

Master in Urban Planning International and Comparative Planning Concentration 2025-2026

Advisors: [Diane Davis](#) and [Magda Maaoui](#)

Other Concentration Faculty: Eve Blau, Ann Forsyth, Li Hou, Rahul Mehrotra, Peter Rowe

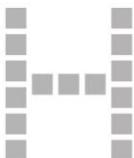
This concentration within the MUP program is intended to provide a solid professional and academic preparation in the field of international planning. The concentration responds to three global concerns. The first is the rapid population growth and territorial expansion of cities in the developing world, where most of the planet's populations now reside. The second is the increasing importance of urbanization in the national development trajectories of those countries. Accelerating urban growth directly impacts employment opportunities, health and livability conditions, infrastructure priorities, and investment needs, among other factors. Likewise, these transformations call into question the social, economic, and political practices and institutions that scarcely a few decades ago were as likely to focus on rural as urban problems, offering both challenges and opportunities for citizens and governing authorities to chart a new future through planning, design, and the management of cities and their hinterlands. The third motivating concern is the fact that cities and regions in the developing world have been drawn into extractive networks, transnational civil society connections, global governance agreements, and multilateral institutional arrangements that can either enable or constrain their relative autonomy to pursue planning priorities of their own choosing. In this sense, the fate of citizens who live in the developing world must be seen as internationalized, for both good and bad, thus challenging the ghettoization of international development planning as a concern for only the poorer countries seeking to 'catch up.' Because of this, the concentration recognizes that planners can draw profound lessons from a comparative perspective on urban, regional, and national phenomena, drawing across South-South as well as North-South experiences of different countries and across diverse urban environments, and understanding the parallels and the relations among cities around the globe.

Within the concentration, students can focus broadly on international planning or concentrate on several subthemes that speak to pressing problems related to different developmental conditions. The latter topics might include informality, poverty, environmental sustainability, service scarcities (especially in transportation, housing, water, and health services), social exclusion, and governance, including the potential for participatory planning. Students are encouraged to develop their interests with a focus on a single country in a particular region (such as Latin America, South Asia, the Middle East, or Africa, to name just a few).

Note: Course offerings are subject to change. Courses that do not appear in this memo will not automatically have approval. To have a course not listed below count toward your concentration requirement, the Concentration Advisor(s) will need to review the syllabus and send written approval to Sarah Hutchinson.

FALL 2025 APPROVED COURSES:

SCHOOL	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	FACULTY
GSD	3348	The Idea of Environment	4	Spinak
FAS	ECON 1346	Closed Borders and Crowded Buses: The Economics of Human Mobility ¹	4	Kreindler
FAS	EMR 154	Migration, Refugees, and Human Rights (Cross-listed at HKS and HLS)	4	Bhabha
HKS	BGP 625	Globalization: Past, Present and Future Challenges	4	Lawrence



HKS	DEV 101	Economic Development: Theory and Evidence ²	4	Rodrik, La Ferrara
HKS	DEV 130	Why are So Many Countries Poor, Volatile and Unequal? ³	4	Hausmann
HKS	DEV 215	Public Finance in International Perspective ³	4	Jensen
HKS	DPI 411	Political Philosophy for Development ²	4	Applebaum
HKS	DPI 450	The Political Economy of Transition in China	4	Saich
HKS	IGA 103	Global Governance	4	Bassan
HKS	IGA 105	International Law and Global Justice	4	Sikkink
HKS	IGA 260	Asia in the World - Regional Security, Integration and Ideology	4	Mitter
HKS	IGA 355	Migration, Refugees, and Human Rights (Cross-listed at FAS and HLS)	4	Bhabha
HKS	MLD 102	Getting Things Done: Management in a Development Context ³	4	Andrews
HKS	MLD 601	Operations Management	4	Fagan
HLS	2424	Migration, Refugees, and Human Rights (Cross-listed at FAS and HKS)	4	Bhabha
MIT	1.286 11.477	Urban Energy Systems and Policy ⁴	4	Hsu
MIT	1.813 11.466 15.657 IDS.437J	Technology, Globalization, and Sustainable Development ⁵	4	Ashford
MIT	11.472	D-Lab: Development	4	Hsu
MIT	11.495	Governance and Law in Developing Countries ⁵	4	Rajagopal
MIT	11.701	International Development Planning: Foundations	4	Rajagopal
MIT	24.634	Global Justice, Gender, and Development	4	Haslanger
MIT	EC.798	D-Lab: Gender and Development	4	Haslanger, McDonald

1. Recommended Prep: Economics 1010a or 1011a and familiarity with econometrics (at a level of economics 1123 or 1126) or permission of the instructors.

