

Master of Planning (MPI) in Urban Development

Presentation Outline

- The program
 - Highlights
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- The faculty
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- FAQs

The M.Pl. Program - highlights

- Need for the program
 - Emerges from the global and local trends of rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, economic disparity and globalization.
- Three unique dimensions
 - Redefining urban development: *the restructuring, regeneration and revitalization of existing metropolitan areas.*
 - Explore contemporary globalizing cities through lenses of **'culture'** and **'nature'**.
 - Studio-based pedagogy
- Studios + core + elective study + major research paper or project
- Advanced education for the new planner OR in-depth study for returning professional planners

Curriculum – regular stream

- provides advanced-level education for the new planner.
- requires completion of 13 courses (10 mandatory and three elective), an internship placement and a research paper or project.

Curriculum – 2 year stream

Fall (Sem 1)	Cr	Winter (Sem 2)	Cr	Spring (Sem 3)	Cr	Fall (Sem 4)	Cr	Winter (Sem 5)	Cr
Physical Planning and Design Fundamentals	1	Advanced Research Methods and Analysis	1			Planning Studio	2	Advanced Planning Studio	2
Multicultural Cities and Planning Policies	1	Planning for Sustainability	1			Finance and Local Governance	1	Master's Research Paper or Project	2
Institutional Context of Planning	1	Professional Planning Practice and Ethics	1			Elective	1	Elective	1
Advanced Theories of Planning and Design	1	Elective	1	Internship	2				
Sub Total	4		4		2		4		5

Curriculum – accelerated stream

- offers professional planners and recent planning graduates the opportunity to advance and hone their planning knowledge and skills.
- requires completion of eight courses (six mandatory and two elective) and a research paper or project.

Curriculum – 1 year stream

Fall (Sem 1)	Cr	Winter (Sem 2)	Cr	Spring /summer (Sem 3)	Cr
Planning Studio	2	Advanced Planning Studio	2	Master's Research Paper or Project	2
Multicultural Cities and Planning Policies	1	Planning for Sustainability	1		
Advanced Theories of Planning and Design	1	Advanced Research Methods and Analysis	1		
Elective	1	Elective	1		
Sub Total	5		5		2

Internal electives

- **INTERNAL ELECTIVES**

PL8301 Planning, Design Creative City 1 (*Offered Winter 2009*)

PL8302 Landscape Urbanism 1 (*Offered Winter 2009*)

PL8303 Retrofitting Suburbs 1

PL8304 Housing and Redevelopment 1 (*Offered Fall 2009*)

PL8305 Contemporary Urban Design 1 (*Offered Fall 2011*)

PL8306 Heritage/Cultural Regeneration 1

PL8307 Ecological Design 1 (*will be offered in Winter 2012*)

PL8308 Design for Diversity 1

PL8309 Urban Investments 1

PL8310 Waterfront Cities 1

PL8311 Directed Study 1 (*Available every semester*)

PL8312 Spec Topics: Planning, Design 1

Regional Planning (*Offered Winter 2010*)

Community Development (*Offered Winter 2010*)

Spatial Analysis of Transport Systems (*Offered Fall 2010*)

City at Mid-Century Planner's Role (*Offered Winter 2011*)

Planning within the NGO Sector (*Offered Fall 2011*)

Federal, Provincial & Municipal Public Policy (*will be offered in Winter 2012*)

PL8313 Nature as a Cultural Construct 1 (*Offered Fall 2009, Winter 2011*)

- + courses from other graduate programs (e.g. Architecture, Public Administration, Immigration and Settlement Studies, etc.) will also be available as options.

Internship Component

- Students will participate in a 6 week full-time (or equivalent) internship placement related to planning.
- Where have students interned in the past?
 - Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
 - Canadian Urban Institute, IBI Group, The Planning Partnership
 - Metrolinx, Ontario Heritage Trust
 - City of Toronto – Environmental Planning, Planning and Policy, Affordable Housing, Social Planning, the CAO office.
 - Region of Peel, Region of York
 - Downtown Yonge BIA
 - City of Burlington, City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, Town of Oakville, Town of Caledon, Town of Markham, Town of Ajax
 - Councillors' offices

Studio Component

- Students participate in two studio courses.
- The studio offers “hands-on” critical inquiry into complex planning problems that may be physical, spatial, cultural, ecological and/or economic in nature.
- What are examples of current studios?
 - **Project Neutral**: An environmental organization looking at transitioning neighbourhoods to carbon neutrality
 - **Ward 6-Community Action Team**: A community group fighting to have their voices heard in a redevelopment project proposed for their neighbourhood
 - **8-80 cities**: An NGO interested in improving access to parks and open spaces in Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park neighbourhoods
 - **City of Toronto**: requested to develop a comprehensive system of coordinated health, social services and infrastructure for seniors.

