Deciding on what post graduate program to undertake and where to study is an important decision. The aim of this document is to provide some information about the Urban Management and Planning program at the University of Western Sydney in order to help prospective students make this decision. One of the interesting things about the graduate study options in the urban field in Sydney is that they are all different – understanding the differences will help you decide where would be the best fit for you. So you will see that this document is long on information and short on marketing speak. Your job is to find the course that best suits your needs. It may not be the UWS program.

What is the Master of Urban Management and Planning?

The Master of Urban Management and Planning is a graduate offering in the urban field. It commenced in 2007. Its foundation co-ordinator was Professor Peter Phibbs who had previously worked in the Urban and Regional postgraduate program at the University of Sydney.

The course consists of eight units of study which are listed in Table 1. Students can also undertake a Graduate Certificate in Urban Management and Planning (4 units) and a Graduate Diploma (6 units).

What is the philosophy of the course?

The philosophy of the course is straightforward. It focuses in building skills of students in five key areas of urban management and planning.

- History and Theory
- Governance
- Sustainability
- Finance
- Regulation

These are the foundations that successful urban managers and planners will build their skills on. The focus is providing the foundations for the student that will enable them to continue to learn about the details of urban policies, laws and strategies.

How do the other planning programs in Sydney compare?

The differences between the UWS offering and other postgraduate programs in Sydney are in a number of areas. They include:

Timetabling

All the core units at UWS are in intensive mode. Each core unit requires four days attendance at the University –two consecutive days followed by a two week break followed by two consecutive days. The intention here is to avoid students having to attend lectures at the end of a busy day at a workplace. It also reduces the travel load for students.
Staffing

There is a dedicated team of full time academic staff who teach in the program. They come from the School of Social Science and the Urban Research Centre. No core course is co-ordinated by a part time or casual member of staff. A full list of staff and the units they teach in are shown in the back of this document. The relatively large cohort of full time staff means that you are taught by staff who are specialists in their fields who can dedicate time to your education inside and outside formal class time and who will be available to assist you with your Urban Research Report.

The units of study

The focus of the development of core skills in five key areas in each of the core units is different than some other programs who have a list of more traditional subjects. We think our structure is particularly useful for someone who has worked in the industry but needs to obtain some more formal qualifications.

Classes

The classes are relatively small. Most core units will have between 15 and 25 students. This enables a more interactive teaching approach and an opportunity for students to get to know most of their classmates during the course of their studies. We allow some external students to enrol in some of our units - this provides a “real-world” dimension in the class where existing urban professionals can share current work issues with the class. The classes involves a mixture of learning practical skills, examining case studies of approaches to urban issues from across Sydney and across the world, undertaking exercises, discussing issues with other students, going on field visits and listening to presentations from existing urban professionals who are seen as acknowledged experts in their fields. Students are expected to engage with a wide variety of literature and undertake a range of assessments for each unit. The general rule is that each core unit involves a small, medium and large assessment task.

How about accreditation?

The Planning Institute of Australia has provided interim accreditation for a combination of an undergraduate degree at UWS and the Master of Urban Management and Planning. If you undertake the Masters program alone, you can become a member of the Planning Institute but you require significant work experience to be eligible. Check the PIA website for details (www.planning.org.au).

Issues to consider when comparing Postgraduate Programs

Does the teaching (and travel) schedule fit?  
Who will be teaching me?  
Who will be my classmates?  
How much are the fees?  
What do current students think of the program?  
Accreditation  
How does the content compare?
Master of Urban Management and Planning

Provisional Timetable for 2011

101633.1 Managing Cities: History and Theory
Dates: March 10, 11 and 24, 25
Co-ordinator: Dr Rae Duffy

101314.1 Governance and Power in the City: Urban Management Practice
Dates: May 5, 6 and 19, 20
Co-ordinator: Professor Peter Phibbs

101635.1 Urban Planning Placement Project
No formal lectures: work experience subject for students requiring experience in the urban sector

101636.1 Developing Sustainable Places
Dates: August 4, 5 and 18, 19
Co-ordinator: Dr Emma Power

101315.1 Financing Cities in the Global Economy
Dates: September 8, 9 and 22, 23
Co-ordinator: Professor Peter Phibbs

101634.1 Planning and Environmental Regulation
Dates: October 13, 14 and 27, 28
Co-ordinator: Dr Laura Schatz

101637.1 Urban Research Report
No formal lectures - irregular seminar and work with project supervisor

Classes are usually held at the Urban Research Centre, Level 6, 34 Charles St Parramatta.

Classes run from 9:15am to 4:30pm.

There are no tutorials in these core units. Plus one elective subject.
Key People

**Professor Peter Phibbs**, Academic Program Co-ordinator
Professor Phibbs is an urban planner with an international reputation in the area of housing studies. His research in recent years has been in two main areas: the non-shelter outcomes of housing and the broad area of affordable housing. Since 2001 he has supervised 14 PhD completions and five Masters by Research.
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**Dr Rae Dufty**, Lecturer
Rae Dufty is a Lecturer in Geography and Urban Studies at the University of Western Sydney. Her research interests include: governance and neoliberalism; migration and housing policy; urban development challenges and policies; the restructuring of horticultural industries in Australia; and ethnic diversity in Australian rural communities and issues of ‘racism’.
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**Dr Emma Power**, Lecturer
Emma Power is a Lecturer in Geography and Urban Studies at the University of Western Sydney. Emma is a cultural geographer. Her research examines urban natures, everyday practices of sustainability and homemaking, and human – animal relations. She teaches cultural and social geographies, and human-nature relations.
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**Dr Laura Schatz**, Postdoctoral Fellow
Laura Schatz is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Geography and Urban Studies. Before joining UWS in July 2010, Laura completed her PhD in Urban Planning at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Laura's research interests include: comparative planning and environmental law; urban governance in “shrinking cities;” decline in resource-based regions; and strategic planning.
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**Associate Professor Michael Bounds**, Adjunct
Associate Professor Bounds is an Urban Sociologist and author of *Urban Social Theory*. His research over the past 10 years has concentrated on the study of the social impacts of urban development, with a particular focus on urban consolidation and gentrification. He also reviews for a number of academic publishers and urban, planning and sociological journals.
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