2. This course is only open to MPA/ID students.

3. Priority enrollment is given to HKS students and may not be available to GSD students.

4. Prerequisite: [11.203](#), [14.01](#), or permission of instructor

5. Enrollment requires permission of instructor.

SPRING 2026 APPROVED COURSES:

SCHOOL	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	FACULTY
GSD	4530	Transition as Condition: Urban Form and Environment	4	Blau
GSD	5409	Climate Justice	4	Spinak
GSD	5464	Do No Harm: Dilemmas in Planning for Health	4	Maaoui
GSD	5502	Urban Governance and the Politics of Planning in the Global South	4	Silva
GSD	5514	At Home and Abroad: Housing in Comparative Perspective	4	Maaoui
GSD	5515	Comparative Planning Regulations ¹	4	Hou
HKS	DEV 209	Management, Finance, and Regulation of Public Infrastructure in Developing Countries	4	Lee
HKS	DEV 210	Public Finance in Theory and Practice ²	4	Rosengard
HKS	DEV 233	Political Economy and Its Future (Jointly offered with FAS, HLS)	4	Unger
HKS	DEV 308	Social Institutions and Economic Development	4	Woolcock
HKS	IGA 100	International and Global Affairs: Concepts and Applications ³	4	Chenoweth
HKS	IGA 632	Africa in Global Politics	4	Marks
HKS	IGA 655	Middle Eastern Politics and Policy	4	Masoud
HSPH	GHP 212	The Political Economy of Health in Low and Middle Income Countries (Spring 2) ⁴	2	Croke

HSPH	GHP 515	International Humanitarian Response I ⁵	2	Kivlehan
MIT	1.251 11.526	Comparative Land Use and Transportation Planning	4	Duarte
MIT	4.230	SIGUS Workshop ⁶	Contact Registrar	TBA
MIT	11.355	International Housing Economics and Finance ⁷	4	Saiz
MIT	11.474	D-Lab: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	4	Murcott, Hsu
MIT	11.484	Project Appraisal in Developing Countries	4	TBA
MIT	11.487	Budgeting and Finance for the Public Sector	4	TBA

1. Only if not taken to satisfy Legal and Institutional Methods Requirement.

2. Priority enrollment is given to HKS students and may not be available to GSD students.

3. This course is required for MPP students considering a concentration in IGA and they will be granted priority enrollment. Any remaining enrollment space will be open to MPP2, MPA, MC/MPA, and MPA/ID students.

4. Students outside of HSPH must request instructor permission to enroll in this course.

5. All students must petition for both GHP 515 and GHP 518 in my.Harvard, then request instructor permission at <https://bit.ly/IHR2026> to be considered for enrollment. There is a required course fee for GHP 518. No auditors allowed. Lectures will take place at the Harvard Chan campus in Longwood. Please review the description for GHP 518, the co-requisite Spring 2 course.

6. Students must request instructor permission to enroll in this course.

7. Prerequisite: [11.202](#), [11.203](#), [14.01](#), or permission of instructor.

APPROVED BUT NOT OFFERED IN 2025-2026

For the below courses to be approved for the current academic year, they must be offered with the same course number, title, and instructor. The course must be reapproved if it doesn't match the below version of the course.

