



KING SAUD UNIVERSITY
DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Master of Science in Urban Planning

College of Architecture and Planning
Department of Urban Planning

Updated on 10-12-2021

Introduction:

The Department of Urban Planning at the College of Architecture and Planning has adopted series of goals for establishing a Master Program for graduate students in the fields of planning and urban design in compliance with the general principles of Graduate Studies and in accordance with the Mission, Vision, and Goals of the College and at that of the Department.

It should be noted, however, that the Department of Urban Planning at King Saud University is one of only four departments in the fields of planning and urban design in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a whole. In view of the essential role of this specialization in the development process of cities and regions and in controlling its urbanization, the Kingdom's market has an urgent need for urban planning graduates to contribute to the urban renaissance of the country and to deal with planning and urban issues and the expansion of human settlements.

The Department of Urban Planning opened in 1404H within the College of Architecture and Planning, which was founded in the academic year 1404/1405H and in accordance with the Royal Decree No. 7/2061/M dated 30/2/1404H.

The Department offers its students a bachelor's degree after successful completion of ten levels or semesters, in addition to sixty days summer training. The Department also has introduced two Master degree programs in the area of urban and regional planning, and real estate development. Each of the two programs requires studying of courses that are distributed into four semesters, including the preparation of a research project in the subject of specialization. Since its establishment, the Department has witnessed rapid development at various levels, one of which is the development of its syllabus. This development has been accompanied with a continuous update of its laboratories, technologies and software that are used to support the academic process. There is also a growing demand for students who wish to practice their specialization in the Department. The figures show that there is a steady growth of students enrolled in the Department, which currently reached more than ninety students with an average graduate's number of 25 graduates per semester. This development, which the Department of Urban Planning has undergone, signifies the growing importance of the role of planning in the development process of the Kingdom's regions and cities; and the increasing awareness of the Saudi society with the importance of the planners' role in resolving urban problems; improving the performance and effectiveness of the urban environment; guiding the future development trends and serving the aspirations of this community. However, this explains the increasing number of enrolled students in the Department year after year.

The Program's Objectives:

Based on the principle of achieving the development's objectives of the Kingdom, the importance of education investment in human development, as well as to comply with the requirements of the comprehensive urban renaissance and the subsequent expansion and the population growth in all cities of the Kingdom, the program aims to meet the increasing demand for urban designers and planners. It also aims to provide an opportunity for graduate students to continue their higher education to enable them, to carry out scientific research, to explore appropriate ways to improve the urban environment, and to deal with various problems of the cities that are escalating with the rapid population growth and migration trends of the major cities. It should be noted, however, that the Department of Urban Planning, as part of its essential role in contributing effectively to the national development through enhancing urban knowledge and its development, has developed a graduate studies program (Master Degree) as an extension of the undergraduate program of the department, in accordance with the general principles laid down by the college to the graduate studies program, which states the following:

A – To keep pace with the current and future development plans, to meet the Kingdom's demand for specialists and to provide scientific expertise in the various areas of planning and urban design.

B - To encourage scientific research in planning disciplines, as well as to encourage Saudi researchers to carry out valuable scientific researches that seek to develop contemporary urbanization with an emphasis on the notion of local urbanization and the Arab and Islamic identity .

C – To enhance the planning professional level through studies and research-oriented development plans, to recognize the problems of the urban planning profession of the modern Saudi society, and appreciate the nature of contemporary sciences and its relationship with future planning development, to identify the technical problems of the local environment.

Mission of the Program:

To achieve excellence in "city building and planning" by graduating highly qualified researchers and professionals, advancing research, and developing the profession in urbanism, while supporting authenticity (indigenous) and identity

Goals of the Program:

A- The program should keep pace with current and future development plans.

B- Provide high quality of advanced education and contribute to the development of knowledge and sciences related to various areas of planning.

C- Encouraging scientific research in urban planning disciplines and producing rigorous researches that contribute to building cities and solving urban problems.

D-Conducting rich scientific research that promotes the concept of local urbane and Arab-Islamic identity.

