



Urban& Regional Planning



CPW 2026 QS 2025 IA 2025 Archi 2025 BEST 2025 BS 2025 JRP 2026

WORLD "
UNIVERSITY RANKINGS by subject

ARCHITECTURE / BUILT ENVIRONMENT

TOP 100

hbp.usm.mg

Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Honours)



SCHOOLOF HOUSING, BUILDING& PLANNING RankedTOP 5
among
Public Universities

& TOP 100 faculty in the world by subject

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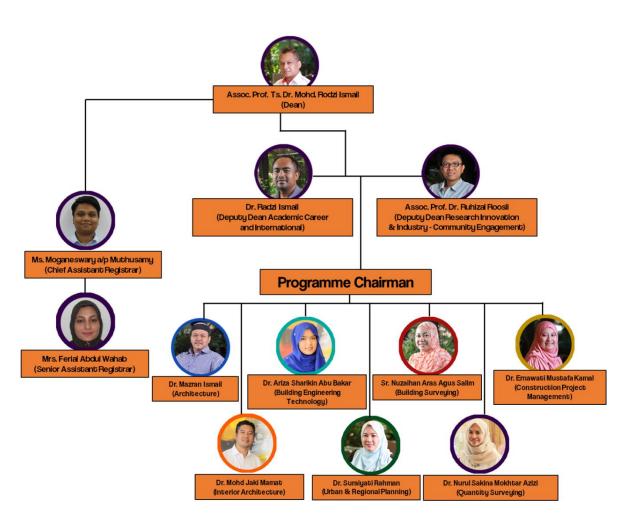
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School of Housing, Building & Planning

The School of Housing, Building and Planning (HBP), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) was established in 1972 with the aim of nurturing skilled graduates capable of becoming leaders in implementing relevant planning, design and development processes necessary for a sustainable built environment in Malaysia and the world.

After almost five decades, the school has made tremendous progress in teaching and learning, research and publication, consultancy and innovation, and continuously making positive impact on the society and the industry.

Currently. undergraduate seven programmes are offered by the school. The programmes recognized the respective bν professional bodies such as the Board of Town Planners Malavsia (LPBM), Board of Architects Malaysia (LAM), Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia (BQSM), Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS), Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Malaysia (RICSM), The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), and Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE).

Mission

- •To establish HBP as the best Built Environment School with emphasis on sustainability
- •To nurture outstanding graduates for the global market
- •To position HBP as a centre of expertise in identified niche areas
- •To be at the fore front of knowledge transfer and be relevant to the needs of the community (bottom billion)

'Championing a sustainable tomorrow through holistic education and upholding a global mindset'









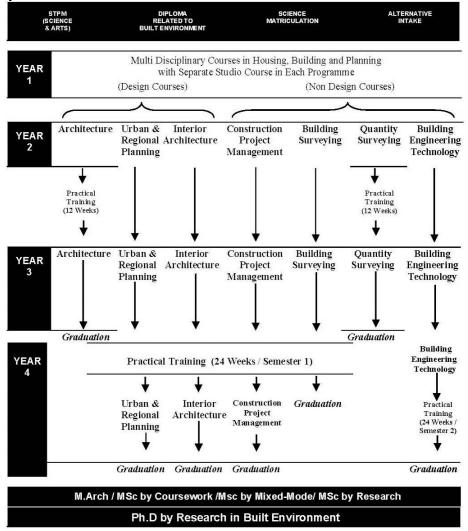








Study Path at The School of HBP



Programme Structure/Curriculum at HBP

The School of Housing, Building and Planning (HBP) offers a curriculum that is unique amongst programmes of advanced education dealing with the built environment. Whereas curricula in Architecture, Interior Architecture, Building Surveying, Urban & Regional Planning, Construction Project Management. Engineering Building Technology or Quantity Surveying are generally based upon a professional training in one of these disciplines. The School eschews professional specialism in favour of a broadly based education cutting across disciplinary both professional and boundaries. As such, it is more correct to describe the broad focus of education at the School as a field of knowledge and skills, rather than the more narrowly focused concept of a single discipline. The students of HBP at the main campus USM Penang and Offshore Progammes therefore draw upon many different disciplines during the course of their studies, in so far as they are all relevant to the activities of Housing, Building and Planning.

