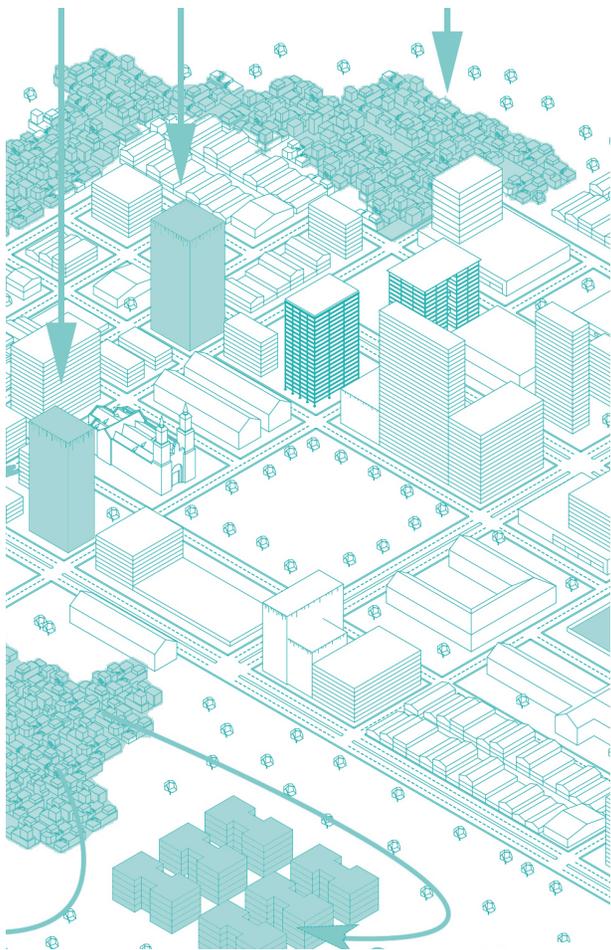


MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN PLANNING



COLUMBIA

GSAPP

URBAN
PLANNING

The Urban Planning Program at the Columbia University School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) has as its mission the education of individuals in the fundamental economic and political processes that shape the built environment of cities; ways in which governments, community-based organizations, private sector actors, and political mobilizations produce and influence these processes; and the crafting of collective efforts to improve the quality of life of city residents. The tensions among market forces, civil society, and the goals of planning are of major concern. Particular attention is given to the understanding of increasingly globalized urban landscape, the quest for social justice, and the role of data analytics.

CURRICULUM

The Master of Science (M.S.) in Urban Planning is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board. It requires the completion of 60 points in two years: 27 points in required courses, and 33 points in a concentration (at least 4 courses) and electives of students' own choosing. Students may take courses offered in the Urban Planning Program, other programs at GSAPP, or other departments and schools at Columbia to fulfill some or all of their elective requirements. Each student is required to write a Master's thesis during the second year of study.

CONCENTRATION

- Built Environment
- Community and Economic Development
- Internal Planning and Development
- Urban Analytics

STUDIO

In the Urban Planning studio, there is a real client with a real-world issue that will be analyzed by students working as a team under the direction of faculty. The plan that results will reflect data analysis, design analysis, and economic analysis, and will have encouraged students to consider "best practices" in planning as well as innovative thinking. Studio takes place in the spring of students' first year, and is thus not a "capstone" project but a way of integrating classroom learning with practical experience early in students' education. Some recent studios include:

- Chengdu South Railway Station: Planning a New Hub
- The Feasibility of MicroHousing in Westchester County
- Right to the City: Housing and Community Development in Brazil
- Promoting High Speed Ferry Service, Nyack-Tarrytown-NYC
- Short-Term Rental, Long-Term Challenges: Airbnb in NYC

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

At GSAPP, the M.S. in Urban Planning is offered as a dual degree with:

- Master of Architecture
- M.S. in Historic Preservation
- M.S. in Real Estate Development

Elsewhere at Columbia University*, the M.S. in Urban Planning is offered with:

- Master of Business Administration (Business School)
- Master of International Affairs (School of International and Public Affairs)
- Juris Doctor (School of Law)
- Master of Science in Social Work (School of Social Work)
- Master of Science in Public Health (Mailman School of Public Health)

* *Separate applications required.*

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“Columbia’s UP program is an intensive analysis of what it means to be a planner. It incorporates so many aspects of social, economic, international and environmental planning and then puts them all into practice with some amazing studio opportunities. Having the program within the architecture school has also pleasantly surprised me as many of my classes are made up of unique perspectives and backgrounds. On top of the great dialogues in class, we have a close cohort of fellow UP students and an amazing city to go out and explore together.”

“Being located in the heart of New York City makes an excellent urban environment to study and explore for class and for fun. There is awesome architecture, great public transportation. It's a global city and the student body itself is very diverse and international. NYC also has some of the best access for internship opportunities due to the large volume of organizations. Looking to Columbia, these organizations are constantly seeking us out for internships and other amazing opportunities throughout the city.”

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THESIS

The thesis is a requirement of the M.S. in Urban Planning Program. In its simplest description, a thesis is an individually-researched and analyzed answer to a planning question. The goal of a thesis is to help students to carry out independent research—whether interviews, statistical analysis, literature review, or fieldwork (or some combination of all of these)—and to hone their professional writing skills in presenting their research.

RECENT THESIS TOPICS

- Tent City: An Analysis of Honolulu's Homeless Communities
- Planning for Oppression: Israeli Policies and Palestinian Access to Housing in East Jerusalem
- Gentrification of New York City after Hurricane Sandy
- Technology-Directed Economic Development in NYC
- Planning for Social-Mix Housing Policies in Paris, France and its Implications on Community Cohesion
- The Equitable City: The Institutional Dynamics of Solid Waste Management in Accra
- Living Globally: Exploring the Need for Foreign Enclaves in Shanghai

REPRESENTATIVE EMPLOYERS OF RECENT UP GRADUATES

- City Planner Positions in NYC, Boston, Shanghai, Los Angeles, and others
- Consultants at World Bank, McKinsey and Co, Manhattan Community Board
- Transportation Planners/Designers/Analysts
- Chief of Staff at New York State Assembly
- New York Port Authority Leadership Fellowship
- GIS Research and Teaching Professions
- Community Development Associate, The Democracy Collaborative, Washington DC
- Sustainability Coordinator at Cayuga Sustainable Hospitality, Costa Rica

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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