E-To meet the Kingdom demand of specialists and provide scientific expertise in the areas of urban planning.

F-Upgrading urban planning profession in the present and future.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge and Understanding	
K1	1-1 Critically interpreting knowledge in Urban Planning education or in the professional field
K2	1-2 Understanding of advanced concepts and practices in Urban Planning field
K3	1-3 Recognizing, determining and correlating immanent complex issues and conceptualizing solutions
Skills	
S1	2-1 Assessing and employing the latest skills and digital techniques in developing practices in Urban Planning.
S2	2-2 Linking between knowledge, skills and strategic planning and creatively integrating them into the discipline.
S3	2-3 Creating solutions that maintain and enhance the concept of quality of urban life locally and reinforce the Arab-Islamic identity.
S4	2-4 Ability and persistence on providing solutions to complex challenges.
Values	
V1	3-1 Committing to competence, honesty and integrity in Urban Planning and Design education and professional practice.
V2	3-2 Instigating the spirit of leadership, management, teamwork and initiative in academic and professional activities.

Program Options

The program includes the following two options:

- 1- First Option: Urban planning (Courses and Thesis Option)
- 2- Second Option: Urban planning (Courses and Research Project Option)

Degree name: Master of Science in Urban Planning

Admission Requirements:

- 1) The admission requirements of the unified law organizing the graduate studies in Saudi universities.
- 2) Admission requirements for the Urban Planning Department
 - The applicant must have a Bachelor's degree - Regular Scientific Stream (the duration of study is 5 years). Graduates of the

Bachelor's Programs - Regular Scientific Stream (4 years) can be accepted, provided they study complementary subjects specified by the department.

- The department accepts graduates of the faculties of architecture, planning, interior design and civil engineering
 - The cumulative GPA must not be less than good (3.25 out of 5)
- 3) Enrolled student is required to attend on full time basis, however, under special circumstances, part-time study may be approved, which also require the approval of his employer.

Employers:

Graduates of the Master of Urban Planning program can work in the following different sectors:

1. Governmental sectors: Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Economy and Planning.
2. Semi-governmental sectors: the higher authorities for the development of cities in the Kingdom, the Tourism Authority, the Industrial Cities Authority.
3. Military sectors: Military works, projects departments in the armed forces, the Ministry of Interior, and military survey departments.
4. The private sector: consulting offices, real estate development companies.
5. Research centres and universities

Degree requirements:

1. First option (courses and thesis) requires studying 27 credit hours within four semesters and MSc, thesis.
2. Second option (courses and research project) requires studying 42 credit hours within four semesters including research project.

Program Structure:

Courses and Thesis Option:

Number & Type of Courses	Credit Hours
9 Core Courses	27
Thesis	0
Total	27

Courses and Research Project Option:

Number & Type of Courses	Credit Hours
9 Core Courses	27
3 Essential Courses	9
1 Selected Courses	3
1 Research Project	3
Total	42

Courses

1. Core Courses:

Course Code	Course title	Credit hours
PLN 540	Advanced Readings in Planning Theory	3(3+0)
PLN 541	Research Methods and Methodologies	3(3+0)
PLN 542	Urban legislation	3(3+0)
PLN 543	Land Use Planning	3(3+0)
PLN 544	Transportation Planning	3(3+0)
PLN 545	Housing	3(3+0)
PLN 546	Urban Management	3(3+0)
QUA 502	Statistics in Business Administration	3(3+0)
PLN 548	Workshop (planning project)	3(0+3)
Total		27

2. Urban Planning Courses (Courses and Thesis Option)

Course Code	Course title	Credit Hours
PLN 598	Prepare research plan	1
PLN 600	Thesis	0

3. Urban Planning Courses (Courses and Research Project Option)

Course Code	Course title	Credit hours
PLN 549	Regional planning and development	3(3+0)
PLN 550	Advanced applications in Geographic Information Systems	3(3+0)
PLN 551	Urban Renewal	3(3+0)
**	Selected Course (one of which offered by post graduate programs)	3(3+0)
PLN 599	Research Project	3(2+1)
Total		15