These theoretical and practical components are grouped in the curriculum according to the following categories:

- 1. Courses in theory and methodology
- 2. Studio projects
- 3.Laboratory projects
- 4. Practical training
- 5.Research

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R	U	S	1	0	0
I	1	ľ	1	1	
Ì	Ì	Ì	i	Cours	es in Series
Î	ĺ	Î	i	00-	Studio
Î	Î	Î	i .	10-	Workshop/Laboratories
Î	î .	Î	i .	20-	Physical Environment
Î	Ì	Î	į.		Studies
ĺ	ĺ	ĺ	Ì	30-	Theory and Methodology
1	1	I	1	40-	Cultural & Etiquette Studies
1	1	Î	1	50-	Management,
Î	Ì	Î	1		administration & regulation
Î	ĺ	Ĩ	Î.	60-	Science and Technology
Ī	ĺ	Î	1	70-	Research and Practical
1	1	I	1		
I	1	I	Cour	se Leve	el
I	1	L			
I	1	Cours	se Imp	lement	ation
Ī	1	S =	Studio	0	
I	1	B =	Work	shop/La	aboratories
I	1	K =	Lectu	re only	
1	1	G =	Comb	oination	of lectures and practicals
I	1	T =	Comb	oination	of lectures & tutorial/seminar
T	1	L =	Resea	arch	
1	1				
I		seClas		ion:	
1	U =	Gene	5000		
I	A =		tecture		
I	P =				Planning
I	M =				ct Management
1	D =	Interio	or Arch	ritecture	9
I	E =				ng Technology
1	Q =			veying	
1	B =	Buildi	ng Sur	veying	
1					
R - Co	ode for	Scho	ol of F	lousing	g, Building and Planning

2.0 URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAMME

Studying Urban and Regional Planning involves the process of conceptualising and organising spatial activities and physical features in the built and natural environment settings with respect to the community livelihood in order to achieve development that is sustainable and inclusive. The process includes physical planning, social planning and environmental planning that paid attention to designing, implementing and managing our liveable environment. This process covers from policy formulation at the national level to execution at the local level; all for the common good of the stakeholders.

The School of HBP has offered the Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Honours) since Academic Session 2017/2018. This 4-year degree programme is fully accredited by the Board of Town Planners Malaysia (*Lembaga Perancang Bandar Malaysia - LPBM*). This programme is designed to develop students as practitioners in the planning profession and the built environment. Students are exposed to competing issues and interests in urban and regional planning towards building a foundation for sustainable environment, inclusive development and livable communities.

2.1 Courses

Students of Urban and Regional Planning at HBP are required to complete **143** units of courses in order to satisfy the graduation requirements. The courses are as follows:

- Core Courses these courses are mandatory for all Urban and Regional Planning students and they must obtain a pass. These courses contain the fundamental topics of the School's curriculum and are coded 'T'.
- Elective Courses these are alternative or optional courses offered by the Programme or School. Students may choose recommended priority courses or those of their own choice. Code to be used is 'E'.
- University Course Languages and co-curriculum courses are offered by other Schools at USM. Code to be used is 'U'.



2.2 Unit Requirements for Graduation

Bachelor of Urban & Regional Planning (Honours)

Bachelor of Orban & Regional Flaming (Honours)	
Courses	Units
Core Courses	86
Elective Courses	36
University Courses	21
Total	143

2.3 Course Duration

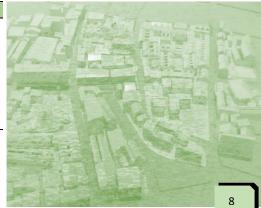
Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Honours)							
Duration							
Minimum semesters	8 sem (4 years)						
Maximum semesters	14 sem (7 years)						

2.4 Studio Courses

Studio courses are **mandatory** for all Urban and Regional Planning students and to pass with an achievement of Grade C and above. Students obtaining Grade C- and below will be required to repeat the studio course.

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING (49 Units)

Code	Title
RPS104/7	Integrated Studio (Planning)
RPS106/7	Design Studio (Planning)
RPS205/7	Planning Studio 1
RPS206/7	Planning Studio 2
RPS303/7	Planning Studio 3
RPS304/7	Planning Studio 4
RPS409/7	Planning Studio 5



2.5 Course Code

Each course has a course code, which is made up of 3 alphabets and 3 numbers, as follows:-

