



## FEES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Urban studies students come from diverse backgrounds, reflecting a wide range of financial circumstances. Tuition and other student fee information can be obtained from <http://students.sfu.ca/fees/grad.html>

Need-based grants, merit based scholarships and fellowships, and student loans are available to defray the costs of a graduate education in Urban Studies. Information on University administered financial aid can be found at: <http://students.sfu.ca/fa/>. Urban Studies faculty may also hire students as research assistants during each semester.

# urban

BY NATURE

## HOW TO JOIN US

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are normally required to hold an undergraduate degree in a discipline that relates to cities such as economics, geography, political science, sociology or anthropology. Applicants with other degrees or with equivalent professional training and experience will also be considered. The Admissions Committee will assess each applicant's academic record, statement of interest, and letters of reference. Competitive admissions mean that successful applicants have normally achieved well above the minimum requirement of an undergraduate cumulative grade-point average of 3.0.

### APPLICATIONS

Separate applications are required for the M.Urb. and GDUS. Application deadlines for each program are normally set by August. These dates are posted on the program's web site: [www.sfu.ca/urban](http://www.sfu.ca/urban)

Applications for Graduate Study must be completed online at: [www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/](http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/) and include a \$75 application fee.

In addition, the following materials should be sent in hard copy to us at the address below:

1. A one page statement of interest that explains the applicant's motivation for acquiring advanced urban analytical skills and his or her learning objectives.

2. Official transcript of undergraduate grades from all universities/colleges attended, mailed directly from the granting institution.

3. Three confidential letters of reference, of which two should normally be from an academic source, mailed directly from the referee.

4. Resume/Curriculum Vitae.

5. Should English not be a student's first language, an English Proficiency test score may be required. Consult our website for further information.

6. Students wishing to be considered for a Graduate Entrance scholarship or a Graduate Fellowship can download the forms from the Graduate Studies website ([www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/](http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/)).

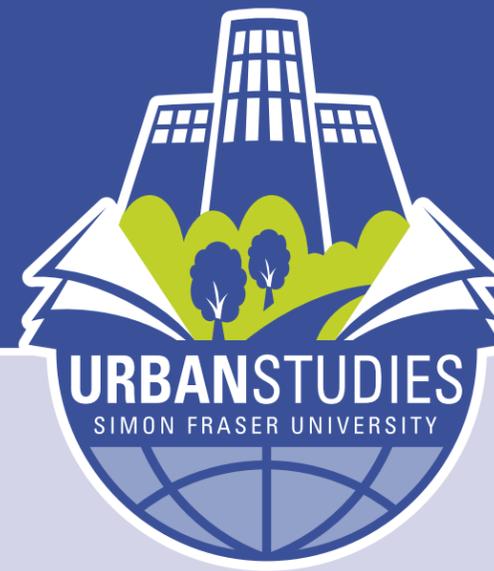
All application materials and inquiries should be forwarded directly to the Program Assistant:

### URBAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Simon Fraser University Vancouver  
515 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6B 5K3  
Phone 604-268-7914 Email: [urban@sfu.ca](mailto:urban@sfu.ca)

# urban

BY NATURE



GRADUATE PROGRAM IN URBAN STUDIES



[www.sfu.ca/urban](http://www.sfu.ca/urban)

## OUR PROGRAM

The city is a central feature of modern societies and economies. The development of cities over the past 500 years has enabled the evolution of the modern world. Academic interest in urban studies spans many disciplines and is focused on understanding what cities are, how they function, and how they can change for the better. Simon Fraser University (SFU) offers a unique academic opportunity for acquiring the advanced urban research skills that will enhance the cities of tomorrow.

SFU's Urban Studies Program develops the knowledge, skills, and understanding that individuals, organizations, communities, and governments can use to improve human lives, strengthen municipal governance, and advance urban sustainability. At SFU Urban Studies, we seek to understand, develop, and diversify the structures, processes, and actions that will make cities livable – socially, ecologically, economically, and politically, now and well into the future. We embrace this challenge based on a shared recognition that cities play a critical role in the world's aspirations for

sustainable development. We address this concern for the city's future by focusing our research and teaching on promising solutions in the interlinked dimensions, tools and techniques of urban policy, governance and change management. Our curriculum integrates traditional understandings with new perspectives, both locally and globally. Our faculty, staff and students make important contributions to this effort by helping public officials, civic and private sector leaders, and citizens better their urban future through building insight and developing 'know how.'

Our innovative curriculum is available to both full and part time students, ranging from mid-career professionals such as planners, researchers, consultants, analysts, and non-profit organization staff to those who are simply curious about local politics, urban development and sustainable cities. The program provides a strong foundation in economic, geographic, political and social analysis techniques and enables these skills to be applied to real-world urban problems.