MRP Component

- Each student will complete a Major Research Paper/project
- What are examples of past MRPs?
 - *Planning Tools for Improving Food Access: Lessons for Ontario's Municipal Planners*
 - *Assessing the Creative Capacity of Planners within the GTA*
 - *Park Planning in Ethnic Minority Neighbourhoods: Toronto's Priority Areas*
 - *People, Place & Landscape: A Bottom-up, Adaptive, Catalytic Approach to Tower Renewal*
 - *Wicked Problems: Bridging the Divide Between Health and Urban Planning*
 - *Grandma in the Greenbelt: How the Natural Disposal of our Dead Could Save Ontario's Green Space*
- Review MRPs written by past graduates at:
<http://www.ryerson.ca/surp/current/graduate/mrps.html>

Admission requirements – regular stream

- a four-year honours bachelor's degree (or equivalent) with a minimum B average in the last two years of study from a recognized university.
- The undergraduate degree may be in a field other than planning.
- All applicants are expected to have taken a university-level course in statistics.

Admission requirements – accelerated stream

- must have completed a four- or five-year accredited bachelor's degree in planning, or equivalent, with a minimum B average and 2 calendar years of professional experience in Planning.
- Applicants with a bachelor's degree (four- or five-year) in a related discipline who show evidence of significant professional experience in planning will be accepted.
- Degree holders with professional experience in planning will be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis (at least 2 calendar years experience required)

School of Urban and Regional Planning

- Established in 1969 as a program in Architecture
- The program left Architecture in 1973 and was established as separate School.
- Currently 400 students enrolled in the bachelor's programs + 60 students at the graduate level.
- Close to 22,000 sq.ft. of space
 - 30 computer workstations
 - RA/GA offices
 - Student lounges
 - Studio spaces

The School Faculty

- 12 full-time core faculty members
- Currently advertising for one new faculty hire
- several faculty from other departments such as Architecture, Sociology, Retail Management, and Occupational And Public Health
- 3 Professor Emeriti
- Several sessional instructors

Financial assistance to students

- **Internal scholarships and Awards**
 - Ryerson Graduate Scholarships (RGS) \$7,000
 - Ryerson Graduate Award (RGA)
 - Graduate Assistantship (GA)
 - Research Assistantship (RA)
 - Aditya Jha Community Development Award \$4,000
 - Dean's Best Essay Award
 - Place-making Award – Downtown Yonge BIA
 - Ryerson Planning Alumni Award \$3,500
- **External scholarships**
 - Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)
 - SSHRC Scholarship
 - Metrolinx Fellowship

Frequently-Asked-Questions - 1

- Is this program available part-time?
 - *No, it is only available on a full-time basis.*
- Can you apply to both streams?
 - *Yes, you can.*
- Do I have to have supervisor before I come?
 - *No, you find for your supervisor when you are ready to work on MRP (Major Research Paper).*
- What can be counted as the statistics course requirement?
 - *You must submit the course description, course code, and name of the university of study for your course to be evaluated.*
- Can I apply without a statistics course?
 - *Yes! if you are accepted, you will be given a conditional offer which states that you have to complete the statistics course before starting the program otherwise your offer is revoked.*

Frequently-Asked-Questions - 2

- Do you accept applications after the application deadline?
 - *Yes, we continue to accept until program is filled. However, first consideration for scholarships and awards etc. is given to those who apply on or before deadline.*
- When do we hear about our acceptance?
 - *It is usually after the middle of March.*
- Is the program accredited by CIP/OPPI?
 - Yes, the MPI program is accredited by the Canadian Institute of Planners, and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.
- How do you calculate my GPA?
 - *The last two years of your undergraduate degree are counted. If your degree is currently in progress then we count your third year grades plus the fall grades of your fourth year.*
- Do I have to have a design background?
 - *No*

Frequently-Asked-Questions - 3

- If we don't know how to use the software programs we will get training on them?
 - *You are not required to be adept in using a specific software package, but it is good to have a working knowledge of MSOffice, AutoCAD and Adobe packages.*
- Do we get paid for Planning Internships? Can we have international placements? Does the program set that up for us?
 - *Internships are not paid positions. But agencies may decide to compensate on their own. We do offer a few placements, but students are free (are encouraged) to choose on their own.*
- How do I apply?
 - www.ryerson.ca/graduate/admissions
 - *Apply online including paying the application fee and providing the names and active institution email addresses of two referees (referees will be contacted electronically within 5-7 business days with further instructions) and then submit two copies of the following documents: hard copy of your online application, the Supplementary Admissions Data Form, your resume/CV, your Statement of Intent, and all official transcripts. (Applicants for the 1 Year Stream will also need to provide a statement of your detailed work experience and its relevance to planning)*

Frequently-Asked Questions - 4

- Do I have to submit hard copies of reference letters?
 - *No, beginning October 2011 a new online referee portal system is offered. You will need to provide the names and active institution email addresses for two referees during the online application process. Within 5-7 business days your referees will be contacted electronically and given further instructions to complete an online form. They will be able to upload an additional reference letter if they choose to. You will still be responsible for making sure you have given the correct email address. Please follow up with your referees to check that they have submitted the references.*
- How will I know if my application documents have been received?
 - *After you submit your application you will be sent an email with information about creating an online profile so you can log in and check if your application documents have been received. It will be your responsibility to follow up with any missing documents.*
- How much is the application fee?
 - *The application fee is \$100.*

Contacts

- Web:
www.ryerson.ca/graduate/urbandevelopment
- Phone:
 - 416-979-5000 ext 6767 or 2099
- Emails:
 - sagrawal@ryerson.ca
 - urbandev@ryerson.ca