_	B
R	P K 1 3 3
ŀ	Courses in Series
i	
İ	10 - Workshop/Laboratories
	20 - Physical Environment Studies
ļ	30 - Theory and Methodology
	40 - Cultural & Etiquette Studies
	50 - Management Administration & Regulation 60 - Science and Technology
	70 - Research and Practical
1	Course Level
	Course Implementation:
	S = Studio
E 1 1	B = Workshop/Laboratories
10	K = Lecture only G = Combination of lectures and practicals
100 Non	T = Combination of lectures and practicals T = Combination of lectures &tutorial/seminar
	L = Research
	CourseClassification:
	U = General
	A = Architecture
A SECOND	P = Urban & Regional Planning M = Construction Project Management
	D = Interior Architecture
2	E = Building Engineering Technology
Side	Q = Quantity Surveying
	B = Building Surveying
R	- Code for the School of Housing, Building and Planning
-	

2.6 Course Lists - Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning

Core Courses (86 Units)

Code and			Unit	Semester	Year	TICK ✓
RPS 104	-	Integrated Studio (Planning)	7	1	1	
RPS 106	-	Design Studio (Planning)	7	2	1	
RPK 131	-	Principles of Planning	3	1	1	
RPK 133	-	Methods of Planning Analysis	3	2	1	
RPS 205	-	Planning Studio 1	7	1	2	
RPS 206	-	Planning Studio 2	7	2	2	
RPG 235	-	GIS dan CAD for Planning	3	2	2	
RPS 303	-	Planning Studio 3	7	1	3	
RPS 304	-	Planning Studio 4	7	2	3	
RPK 331	-	Theory and Philosophy of Planning	3	1	3	
RPK 333	-	Methodology and Techniques of Research	3	2	3	
RPK 359	-	Planning Law	3	2	3	
RPS 409	-	Planning Studio 5	7	2	4	
RPK 439	-	Professional Practice in Urban Planning	3	2	4	
RPK 472	-	Urban and Regional Planning Research Project	4	2	4	
RUL 474	-	Compulsory Industrial Training	12	1	4	

Elective Courses (36 Units)

Code and T	itle		Unit	Semester	Year	TICK ✓
RAG 121	-	Environmental Science 1	3	1	1	
RPK 123	-	Planning and Environmental Conversation	3	2	1	
RAG 132	-	Introduction to Built Environment and Human Settlement	3	1	1	
RPK 221	-	Landscape Planning	3	1	2	
RPK 223	1	Tourism Planning and Development	3	2	2	
REG 233	1	Geomatics Technology*	3	1	2	
RPK 232	1	Urban Design	3	2	2	
RPK 238	1	Sustainable Development Planning	3	1	2	
RPK 334	1	Traffic and Transportation Planning	3	1	3	
RMK 336	-	Valuation	3	2	3	
RPK 343	1	Social Aspects in Planning	3	2	3	
RAK 345	-	Housing Studies	3	2	3	
RPK 351	-	Urban and Regional Economics	3	1	3	
RMK 357	-	Land Administration*	3	2	3	
RPK 435	-	Regional and Rural Planning*	3	2	4	

^{*}Compulsory electives

University Requirements

Urban & Regional Planning students are required to take 21 units of the following University/Option courses:

		CRED	IT TOTAL
	UNIVERSITY COURSE REQUIREMENTS	Local Students	International Students
General Stu	dies (MPU)		
U1	Local Students HFF225 (Philosophy and Current Issues) (2 credits) HFE224 (Appreciation of Ethics and Civilisations) (2 credits) LKM400 (Bahasa Malaysia IV) (2 credits) International Students of Science and Technology	6	
	 HFF225 (Philosophy and Current Issues) (2 credits) LKM100 (Bahasa Malaysia I) (2 credits) 		4
U2 Or U3	Local Students WUS101 (Core Entrepreneurship) (2 credits) English Language Courses (4 credits) International Students SEA205E (Malaysian Studies) (4 credits)	6	0
	■ English Language Courses (4 credits)		8
U4	Co-curricular courses*	2	2
Options	Skill courses/Foreign Language Courses/ Other courses offered by other schools. Students have to choose any of the following: Co-curricular courses Skill courses/Foreign Language Courses/ Other courses offered by other schools	7	7
	CREDIT TOTAL	21	21

2.7 Course Synopsis - Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Honours)

RPS 104 - Integrated Studio (Planning)

The studio project emphasises on the application of green and sustainable principles and design elements in the planning of urban space and urban neighbourhoods. Students are trained to think systematically and holistically based on broad readings and urban planning best practices from around the world, as well as to develop skills in architectural lettering, technical drawings 2D 3D and graphic communication. Students will conduct site analysis at actual location, prepare a concept plan and translate the sustainable design elements in a neighbourhood layout plan, in accordance with the provisions in the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Act 172) and the Housing Guidelines and Planning Standards prepared by the Department of Town and Country Planning, Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

RPS 106 - Design Studio (Planning)

The studio project focus on processes and principles or site planning for mixed development layout proposal. Using appropriate methods in site analysis, techniques and procedures involved in development plans as well as applying the planning standards in development proposal.

