



Dept Architecture and Geomatics | CPD Courses

Sustainable Urban Practice

Masters Modules 2025



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



Introduction



The Masters Programme

The complex, multi-dimensional demands of our rapidly urbanising world require holistic, inter-disciplinary thinking and practice. However traditional professional paradigms and often-siloed institutions seem doomed to replicate the entrenched patterns and practices of path-dependent urban infrastructure provision and management. To overcome the often-fragmented ways in which urban questions are framed, institutionalised, and engaged by varied levels of government, citizens, civil society organisations, and private sector actors, we need a new kind of urban practitioner, who can work across practices, professional norms, hierarchies, sectors and urban problems. The Masters in

Sustainable Urban Practice (MSUP) cultivates urban integrators who are able to discern opportunities for integration, and can build the necessary coalitions for change; who are confident in varied cultures of communication and can build bridges between sectors, fields, and scales of urban practice.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Modules of this Masters Programme are offered to Continuing Professional Development students as separate certificate courses from which a participant can obtain CPD credits. Courses consist of an intensive week at the University of Cape Town, comprising formal lectures, class assignments and seminars/tutorials.

Who should attend?

This programme is aimed at mid-career urban professionals in either government, civil society, or in the private sector.

Note that a prerequisite for attendance is a NQF level 7 qualification. Applicants should provide a CV when applying. This CV can be emailed to ebe-cpd@uct.ac.za

CPD students will be awarded a digital Certificate of Attendance. For information about digital certification please visit: [Digital certificates | University of Cape Town](#).

University credits will not be awarded for these courses.

Format

Each course is structured in the following way: a week of intensive contact time at UCT, comprising formal lectures, class assignments and seminars/tutorials.

CPD Courses

Climate Change and the City

APG5107Z: 17 – 21 April 2025

The Sustainable Development Goals and recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports recognise that cities have the potential to drive decarbonisation, climate resilience and economic growth. This course aims to familiarise students with climate change and development challenges at the city scale, and to equip them to provide advice and establish workable priorities on development decisions at this scale. To this aim, the course systematically works through how climate impacts, adaptation and mitigation, as well as broader agendas of systemic change intersect with the key dimensions of urban development. Students will engage critically with the two dominant theoretical framings of climate impacts and actions: risk and resilience. Students will develop an understanding of the risks and opportunities posed by climate change to African urbanisation, and by African urbanisation to climate change, as well as the international climate change science-policy-advocacy context influencing the development trajectories of (African) cities.

Presenter:

5 CPD points, ECSA course code: UCTSUPCCC25

Urban Food / Urban Health Systems

APG5111Z: 12 – 16 May 2025

Traditionally food insecurity has been seen as a rural challenge, yet thinking of food systems at an urban scale is essential to nourished, healthy Southern cities of the future. The course works from the premise that high levels of urban food insecurity observed across cities of the South are the result of poorly framed and mandated policies, that food insecurity is driven by changes in the food system, and that spatial and structural issues drive urban food insecurity. These challenges are all reinforced in cities where people experiencing food insecurity rely on the market as a means to ensure food availability. The course interrogates the urban food system challenges in cities of the global South, why these challenges exist and persist and the importance of such a focus in rapidly urbanising countries, regions and cities. We explore how the food system intersects with the urban system, why food systems governance is important and engage the multiple governance approaches applied.

Presenter:

5 CPD points, ECSA course code: UCTSUPUFUHS25

Social Power and Spatial Justice

APG5110Z: 28 July – 2 August 2025

In the context of fast-paced urbanisation in Africa and other parts of the Global South, cities have become sites of contestation over space, access to infrastructure, services and other livelihoods opportunities. This raises important questions about belonging, inclusion/exclusion, social and spatial justice, rights - who can claim rights and the strategies used to contest rights and advance social and spatial justice. Many cities are still battling to overcome the remnants of historical processes which have created deep rooted spatial and socio-economic inequalities and patterns of exclusion which have had devastating impacts on the lives of the most marginalised. South African cities are struggling to reverse the legacy of Apartheid spatial planning and to bring about social and spatial justice. Within this context, this course aims to help students think through the factors, historic moments (the cracks) which enable social change and can bring about more inclusive cities. The course aims, in particular, to answer the following questions: What is the historic moment we are currently in? What are the possibilities and opportunities? How can we take advantage of these to realise spatial justice?

Presenter:

5 CPD points, ECSA course code: UCTSUPSPSJ25

Adaptive Smart Cities

APG5114Z: 29 September – 3 October 2025

There is widespread media coverage of so-called 'smart cities' and the transformational possibilities of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT, to develop, deploy, and promote sustainable development practices to address urbanisation challenges. The purpose of this course is to explore the intersection of technology and cities, concentrating on a series of case studies from African cities. Students will develop insight into smart cities and platform urbanism theory and practice, and how technology can be used for e-governance; civic action and citizenship; innovation; and the delivery of services. The course takes a socio-technical lens to understand the relationship between technology and society, demystifying tech utopias and dystopias. It unpacks phenomena like blockchain and what digital data means for cities. It explores how platformed paratransit (motorcycle) mobility is shifting urban accessibility, and how tech infrastructure is shaping how governments and urban residents are connecting to opportunities in unprecedented ways. Ultimately, the course explores how digitisation can foster more accessible, sustainable and just cities.

Presenter:

5 CPD points, ECSA course code: UCTSUPASC25

Overview

Programme	Sustainable Urban Practice	
Courses and duration	Climate Change and the City: 17 – 21 February 2025 Urban Food / Urban Health Systems: 12 – 16 May 2025 Social Power and Spatial Justice: 28 July – 2 August 2025 Adaptive Smart Cities: 29 September – 3 October 2025	
Venue	Upper Campus, University of Cape Town	
CPD	CPD points and ECSA codes as indicated per module	
Participants	This programme is aimed at mid-career urban professionals in either government, civil society, or in the private sector.	
Entrance Requirements	Note that a prerequisite for attendance is an NQF level 7 qualification. Applicants should provide a CV when applying.	
Fees*	R17 000.00 (5-day course)	

*The course fee includes course material.

Registration

Registration and Cancellation

- [Register for this course](#)
- Registration covers attendance of all sessions of the course and course material.
- Registrations close one week before the start of the course. Confirmation of registration will be sent on receipt of a registration form.
- **Cancellations must be received one week before the start of a course, or the full course fee will be charged.**
- For more information on application and registration procedures, please visit our website: www.cpd.uct.ac.za

Certificates and CPD Points

A digital certificate of attendance will be awarded to CPD participants. Participants need to attend 80% of the lectures to qualify for an attendance certificate. For further information on digital certificates please visit [Digital Certificates at UCT](#)

CPD participants can also request a formal university transcript, which will show this course as part of a Professional Development Career.

Please note: If you are interested in attending this course for credit purposes, you will need to register for the Masters Programme or as an occasional student. If you attend the course as a CPD participant, credit cannot be claimed in retrospect.

Contact details

For further information on the Masters programme, please visit:

http://www.cons.uct.ac.za/cons/postgrad/property_studies

For more information or details on CPD courses, visit our website or contact us.

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