

MA Urban Studies

Important Information for Applicants

Urban Studies

A majority of the world's population is in cities and towns today, even as rapid transformations in social and economic lives have been observed across the board as settlements become increasingly interconnected. The progressive urbanisation of the world's population has multiple implications that range from the social to the ecological. South Asia is home to five of the ten largest megacities in the world, even as smaller urban centres are growing faster.

Global policy and practice seriously reflect on these transformations today. Urban areas are simultaneously conceived of as the engines of economic activity and as (potentially) unlivable and ungovernable spaces. States, for their part, are still coming to terms with the enormous challenges they face to develop infrastructures for rising urban populations while minimising environmental impacts. Private agencies and civil society are also an integral part of the discussion and actions towards just and sustainable urban outcomes.

Several disciplines have considered the urban question over the last century. It is more recently, however, that an intersectional space has been created through platforms that include interdisciplinary publications, conferences, and professional bodies. With time, the space has coalesced as an academic field with a shared problematic and a set of methodological approaches.

MA in Urban Studies

The programme aims to produce graduates who bring a humanistic approach to the urban even as they are conversant with its technical and analytical aspects. Our specific emphasis is rooted in the realities and experiences of the Global South, and we aim to set up continuous interactions between the classroom and the field.

The programme should appeal to: college graduates in fields with overlapping interests, including Planning, Sociology, and Geography; graduates of various disciplines interested in a PG programme that offers specialization in a contemporarily-relevant field; and practitioners with experience as researchers, civil society advocates, and city planners who would like to think through their experiences in a systematic manner and to retool going forward.

Key Features

- The programme has three domain areas around which core courses and electives are designed. These are 1) Urban Space and Experiences; 2) Urban Policy and Planning; 3) Urban Environment and Ecology.
- Strong emphasis is placed on fieldwork and action-learning. Many of the courses are designed to include continuous engagement with the field, and a collaborative studio project will train students in hands-on work around a specific urban concern.
- Students will be trained in research methodologies leading to a final semester dissertation or action research.

Programme Structure

MA Urban Studies will be transacted over four academic semesters and one summer intersession. It consists of two foundation courses (total of 8 credits), four core courses (16 credits), two courses on research methodology (8 credits), and electives (total of 12 credits). Apart from taught courses, programme requirements include 20 credit worth of guided research work as follows: a 4-credit Internship (during the summer after the second semester), a 4-credit Studio project, a 2-credit Capstone Workshop (fourth semester), and a 10-credit Dissertation component (fourth semester).

Faculty: The core faculty is trained from premier institutions in India and abroad and worked in diverse fields and locations. Distinguished academics and practitioners will also contribute to teaching and guidance as Visiting and Adjunct Faculty.

Careers: Graduates of similar interdisciplinary MA programmes at AUD contribute to research institutions, the development sector, environmental organisations, and private consultancies. Many have secured admission for further studies in reputed institutions in India and abroad. In addition, MA Urban Studies graduates are expected to find employment in organisations working specifically in the field of urban research and practice.

Medium of instruction: English

Eligibility: Any bachelor's degree with at least 45% marks (or an equivalent grade) from a recognised University (relaxation of 5% of marks for candidates belonging to ST/SC/PwD Categories). Candidates appearing for the final year examination of a degree can also apply.

Fees

- Tuition Fees: Rs. 25,120 per semester (Rs.1570 per credit) + Student Welfare Fund (Rs. 500 per semester)
- Extra Mural Interface cost of Rs. 5000 per year
- Caution Deposit: Rs. 5000 (One-time and refundable)
- If a student opts for extra credit an additional fee of Rs. 1570 per credit has to be paid.

Partial/full fee waiver and scholarship are available. Full waiver of tuition fees will be extended to students belonging to SC, ST and PwD categories.

Entrance Examination: The written examination (75% weight) will include General and Geographical Knowledge, Logic and Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, and question(s) based on a pre-circulated text, to be uploaded on the AUD website by June 21. This will be followed by an interview (25%). All applicants must appear in both the written exam and the interview to be eligible for admission.

For more information: [**MA-US@aud.ac.in**](mailto:MA-US@aud.ac.in)