** list of elective courses

Course Code	Course title	Credit Hours
RED 502	Real Estate Land Planning	3(3+0)
RED 503	Real Estate Land Development	3(3+0)
ECON508	Feasibility and Property Valuation	3(3+0)
ADM 510	Property Management	3(3+0)
URD 560	Theories and History of Urban Design	3(3+0)
URD 561	Presentation Techniques in Urban Design (Project -1)	3(0+3)
URD 562	Advanced Methods and Techniques in Urban Design	3(3+0)
URD 563	Urban Design in Society and the Local Environment	3(3+0)
URD 564	Urban Design in New Cities (Project -2)	3(0+3)
URD 565	Landscape Architecture in the Urban Design	3(3+0)
URD 567	Urban Formation	3(3+0)

Program Schedule of Urban Planning (Courses and Thesis Option)

First Semester

s	Subject Code	Subject Name	units
1	PLN 540	Advanced Reading in Planning Theory	3(3+0)
2	PLN 541	Research Methods and Methodologies	3(3+0)
3	PLN 542	Urban legislation	3(3+0)
Total			9

Second Semester

s	Subject Code	Subject Name	units
1	PLN 543	Land Use Planning	3(3+0)
2	PLN 544	Transportation Planning	3(3+0)
3	PLN 545	Housing	3(3+0)
Total			9

Third Semester

s	Subject Code	Subject Name	units
1	PLN 546	Urban Management	3(3+0)
2	STAT 503	Probability & Mathematical Statistics	3(3+0)
3	PLN 548	Workshop (planning project)	3(0+3)
3	PLN 598	Prepare research plan	1(0+0)
Total			9

Fourth Semester

s	Subject Code	Subject Name	units
1	PLN 600	Thesis	0

Program Schedule of Urban Planning (Courses and Research Project Option)

First Semester

s	Subject Code	Subject Name	units
1	PLN 540	Advanced Reading in Planning Theory	3(3+0)
2	PLN 541	Research Methods and Methodologies	3(3+0)
3	PLN 542	Urban legislation	3(3+0)
	Total		9

Second Semester

s	Subject Code	Subject Name	units
1	PLN 543	Land Use Planning	3(3+0)
2	PLN 544	Transportation Planning	3(3+0)
3	PLN 545	Housing	3(3+0)
	Total		9

Third Semester

s	Subject Code	Subject Name	units
1	PLN 546	Urban Management	3(3+0)
2	QUA 502	Statistics in Business Administration	3(3+0)
3	PLN 548	Workshop (planning project)	3(0+3)
4	-----	Selected Course (one of which offered by post graduate programs)	3(3+0)
	Total		12

Fourth Semester

s	Subject Code	Subject Name	units
1	PLN 549	Regional planning and development	3(3+0)
2	PLN 550	Advanced applications in Geographic Information Systems	3(3+0)
3	PLN 551	Urban Renewal	3(3+0)
4	PLN 599	Research Project	3(2+1)
	Total		12

Courses' Description

PLN 540 Advanced Readings in Planning Theory 3(3+0)

Principles and basic theories of urban planning. Urban planning's objectives and goals within the philosophical framework of planning. Circumstances that influenced the field of specialization's development. Legitimacy and nature of the role of planning and planners in the society.

PLN 541 Research Methods and Methodologies 3(3+0)

Basic research methods and experimental methods in research areas: field survey, case study design, comparisons of different methods, application of techniques in the selection of sample, data collection and analytical tools.

PLN 542 Urban legislation 3(3+0)

Laws, systems and controls that are related to urban planning. The degree of influence of these legislations on urban planning practice in the following areas: land use planning, zoning, property rights, and land subdivision controls. Analysis of historical planning practices, and the way they shaped traditional urban development. Shariah and Islamic controls as a dynamic and changing process, and its superiority in comparison with other principles. The effect of contemporary urban legislation applications on the urban environment's formation and its evaluation in the light of recent circumstances.

