



Urban Development MPI

Yeates SCHOOL OF
GRADUATE STUDIES

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Urban Development MPI

The School of Urban and Regional Planning offers a program leading to a master of planning (MPI) degree in Urban Development. The MPI program is fully accredited by the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. The program focuses on a core sequence of design studios, core courses on issues of culture and nature in planning, electives and a major research paper or project. The program offers an in-depth, well-rounded urban planning degree that allows advanced study of the relevant contemporary urban foci through a diverse combination of research, study and experiential learning modes.

The master of planning program builds on the school's reputation as a long-established and well-regarded institution with strong faculty and alumni, and unique studio-based pedagogy. The school's studios form the backbone of the curriculum. In this context, the studio is a forum for experiential "hands-on" critical inquiry into complex planning problems that may be physical, spatial, cultural, ecological and/or economic in nature, and they provide the physical learning space in which this applied scholarship and practice take place.





The program focus is on urban development, defined as the restructuring, regeneration and revitalization of existing metropolitan areas. The focus is activated through an innovative integration of "culture" and "nature," providing a combined multicultural and ecological framework to facilitate the study and practice of sustainable urban development. The program will ground students in emerging approaches so that they are equipped to respond effectively and creatively to new planning challenges – challenges that are arising out of rapidly growing urban populations, complex demands from culturally diverse groups, deteriorating environmental and ecological conditions, and exacerbated by constrained local government resources.



The program offers a new holistic process for addressing design and development in contemporary cities and regions. It combines an examination and analysis of economic, socio-cultural, political, ecological and spatial elements in retrofitting urban areas. This framework is significant in that it is structured around the intertwined dimensions of urban culture and nature through addressing explicitly the principles of inclusivity and sustainability in designing for development.

Requirements & Curriculum

The curriculum centres on an innovative concentration of design approaches for contemporary metropolitan regions through which students develop a nuanced understanding of current urban dynamics, both local and global. The program is unique in offering professional study of urban development, a contemporary concern in accommodating growth and restructuring of already built-up areas to avoid further sprawl.

The master of planning (MPI) program is offered in two streams:

- a two-year (five-term) regular stream
- a one-year (three-term) accelerated stream

Regular Stream

The regular stream provides advanced-level education for the new planner. The first year of the regular stream will introduce students to fundamentals of design literacy, graphic communication, the "nuts and bolts" of planning and the relevant institutional frameworks, and the skills and vocabulary specific to the planning field.

The regular stream requires completion of 13 courses (10 mandatory and three elective), a planning internship and a research paper or project.

Year One

Fall	Winter	Spring/Summer
PL8100 Physical Planning and Design Fundamentals	PL8104 Advanced Research Methods	PL8107 Planning Internship
PL8101 Multicultural Cities and Planning Policies	PL8105 Planning for Sustainability	
PL8102 Institutional Legal Context of Planning	PL8106 Professional Planning Practice and Ethics	
PL8108 Advanced Theories of Planning and Design	Elective	

Year Two

Fall	Winter
PL8103 Finance and Local Governance	PL8110 Advanced Planning Studio
PL8109 Planning Studio	Elective
Elective	Master's Research Paper or Project

Accelerated Stream

The accelerated stream offers professional planners and recent planning graduates the opportunity to advance and hone their planning knowledge and skills, whether for interest and/or professional advancement. The accelerated stream prides itself on the combination of an advanced planning inquiry in a studio-based program in a downtown, major metropolitan setting within the economic heartland of North America.

The accelerated stream requires completion of eight courses (six mandatory and two elective) and a research paper or project.

Fall	Winter	Spring/Summer
PL8108 Advanced Theories of Planning and Design	PL8104 Advanced Research Methods	Master’s Research Paper or Project
PL8109 Planning Studio	PL8105 Planning for Sustainability	
PL8101 Multicultural Cities and Planning Policies	PL8110 Advanced Planning Studio	
Elective	Elective	

Internal Electives*

- PL8301 Planning and Designing the Creative City
- PL8302 Landscape Urbanism
- PL8303 Retrofitting Suburbs
- PL8304 Housing and Redevelopment
- PL8305 Contemporary Urban Design
- PL8306 Heritage and Cultural Regeneration
- PL8307 Ecological Design
- PL8308 Design for Diversity
- PL8309 Urban Investments
- PL8310 Waterfront Cities
- PL8311 Directed Study
- PL8312 Special Topics: Urban Planning
(Regional Planning; Community Development; Spatial Analysis of Transport Systems; The City at Mid-Century; Planning with and in the NGO Sector; Federal, Provincial & Municipal Public Policy)
- PL8313 Nature as a Cultural Construct

Courses from other graduate programs may also be available as options for electives.

Admission

Applicants to the two-year regular stream will require 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.

Applicants to the one-year accelerated stream must have completed a four- or five-year accredited bachelor's degree in planning, or equivalent, with a minimum B average. Applicants with a bachelor's degree (four- or five-year) in a related discipline who show evidence of relevant 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. Planning degree holders must have planning experience of no less than two calendar years.

English Language Proficiency Requirement

Applicants whose instruction during their undergraduate studies was in a language other than English are required to submit a test of English language proficiency. Applicants may demonstrate facility in English using one of the following methods:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)

Additional Information

For detailed program information, visit www.ryerson.ca/graduate/urbandevelopment.

Program Contact Information

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Financial Support

Ryerson University provides financial support in the form of scholarships, awards and assistantships for as many full-time students as possible. Financial support is offered on a competitive basis, and the number of scholarships, awards and assistantships in any given year will vary. For more information on available funding, visit www.ryerson.ca/graduate/funding.

How to Apply

Online application instructions are available at www.ryerson.ca/graduate/admissions.

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