following seven courses:

- GEOG7001. Survey and data analysis in transport studies (6 credits)
- GEOG7002. Transport and development (6 credits)
- GEOG7006. Engineering for transport systems (6 credits)
- GEOG7007. Analysis, modelling and project appraisal in transportation (6 credits)
- GEOG7011. Research methods in transport studies (6 credits)
- URBP6123. Public transport systems (6 credits)
- URBP6131. Transport policy and planning (6 credits)

### *Elective Courses*

Students shall complete two of the following courses:

- ARCH6104. Urban development and the physical environment (6 credits)
- ARCH7060. Urban design theories and principles (6 credits)
- GEOG7003. Transport economics (6 credits)
- GEOG7009. Transport logistics planning and services management (6 credits)
- GEOG7010. Transport law and management (6 credits)
- GEOG7012. Transport field trip (6 credits)
- GEOG7014. GIS in transport planning and management (6 credits)
- IELM6045. Global operations logistics (6 credits)

### *Capstone Experience Course (Compulsory)*

Candidates shall complete the following capstone experience course:

- GEOG7013. MATPP dissertation (equivalent to 3 courses 18 credits)

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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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### *Compulsory Courses*

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#### **GEOG7001. Survey and data analysis in transport studies (6 credits)**

Surveys are commonly used to collect useful data in transport studies. A myriad of survey methods and instruments are available. This course covers the major aspects including survey design, sampling, hypothesis testing, interview and questionnaire design, survey implementation and administration, computer-based data processing, analysis and retrieval and report writing. Different aspects of surveys are discussed with reference to the transport-related professions and disciplines in different political and socio-economic contexts. Examples include internet-based surveys, travel characteristics, origin-destination, freight and public transport surveys conducted in Hong Kong and the other parts of the world. The applications of geographic information system (GIS) and the potential of leveraging on big data in transport studies are introduced.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **GEOG7002. Transport and development (6 credits)**

This course introduces the interrelation of, and interaction between the transport system and development at global, national, regional and local levels. Topics with reference to the development theories and the elements of sustainable development are covered. In addition, the impact of transport development on spatial organization and the significance of integrating transport with land use planning are presented. Furthermore, the influence of technological advancement on transport operation and the implications of political activities on transport decisions are discussed.

Assessment: 30% coursework, 70% examination.

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### **GEOG7006. Engineering for transport systems (6 credits)**

This course provides the students an engineering appreciation of the transport systems, including planning, policy formulation, design, implementation and operation. It covers both the theoretical frameworks and practical international examples under various topics in transportation engineering. Key aspects of transport infrastructure development, choice of transportation systems, fixed track systems, road safety, application of technology in transport etc. will be presented.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

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### **GEOG7007. Analysis, modelling and project appraisal in transportation (6 credits)**

This course introduces students with case studies to various practical travel demand modelling and project appraisal techniques developed for and employed in the transportation sector. The first section covers demand modeling to study travel behaviour and discusses the role and limitations of model application in the transport planning process. The basic concepts, structures and assumptions of traffic generation, distribution, modal split and traffic assignment modelling are discussed. The second section covers appraisal principles, methods and procedure of transport projects. Cost-benefit analysis will be discussed when actual transport projects are assessed with focus on financial aspect. The emphasis of the course is on the application of the techniques in real cases from Hong Kong and the world. The course will enable students to understand the theories and techniques and do some exercises either individually or in a group in the subjects.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **GEOG7011. Research methods in transport studies (6 credits)**

This course supports students to prepare the MA in Transport Policy and Planning Dissertation and provides opportunities to students to hear and discuss the latest developments in the transport-related field. The first component consists of regular meetings with the course teachers to facilitate the successful development of the MATPP dissertation. Students may be required to deliver oral and written presentations on their research/dissertation proposals at the end. This component must be taken concurrently with the dissertation. The second component consists of a series of guest speakers' seminars. Scholars and practitioners in the transport and logistics field will be invited to give seminars. Students are required to attend a total of 4 lectures on the first component scheduled in the first semester, and no less than 4 guest speakers' seminars in their entire period of study. An attendance sheet will have to be signed for each seminar.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**URBP6123. Public transport systems (6 credits)**

This course is designed to examine the nature and the role of public transport systems mainly in the urban context with special reference to high density development. Topics include the nature and the characteristics of passenger transport, the operation and management of public transit systems, deregulation and privatization, the role of para-transit, and multi-modal cooperation and competition. Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**URBP6131. Transport policy and planning (6 credits)**

This course focuses on key issues in transport policy and the implementation of transport plans and programmes. It examines the role of private and public modes within the overall urban transport system as well as pedestrian movement planning, airport development and seaport development. The course uses examples drawn from various countries to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of alternative policies and implementation mechanisms. Assessment: 100% coursework.