RPK 123 – Planning and Environment Conversation

This course covers aspects of environmental planning, management and conservation principles, planning process, and urban-rural land use concepts. Relationships between environmental quality and land use planning (urban and rural) will be studied.

Analytical approach and control in planning, management and conservation taking into account social and physical factors will be given a special emphasis.

RPK 131 - Principles of Planning

This course offers an understanding of the principles in planning practices which includes planning laws and regulations, related Development Plans at the national and local level, procedures for preparation of layout plan, technical plans and basic requirement for planning submissions. The course also elaborates on development components such as infrastructure, transportation, tourism, urban economy, facilities, landscaping and engineering related to township development, rural planning and urban renewal.

RPK 133 - Methods of Planning Analysis

This course aims to enhance the students' understanding of quantitative and qualitative techniques and models employed in urban and regional planning. Applications of techniques and methods in analyses of population, employment, income, land use, housing, commercial, recreation, transportation and traffic circulation are presented. The students will analyse relationships between attributes of people and activities in cities and regions to prepare feasible spatial plans for the community based on quantitative and qualitative data analysis as well as evaluation of alternative plans.

RPS 205 – Planning Studio 1

This course prepares students with the knowledge on urban planning for the preparation of development proposal in the city area. It exposes students to the application of planning guidelines, technical requirements, practices of site evaluation, components of urban design and project costing for

micro scale project. The course also focuses on research and spatial analytical skills whereby student's ability and skills to partake exercises such as gathering, mapping, analysing and synthesising of data will be enhanced and monitored. These processes are vital in determining the feasibility of the development proposals. Students will be assessed based on their ability to perform individually as well as in group.

RPS 206 - Planning Studio 2

This course exposes students to the process of preparing development plans at regional level. It provides students with the understanding on different components of regional development in terms of the linkages of various planning sectors. Examinations on the contents of National Physical Plan, State Structure Plan and Local Plan as well as consultation with stakeholders will be carried out to identify problems related to the feasibility of the policies and strategies. Students will apply planning analysis techniques to examine the problems at stake and provide solutions. The preparation of reports and plans sets the regional framework for the growth and development of the study area.

RPK 221 - Landscape Planning

This course emphasizes on the relationship between human beings and the environment with special focus on the aspect of assessment techniques, planning, design, and the used of planting materials in planning. Part One landscape covers the understanding of the relationship of human and its environment and problems associated with it. Part Two focuses on the approach and techniques in planning and assessing the landscape. Part Three focuses on landscape design, theories and principles of design within the framework and perimeters of environment and social changes. Students will also be able to learn the aspect of landscape horticulture with the emphasis on the use of soft and hard landscape materials that is suitable to this tropical climate and cultures.

RPK 223 - Tourism Planning and Development

This course introduces basic understanding of tourism planning and development which covers the concepts, theories and models in tourism. An analysis of current issues and trends in sustainable tourism as well as impacts of tourism on economy, environment and socio-culture will also be covered.

RPK 232 - Urban Design

This course will concentrate on urban design from the perspective of town planning, architecture, history and heritage, economic as well as the policy that controls it. It covers the basic concepts in urban design and the transformation process from the proto and colonial period up to the 21st century. Urbanization method and practices implemented by the public and private sectors will be discussed.

RPG 235 – Geographic Information System & Computer Aided Design for Planning

This course utilizes Geographic Information System (GIS) and Computer Aided Design (CAD) to produce maps and working plans. Hands-on learning approach is applied.

RPK 238 - Sustainable Development Planning

This course adopts a multidisciplinary approach to propagate innovative "out-of-the-box" development plans and spatial planning decisions towards delivery of sustainable development and planning in contemporary and future human settlements

RPS 303 - Planning Studio 3

This studio aims to enhance critical thinking skills in examining the issues and problems at the local level. adopting reliable methods and techniques to assess the changes trends in identified sectoral, presenting the data, and designing practical and feasible action plans and written statements. Projects conducted in this studio involve preparing physical plans by utilising planning process mechanisms to employ a more holistic approach. Students will prepare action plan proposals and alternative plans considering the current economic trend, justification for plan evaluation, and estimated cost for development plan proposal. Focus on preparing physical plans such as Local Plan or Special Area Plan as documented in the Town and Country Planning Act Malaysia (1976) (Act Comprehensive 172). and in-depth understanding of related planning issues and problems from the physical, social, economic, and environmental aspects. It allows students to formulate feasible solutions and policy measures to address specific planning problems following the global agenda like Sustainable Development Goals (SGD).