SCHOOL	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	FACULTY
GSD	3398	Migration in Latin-America: Imagining Flux, Rapid Response and Reversibility, and the non-formal in Latin America (not offered after 2022-2023)	4	Vera
GSD	4344	Chinese Modern Architecture and Urbanism (last offered 2022-2023)	4	Rowe
GSD	4495	Highways, Deforestation, and State-driven Colonization in Amazonia (not offered after 2022-2023)	4	Duran
GSD	4510	Transition as Condition: Ukraine Research- Urbanism, Environment, Infrastructure (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Blau
GSD	5337	Housing and Urbanization in Global Cities (last offered 2021-2022)	4	von Hoffman
GSD	5347	Urbanization and Development (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Davis
GSD	5424	Architectures of the New Silk Road – Spaces of Transnational Infrastructure-led Urbanization (not offered after 2021-2022)	4	Angelil
GSD	5435	Land Policy and Planning for Equitable and Fiscally Healthy Communities (last offered 2023-2024)	4	Silva
GSD	5436	The Theory and Practice of Sustainable Urban Development: SDG #11 and Beyond (last offered 2021-2022)	4	Davis
GSD	5442	New Towns and Housing Development in Africa (last offered 2022-2023)	4	Peiser
GSD	5446	Inclusive Cities in the Global South: From Development Narratives to Urban Forms (last offered 2022-2023)	4	Libertun
GSD	5459	Building Resilient Communities (last offered 2023-2024)	4	Mallick
GSD	5513	Native Nations and Contemporary Land Use (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Henson
GSD	9127	Real Estate and City Making in China (not offered after 2024-2025)	4	Wang
FAS	AFRAMER 128X	People as Infrastructure: The Politics of Urban Infrastructure in Africa (last offered 2023-2024)	4	Agbiboa
FAS	AFRAMER 130Y	Mobility, Power and Politics (last offered 2023-2024)	4	Agbiboa

FAS	GOV 2131	Comparative Politics of Latin America (<i>Only open to Doctoral students</i>) (<i>last offered 2020-2021</i>)	4	Holland
FAS	GOV 2148	Civil Society, West and East (<i>last offered 2020-2021</i>)	4	Pharr
HBS	MBA 1180	Institutions, Macroeconomics, and the Global Economy (<i>last offered 2024-2025</i>)	4	Pons
HBS	MBA 1487	Cities, Structure, and Climate Shocks (<i>last offered 2024-2025</i>)	4	Macomber
HGSE	EDU A830	Data in International Development (<i>last offered 2023-2024</i>)	4	Davies
HKS	DEV 315M	Understanding Gender in International Development (<i>last offered 2021-2022</i>)	4	Matuszeski
HKS	DPI 401B	Normative Principles of Governance in Development (<i>last offered 2020-2021</i>)	4	Applebaum
HKS	DPI 407	Getting and Keeping Democracy (<i>last offered 2020-2021</i>)	4	Masoud
HKS	DPI 461	Research Seminar on Latin American Politics (<i>last offered 2019-2020</i>)	4	Garay
HKS	IGA 413M	The Energy-Climate Transition (<i>last offered 2024-2025</i>)	2	Lee
HKS	IGA 422	Global Food Politics and Policy (<i>last offered 2019-2020</i>)	4	Paarlberg
HSPH	EH 210	Social and Sustainable Innovation Driven by the Sustainable Development Goals (<i>last offered 2023-2024</i>)	2	Spengler
HSPH	GHP 244	Health Sector Reform: A Worldwide Perspective (<i>last offered 2021-2022</i>)	4	Bossert
HSPH	GHP 269	The Political Economy of Global Health (<i>last offered 2024-2025</i>)	2	Bump
MIT	11.005	Introduction to International Development (<i>last offered 2024-2025</i>)	4	TBA
MIT	11.152	The Ghetto: From Venice to Harlem (<i>last offered 2024-2025</i>)	4	Wilder
MIT	11.411	The Political Economy of Planning (<i>last offered 2021-2022</i>)	4	Jackson
MIT	11.442	Geography of the Global Economy (<i>last offered 2024-2025</i>)	4	TBA
MIT	11.463	Structuring Low Income Housing Projects in Developing Countries (<i>last offered 2020-2021</i>)	4	Goethert
MIT	11.470	The Politics of Development Policy (<i>last offered 2020-2021</i>)	4	TBA
MIT	11.485	Southern Urbanisms (<i>last offered 2024-2025</i>)	4	Carolini

