



SORBONNE  
UNIVERSITY  
ABU DHABI



*Master in*

**URBAN PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT -  
URBAN INNOVATION  
AND SUSTAINABILITY**

2 0 2 5



# overview

The Master in Urban Planning and Development – Urban Innovation and Sustainability (UPD-URBIS) programme is designed to train professional experts in two main directions in line with current urban development issues in the Emirates and elsewhere in the world: (1) the eco-sustainable approach and (2) urban and ecological innovation in planning, urban projects and mobility.

The academic content of the UPD-URBIS master's degree is based on three pillars: (1) ecological transition (SDGs in the planning systems, urban metabolism), (2) energy transition (built environment, urban energy systems), and (3) digital transition (urban advanced analysis and design). Other highly topical themes are covered: well-being, walkability of public spaces, health, intelligent mobility, urban innovation, inclusiveness in sustainable urban projects, low-carbon construction, etc.

Traditional methods of urban analysis are also approached in innovative ways, taking into account data science and visualisation to identify problems and consider solutions as part of more open and participatory design project approaches.





# Programme *highlights*

## → International recognition

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi provides the combined experience of Sorbonne University and Université Paris Cité. This rich heritage of joint excellence is now available in Abu Dhabi under the Ministry of Education and is recognised worldwide.

The programme is closely linked to the Master's degree in Urban Planning and Development at Sorbonne University in Paris, which is highly attractive (over 1,500 applicants per year), enabling students to benefit from its international partnerships.

## → Enhancing individual & national development

Within the next decade, Abu Dhabi is poised to dedicate its focus towards socio-economic sustainability. This curriculum will be crucial in creating and encouraging a new generation passionate about planning cities of the future. Through this programme, future leaders and pioneers have the opportunity to exchange ideas and initiate dialogue as well as refine their skills and career potential to complement the city's rapid and ambitious progress.

## → Networking

Each class will have a reduced number of students from different countries. A strict entry selection procedure will guarantee the quality of the degree and will allow you to expand your personal network with high potential peers.



# Structure

The degree in Urban Planning and Development is taught in English and covers a total of four semesters across two years. The course schedule is carefully designed to accommodate working professionals by arranging classes in the early evening in consideration of students who intend to combine their studies with work.

## Master's thesis

In the 2nd semester of Master 2, students are expected to write a dissertation, based on an individual internship, or on a fundamental research project. Students must develop a scientific approach (including literature review, data collection and analysis, and discussion of results). They must also demonstrate mastery of the professional skills and disciplinary knowledge that constitute the content of the master.



### Semester 1

MODULES	COURSES	Contact hours
Principles of Urban Planning	From Inner Cities to Metropolitan Areas	32
	Urban Heritage and Sustainable Development	23
	Urban Planning Law and Regulation	23
Digital Engineering for Urban Planning	Advanced Urban Analysis GIS Applied to Urban Planning	14 14
Professional Practice of Urban Planning	Urban Planning Practices Studio: Sustainable Urban Landscape	18 12

### Semester 2

MODULES	COURSES	Contact hours
Sustainable Urban Planning and Design	Urban Planning, Climate Adaptation and Social Inclusion	36
	EcoDesign and Reversibility	18
Strategies for Healthy and Sustainable Cities	Health, Mobility, and Built Environment	22,5
	Urban Metabolism	13,5
	Digital Engineering for Urban Design	18
Professional Practice of Sustainable Urban Design	Urban Engineering Studio: Reversible and Sustainable Building	13,5 12



## Semester

3

MODULES	COURSES	Contact hours
Urban Eco-Technological Innovations	Urban Energy System & Energetic Efficiency	32
	Building an Ecocity : Innovation clusters and districts	32
	Infrastructures and Urban Innovation	23
Professional Practice of Sustainable Urban Engineering	Land Use Planning for Low Carbon City Studio : Building an Eco-Technological City	14 12
Innovative Research in Urban Studies	Research Methodology	23

## Semester

4

MODULES	COURSES	Contact hours
Research Project	Master Thesis	5



## Assessment & graduation requirements

Throughout the year, there will be frequent assessment and evaluations. Students will be evaluated on individual assignments, internships presentations, reports and examinations, which usually take place towards the end of every semester. Attendance to all classes is mandatory and it is important that students are punctual and observe university regulations at all times.



## Career prospects

The master UPD-URBIS programme opens up a wide range of career opportunities in Government, Private Enterprise, non-profit and International Organisations, for positions as Urban Planners, Transportation Planners, Housing and Community Development Planners, Economic Development Planners, Urban Designers, Real Estate Developers, Smart Cities Consultants, Sustainable Development and Resilience Consultants, Geographic Information Systems Analysts..



# Admission prospects

Admission to our master's programmes is selective and competitive and each applicant will be considered on his/her own merit. Our admissions process ensures that every course has an ideal mix of people with talent, impressive interpersonal skills and a positive attitude.

## General entry requirements

- Bachelor in a relevant field with a CGPA of 3 out of 4 or equivalent. Candidates with a GPA between 2.5 and 2.99 (or equivalent scores as per the equivalency table) may be conditionally admitted under probation during the first semester. The student will be authorised to continue in the programme only if they secure an average of at least 12 out of 20 which is obtained by the end of the first semester. The decision is based on academic performance and will be made official after the completion of the first semester
- or
- Bachelor with minimum of 2nd class honours or
- Bachelor with an average of 12 out of 20
- Bachelor students with a GPA below 3 may be admitted on the ground of their professional and/or personal experience, in case they are granted a VAPP by SU's or UP's VAPP commission
- IELTS certificate with minimum overall band of 6.0 with a validity of 2 years or TOEFL certificate with minimum score of 79 (or equivalent) with a validity of 2 years or, Native English speaker who completed 3 full years in an English-medium institution within a maximum period of 3 years or equivalent
- Applicants who earned their undergraduate

degrees from universities outside the UAE must present a Certificate of Equivalency for their graduation certificates from the UAE Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research. Applicants, who are holders of undergraduate degrees issued by a licensed higher education institution in the UAE, are required to submit a copy of their degrees attested by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research. Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is committed to considering applications from all students regardless of their country of origin, income, gender, religion or physical condition. For details on requirements, kindly visit the Ministry's website: <https://www.mohe.gov.ae/ar/Pages/home.aspx>

## Tuition Fees

**AED 166,400 (approximately US\$ 45,344)**

**Up to 100% scholarship available for this programme\*\*!**

Visit our website for more information.

\*\*Conditions apply

# Why Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi ?

In today's fast-paced and globalised economies, knowledge and languages both serve an important role in creating progressive and vibrant societies. The French education system is known for its high level of rigorous critical thinking and debating skills, which play a significant role in developing future pioneers and leaders.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is a globally recognised education institution that serves as a bridge between civilisations by offering a multicultural environment, which promotes and develops a strong culture of tolerance, curiosity, harmony and cultural awareness for today's modern economy. Students have access to internationally acclaimed faculty, world-class facilities and internationally certified degrees, which places them firmly on the right path in preparation for a successful career.

This degree is awarded by Sorbonne University in Paris and officially accredited by the UAE Commission for Academic Accreditation ([www.caa.ae](http://www.caa.ae)).



SORBONNE UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI

Environment, Activities



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