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***Elective Courses***

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**ARCH6104. Urban development and the physical environment (6 credits)**

The course offers a synoptic introduction of the interaction of the physical environment with social, economic, cultural, and political considerations in urban design. Topics covered include site planning; physical environmental assessment methods; sustainable design and development; ecology and aesthetics of landscaping; transport infrastructure for urban and rural development; and planning standards and environmental performance criteria. It also focuses on the social, economic, cultural and regulatory mechanisms which shape the built environment. Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**ARCH7060. Urban design theories and principles (6 credits)**

This course is an introduction to the subject area of urban design, within the broader field of architecture. Topics covered include: city forms and design in history, issues and dimensions in contemporary urban design, methods and techniques for urban design inquiry. Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**GEOG7003. Transport economics (6 credits)**

This course helps to develop a specialist appreciation of the economics of urban transport provision. It highlights the economic principles and techniques employed in planning, operating and managing our city transport systems and concentrates on topics such as: travel time valuation, road congestion costing and pricing, public transport finance and cost-recovery, and economic appraisal techniques employed therein. Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination.

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### **GEOG7009. Transport logistics planning and services management (6 credits)**

Logistics has to do with the movement of logistics and the corresponding areas of inventory management, warehousing, packaging and information systems. This course introduces and applies management techniques to supply chain management in a global setting and in the context of public policy and corporate operations. It introduces principles and approaches, leading to student knowledge and experience in management decision making applied to business logistics. It uses readings, lectures, presentations, group work, and cases, using a largely qualitative approach. Topics include the management process, management decision making, supply chain management, information systems, logistics networks and channels, risk management in Asia operations, performance measurement, public policy issues in logistics, and corporate structures and approaches. Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **GEOG7010. Transport law and management (6 credits)**

This course covers the legal framework for carriage and the mechanisms of transport management. Under transport law, topics covered include the contracts of carriage, bills of lading, charterparties, freight and demurrage, master's authority, shipowner's duties, loading and unloading, introduction to admiralty jurisdiction, marine insurance and protection and indemnity clubs (P & I Clubs) and an introduction to carriage by the air and by road. Under transport management, topics covered include traffic management and traffic restraint measures, pricing versus regulation, road safety, and management of vehicle movements and access. Assessment: 75% coursework, 25% examination.

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### **GEOG7012. Transport field trip (6 credits)**

This programme-based field trip is designed to provide opportunities for students to examine first hand transport-related developments and problems in China or nearby region with a comparison to the situation in Hong Kong. Before the field trip, students are required to attend a number of pre-trip lectures. After participating in the field trip, students are required to submit a field trip report and attend de-briefing sessions. The report will be formally assessed. The field trip will be organized during the reading week either in the first semester or second semester, subject to the final decision of the field trip co-ordinator. Students enrolling in this course has to bear their own cost on air tickets and accommodation. Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **GEOG7014. GIS in transport planning and management (6 credits)**

The primary goal is to introduce students the range of GIS applications in transport planning and management as well as the underlying concepts and theories that drive the technology. Through lectures and laboratory exercises, students will acquire some hands-on exposure in solving real-world transport problems. Most exercises involve working with the Network Analysis of ArcGIS, a GIS package developed primarily for transportation planning and modeling purposes. Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **IELM6045. Global operations and logistics (6 credits)**

This course will introduce the definition and history of logistics, the conceptual framework in which logistics takes place and the ways in which supplier networks, physical distribution, global supply chain management, network design, risk management and information management (IT) are configured, developed, redesigned, and evaluated. In all dimensions globalization will be emphasized. Cases will be extensively used in order to promote the ability to apply the concepts and operating issues. Students should expect to leave the course with a good understanding of logistics, an ability to appreciate its intricacy and relevance, and a working talent for implementing logistics systems and correcting problems in the field.

Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% examination.

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### **Capstone Experience Course**

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### **GEOG7013. MATPP dissertation (18 credits)**

To complete the curriculum, a candidate must also complete a topical study or research project under the supervision of a dissertation supervisor in two parts. The first part is a dissertation of 10,000 - 20,000 words, with a focus on one of the passenger or freight transport modes and on a global, regional, or local scale. The second part consists of a signed communication record with the supervisor and a presentation of research findings in the 'dissertation seminars' series. Attendance and participation in the 'dissertation seminars' series are required. Students who have not presented in the dissertation seminar series will not be permitted to submit their written dissertations for grading purpose.

The dissertation submission deadline is on the first working day in August of the final academic year of study.