PLN 543 Land Use Planning 3(3+0)

Techniques and procedures for urban growth management and effective land use control. Presentation of the most important experiences and best practices in urban planning in Saudi Arabia. Fundamentals of land use planning and systems of urban development management. Presentation of tools, models and techniques used at the local, regional and national levels that are related to land use types in the urban environment, activities sites and urban form. Appropriate limits and ratios in order to achieve a balance between the various uses. Land use planning utilization and future directions of urban growth in the kingdom's cities.

PLN 544 Transportation Planning 3(3+0)

Analysis of the relationship between transportation means and routes and infrastructure lines in urban areas. Impact of investment in transportation and infrastructure on travel behavior, urban activity sites, urban form and families decisions relating to residence locations choices. Future urban

trends in the light of transportation and infrastructure development, and the use of mathematical integrated urban models.

PLN 545 Housing **3(3+0)**

International principles and theories of housing. Study and analysis of housing methods and programs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and discussion and analysis of issues and problems related to its housing sector. Concepts and types of housing and the relationship between household income and housing possession. Affordable housing concept and low-income housing issues. Required financial methods in order to achieve housing projects and programs. Types and forms of housing markets, and the methods of assessing housing needs in the existing and future areas. Public participation in planning, designing, and implementing and monitoring housing policies and programs.

PLN 546 Urban Management **3(3+0)**

Study and analysis of the role of urban management in shaping cities. Review of the experiences of western nations and some developing nations in that respect. Presentation of the urban policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with an introduction to the public administrative system and its relationship to urban development in addition to the role of major government institutions in the planning and development process. Review of planning agencies and planning and control system and its implementation procedures and their correlation to theoretical trends. Study of policies implementation in reality in of positive initiatives or negative dealings with plans, urban controls, the planning controls mechanism, and the legal framework for government interventions.

PLN 548 Workshop (planning project) **3(0+3)**

Review and analysis of current issues and ideas in local and international planning projects through hosting practitioners and professional planners. Identification of new and potentially applicable planning ideas and experiences. Solutions and innovative ideas to solving planning problems during holding brainstorming sessions.

PLN 549 Regional planning and development **3(3+0)**

Review and analysis of regional planning theories and regional development, and exploration of a range of different approaches and methods in order to understand regional development and planning. Review of a broad collection of topics including: introduction to the theories of location economic activity, trade, different forms of contact between regions, process of regional development growth and decline,

reasons for existence of different levels of urban and economic development and relations between most or least developed regions. Presentation of regional case studies drawn from around the world as examples in order to explore the regional development processes and their theoretical and implementation frameworks.

PLN 550 Advanced applications in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) 3(3+0)

Lab-based practical applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), in addition to a workshop in order to develop students computer skills and allow for a proper understanding of the geographic information systems applications in the public urban planning management agencies and so to enable highly efficient use of GIS in their planning activities. Focus on spatial analysis of planning information and data that affect urban planning work at the level of the city and the region.

PLN 551 Urban Renewal 3(3+0)

Study of urban renewal within its historic and institutional contexts, with emphasis on selected physical and socio-economic aspects highly relevant to city redevelopment. Concepts and general ideas and historical background, development of urban renewal through methods and techniques taking into account effective planning, design principles, socio – economic characteristics and legal dimensions (such as subsidies, property expropriation and right transfer, public participation). Critical evaluation of landmark case studies of urban renewal.

PLN 559 Research Project 3(2+1)

Brief research dealing with a current urban issues, The student is should present his research, analysis and methodological evaluation skills as well as the ways of devising approaches to solutions. The research will be supervised and evaluated by a specifically appointed faculty member.

QUA 502 STATISTICS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION 3 (3,0)

Postulates of probability, random variable, probability distributions, mathematical expectation, probability densities. Sampling distribution, point estimation, internal estimation, confidence intervals. Correlation and regression analysis, analysis of variance. Tests of hypothesis, tests based on count data, nonparametric tests.

Selected Course 3(3+0)

Depending on the proposed research topic, an selected course is offered by the Department in order to enrich the student's knowledge. This is

implemented by selecting one of master degree programs' courses in King Saud University. Selected course must have same credit hours (3) or more.