Courses are offered in the evenings at the University's Vancouver campus, located in the urban heart of British Columbia. The program draws particularly on Vancouver's contemporary experience, but connects this to insights drawn from cities in other places and from other times.

## OUR STUDENTS

Students in our program reflect the talent and diversity of cities across Canada and beyond. Some have decided to pursue a graduate credential after gaining experience working for organizations including the cities of New Westminster, Richmond, Surrey, and Vancouver; the Greater Vancouver Regional District; the North Vancouver Recreation Commission; the BC Ministry of Children and Families; TransLink, and; Stantec. Others have joined us directly after completing an undergraduate degree. Urban Studies students already have been recognized through prizes and prestigious external scholarships for their work.

## OUR CREDENTIALS

### Graduate Diploma in Urban Studies (GDUS)

The Graduate Diploma can augment an undergraduate degree by providing exposure to and development of urban expertise and insight. The Graduate Diploma requires completing 24 credit hours, which can be acquired from six Urban Studies courses. One or two graduate courses from other departments may be substituted with permission.

### Master of Urban Studies (M.Urb.)

The M.Urb. requires completion of 32 credit hours, acquired through eight Urban Studies courses. One or two graduate courses from other departments may be substituted with permission. The required course sequence of URB 670, 696, and 697 will guide students through the preparation of an original urban research project, which will demonstrate their integration of concepts and techniques acquired in previous course work.

## OUR CURRICULUM

### URB 610-4 URBAN DESIGN: INTEGRATING THEORY AND PRACTICE

An examination of urban design as a discipline that involves the environmental, aesthetic, social, economic, geographic, ecological, historical, political, and cultural aspects of the built environment.

### URB 620-4 URBAN COMMUNITIES AND CULTURES

An introduction to the anthropological and sociological study of complex urban societies in a comparative perspective.

### URB 630-4 URBAN DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND POLICY

A focus on the evolving relationship between state interventions into the city and the dynamics of urban development. The class emphasizes the historical context of urban planning and policy, with particular reference to the Canadian city.

### URB 640-4 URBAN REGIONS AND URBAN CHANGE

A survey of urbanization in Canada, the United States, and Western Europe that applies systematic approaches to specific regional and case contexts.

### URB 645-4 URBAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

An exploration of case studies and theory from Vancouver and around the world on how urban sustainable development initiatives are developed, designed, and implemented.

### URB 650-4 URBAN GOVERNANCE

An examination of the contemporary administrative, policy, intergovernmental and political challenges facing local, urban, city, and regional government in the 21st century.

### URB 655-4 GLOBAL CITIES

A reflection of the way cities function in the globalized environment, considering possible advantages and impediments to municipal international activity in Canada and comparatively.

### URB 660-4 TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

An exploration of the relationships between mobility, economic activity, and social interaction that influence urban development.

### URB 665-4 URBAN HOUSING POLICY

An examination of the roles of housing in an urban society, the evolution of urban housing policy in Canada, the policies that shape the existing housing system, and proposals for modifying housing policies and programs.

### URB 670-4 URBAN RESEARCH METHODS

A comprehensive survey of techniques for researching urban problems, from imagining and scoping projects to gathering interpreting data and presenting findings to the public.

### URB 680-4 MANAGING CITIES

An examination of theories of public management in an urban context that considers how governments allocate resources, distribute income and regulate public enterprise — in both theoretical and applied contexts.

### URB 685-4 HEALTH STATUS AND HEALTH POLICY IN URBAN CANADA

A focus on the distribution of health status within urban centers in Canada, and related health policy developments.

### URB 690-4 THE CITY IN ART, CULTURE AND POLITICS

The course focuses on the city as a subject of, and site for, cultural reflection in both modern and postmodern contexts.

### URB 693-2 DIRECTED READINGS I & URB 694-4 DIRECTED READINGS II

An opportunity for independent exploration of urban topics not covered in other courses.

### URB 695-4 SELECTED TOPICS IN URBAN STUDIES

Provides an opportunity for a class of students to explore one or more urban topics that lie beyond the scope of other courses.

### URB 696-4 SEMINAR IN URBAN STUDIES

An intensive workshop where the contributions of various disciplines are focused on developing a research proposal that explores a suitable area of particular interest to the student. Where feasible, students will work with external organizations in developing their research proposal.

### URB 697-4 RESEARCH PROJECT

The execution of an original piece of urban research that can be written up and defended in a formal examination.

### URB 699-2 RESEARCH PROJECT COMPLETION

The finalization of an urban research project.

More information about courses is available at [www.sfu.ca/urban](http://www.sfu.ca/urban)



"My experiences with M.Urb have been challenging and transformative, and, as a professional planner, I have found the inter-disciplinary dialogue invaluable training for exploring creative solutions to contemporary urban issues."

Lainya Rowett, M.Urb. candidate