RPS 304 - Planning Studio 4

Planning Studio 4, as an extension of Planning Studio 3, focuses on "live" projects to allow students to utilize skills in critical thinking, technical and interpersonal skills in conceptualizing the planning problems at stake. The focus on evaluation on Special Area Plan at designated area and concentration on the detailing scope of identified issue. Students need to formulate feasible and realistic solutions and policy measures in accordance with the principles of sustainable relevant policies. development and **Projects** conducted in this studio involve the preparation of physical plans such as Structure Plan. Local Plan. Special Area Plan, etc., as documented in the Town and Country Planning Act Malaysia (1976) (Act 172).

RPK 331 - Theory and Philosophy of Planning

This course introduces and exposes students to the basis of planning philosophies and theories utilized within the planning fields throughout the world. Learning and understanding will be based on the experiences of the developed nations that could be applied to the developing countries particularly to the Malaysian planning scenario. Emphasis will also be given to the roles of planners in relation to the current theories and philosophies of planning.

RPK 333 - Methodology and Techniques of Research

The course objective is to introduce the process and elements of scientific research; data collection methods and analyses as well as report preparation. Research process includes scientific characteristics and measurements. Research elements include understanding of concepts, hypotheses and theories in research. Students should understand data collection methods, analysis and sampling procedures.

RPK 334 - Traffic and Transportation Planning

This course describes traffic and transport issues and problems and outlines the methods, techniques, solutions and best practices for designing a systematic traffic and transport planning to achieve effective traffic management that incorporates land use planning, public transport planning, pedestrian and parking facilities, universal design, intelligent transport information system, etc.

RPK 343 - Social Aspects in Planning

This course focuses on various social issues related to land development in general, and in the field of housing, building and planning, specifically. In

general, discussions with sociological tinge will be conducted such as: social change and social planning: social and physical development, relationship between the two social issues and questions related to housing and community planning; social aspects of urban structure. Measurement of social cost and benefit, contribution of social indicators, from the perspective of social change and their usage in the fields of housing and planning will be conducted. Students are required to choose from a selected few topic, within the Malaysian context, for their seminar paper presentation purposes.

RPK 351 - Urban and Regional Economics

This course focuses on concept and theories of urban and regional economy and their application to urban and regional spatial structure. Students will be introduced to methods in economic analysis of urban and regional growth, and evaluation of economic impacts of urban and regional development. Further explanation will focus on the development of strategies and policies for urban and regional development.

RMK 357 - Land Administration

This course aims to introduce the students to the current practices of land administration in Malaysia and to give an understanding about various issues that are related with land administration especially on its implication to property market and development process.

RPK 359 - Planning Law

The central focus of the course is the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 providing the enabling powers to make plans, control development and administer the planning machinery which supports the activity of town planning. Other laws, in particular the Federal Constitution, National Land Code 1965, environmental laws and administrative laws will be discussed in relation to how it affects town planning. In particular, this course is concerned with how planning decisions must fulfill various legal doctrines and principles for good governance and good decision-making with reference to mandates, to protect and enhance resources in line with sustainable development principles. Case studies from planning case law will form a major component of the course teaching method to critically examine the questions posed in the course outline.

RPS 409 – Planning Studio 5

This Studio project emphasizes the use of planning concept, methodology and process to produce development plans for an area, as well as other formats of planning documents such as Social Impact Assessment, Transportation Impact Assessment, Heritage Impact Assessment etc. Methods of Impact assessment, implementation programs, mitigation plan, and proposed actions are based on comprehensive analysis of physical, social, economic, and environmental issues and problems.

RPK 435 - Regional and Rural Planning

The course explores the concepts of regional and rural planning while addressing the issues of regional inequality, rural economic development and rural sustainability. Methods of analysis are employed to investigate regional and rural growth and to evaluate economic impact. Application of regional and rural development theories and evaluation of balanced development concept. Formulation of regional and rural growth strategies and policies that are balanced in terms of economy, rural and environmental sustainability.

RPK 439 - Professional Practice in Urban Planning

The course includes professional work ethics, service and responsibilities, legal aspect, office management, consultancy, project management and investment. Teaching approached are towards a wider scope of discipline as practiced by a professional Urban Planner. These involved several aspects of development sectors such as property development, socio-economy, industries, tourism, agriculture, engineering, architecture and recreation.

The course outline relates to the current professional urban planning practices in Malaysia and being recognized to be applicable at the national and international level. The teaching components consider other professional disciplines such as engineering and architecture and should be applicable to fulfill the standards and requirement of a recognized practicing urban planner. Contract management system, appointment of consultants, job specifications, finance, work ethics, planning submission and corporate system of private and public sectors are also being introduced.

RPK 472 – Urban and Regional Planning Research Project

Urban and Regional Planning Research Project is a starting point for urban and regional planning students to get involved in specific research areas. The research conducted forms a basis to evaluate the students' understanding of the entire courses of

urban and regional planning undertaken throughout the academic years. The research also serves as a training for the students to master the appropriate techniques of thesis writing and the process of conducting research based on the writing system as required by the University and the urban planning professional bodies. Moreover, it is also a turning point for the students to be familiar with the writing skill, which is very important in their career life after graduation. Thus, the process of research and writing will help students to gather information for any matter relating to writings especially in the urban and regional planning domain.

RUL 474 - Compulsory Industrial Training

This course emphasises on compulsory practical training to students on matters related to the practicing professionals in the field of urban and regional planning. This course aims to prepare students for the real world challenges in urban and regional planning field. It is conducted in Semester 1 of the 4th Year of study for a duration of 24 weeks (6 months) and in accordance with the requirement of the professional bodies.



COURSE STRUCTURE

	URB	AN AN	D RE	GIONAL PL	ANNING		
			YE	AR 1			
	SEMESTER 1				SEMESTER 2		
RPS 104/7	Integrated Studio (Planning)	T	7	RPS 106/7	Design Studio (Planning)	Т	Г
RPK 131/3	Principles of Planning	Т	3	RPK 123/3	Planning and Environmental Conservation	E	Г
RAG 121/3	Environmental Science 1	E	3	RPK 133/3	Methods of Planning Analysis	Т	Г
	Introduction to Built Environment and Human Settlement	Е	3	WUS 101/2	Core Entrepreneur (University Course)	U	
HFF 225/2	Philosophy and Current Issues	U	2	HFE 224/2	Appreciation of Ethics and Civilisations	U	Г
	University Course	U	3				Г
	UNITS		21		UNITS		1

	YEAR 2									
	SEMESTER 3					SEMESTER 4				
RPS 205/7	Planning Studio 1	Т	7		RPS 206/7	Planning Studio 2		Т	7	
RPK 221/3	Landscape Planning	E	3		RPG 235/3	GIS and CAD for Planning		Т	3	
REG 233/3	Geomatics Technology	E	3		RPK 223/3	Tourism Planning and Development		Е	3	
RPK 238/3	Sustainable Development Planning	E	3	1	RPK 232/3	Urban Design		Е	3	
	University Course	U	2	1		University Course		U	2	
	University Course	U	2	1						
UNITS 20			1		UNITS			18		

	YEAR 3									
	SEMESTER 5					SEMESTER 6				
RPS 303/7	Planning Studio 3	Т	7		RPS 304/7	Planning Studio 4	Т	7		
RPK 331/3	Theory and Philosophy of Planning	Т	3			Methodology & Techniques of Research	Т	3		
RPK 334/3	Traffic and Transportation Planning	Е	3		RPK 359/3	Planning Law	Т	3		
RPK 351/3	Urban and Regional Economics	Е	3		RPK 343/3 or	Social Aspects in Planning, or				
	University Course	U	3		RAK 345/3 or	Housing Studies, or	E	_		
					RMK 336/3 or	Valuation, or	-	3		
					RMK 357/3	Land Administration				
						University Course	U	3		
UNITS 19					UNITS		19			

	YEAR 4									
	SEMESTER 7					SEMESTER 8				
RUL 474/12	Compulsory Industrial Training (24 weeks / 6 months)	Т	12		RPS 409/7	Planning Studio 5	Т	7		
					RPK 435/3	Regional and Rural Planning	Е	3		
					RPK 439/3	Professional Practice in Urban Planning	Т	3		
					RPK 472/4	Urban and Regional Planning Research Project	Т	4		
	UNITS		12			UNITS		17		
						Core Courses (16 courses)	Т	86		
						Elective Courses (12 out of 15 courses) *	E	36		
						University Courses	U	21		
						TOTAL UNITS		143		

CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL OF HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

