



الجامعة الألمانية الأردنية  
German Jordanian University

# **German Jordanian University**

**School of Architecture and Built  
Environment**

**Department of Architecture and Interior  
Architecture**

**Master of Science in  
Spatial Planning  
Thesis Track  
Study Plan 2023**

# I. Program Objectives

This one-of-a-kind graduate program in Spatial Planning as an interdisciplinary field of study incorporates multi-dimensional perspectives using problem-solving practical approaches to achieve integrated sustainable planning and urban design. Graduates are prepared to contribute to the contemporary built environment at the local, regional, and international arenas with their hands-on up-to-date theories and practices.

The M. Sc. Program in Spatial Planning aims at:

- a. Preparing qualified and efficient planners who are acquainted with the local needs of the Jordanian and regional markets.
- b. Graduating planners who are capable of facing development challenges at local and regional levels using integrated sustainable strategies qualitatively and quantitatively.
- c. Acquainting graduates with realistic, yet creative, problem-solving methods in implementation management at local and regional levels.
- d. Providing young professionals who are already engaged at local governmental and private institutions with an opportunity to update their skills and knowledge to face the rapid development challenges taking place in Jordan and the region.
- e. To generate research-based knowledge of relevance to spatial planning problem solving, design strategies, and implementation.

# II. Learning Outcomes

## a. Key knowledge

Program graduates will be able to plan, evaluate, and implement spatial planning projects.

Assessments:

Assessments

Student achievement of this learning outcome is assessed:

1. [Directly] by evaluating M.Sc. Theses to assure that they reflect students' overall work in the program.
2. [Indirectly] by senior surveys and by program review data and job placement rates.

## b. Skills

Program graduates will be able to understand, interpret, explain, analyze, and assess various urban concepts and typologies.

Assessments

Student achievement of this learning outcome is assessed:

1. [Directly] by reviewing samples of student work (research papers and analysis projects).
2. [Indirectly] by employer surveys.

Program graduates will be able to undertake and investigate various research areas related to spatial planning.

Assessments

Student achievement of this learning outcome is assessed:

1. [Directly] by reviewing samples of student work (working and research papers).
2. [Indirectly] by employer surveys.

## c. Values

Program graduates will be able to assess their own strengths and weaknesses and adjust future performance in

light of their self-assessments.

#### Assessments

Student achievement of this learning outcome is assessed:

1. [Directly] by instructor evaluations.
2. [Indirectly] by student self-assessments and acceptance into leading Ph.D. programs.

**Teaching methods can be (Online, face to face, blended)**

### Course Delivery Methods

Courses are in one of the following three methods:

- **Face-to-Face (F2F) Method**  
Courses using this method are delivered by faculty in person in regularly scheduled class sessions physically on campus.
- **Blended (BLD) Method**  
Courses are delivered in a hybrid mode of physical face-to-face class sessions and asynchronous material including online instructional videos, presentations, projects, and similar learning activities.
- **Online (OL) Method**  
Courses are delivered exclusively online. This method consists of a hybrid of synchronous regularly scheduled class sessions delivered via the Internet, and asynchronous material including online instructional videos, presentations, projects, and similar learning activities. Virtual classrooms utilizing different online platforms are used. No physical face-to-face meetings are required.

## III. Admission Requirements

To apply for admission, the following minimum requirements must be met:

- a. All students having a BSc degree in any engineering discipline
- b. Must hold a Bachelor's degree with a minimum average of "good" or equivalent, from a recognized university. Bachelor students with a "satisfactory" average, or equivalent, may be accepted only if they abide to regulations of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
- c. Bachelor's student studies and attendance must have been on a regular basis.
- d. Student must show a documented proof indicating he/she successfully passed the Foreign Languages Proficiency Test (English language) (TOEFL, IELTS) in accordance with the decisions of the Higher Education Council.

## IV. Degree Requirements (Credit hours)

Classification	Credit Hours	ECTS		
Compulsory Requirements	18			
Elective Requirements	9			
Master's Thesis	9			
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>

## V. Curriculum (Credit hours)

### 1. Compulsory Requirements: (18 credit hours)

Course ID	Course Name	Credit Hours	ECTS	Teaching method	Contact Hours		Prerequisites / Co-requisites
					Lect	Lab	
SP710	Planning Studio I	3		Blended	1	4	-
SP711	Planning Studio II	3		Blended	1	4	SP710
SP740	Planning Theories and Strategies	3		F2F	3	0	-
SP770	Sustainable Planning I	3		Blended	3	0	-
SP780	Spatial Socio-Economic Development Planning	3		Blended	3	0	-
SABE724	Research Methods	3		F2F	3	0	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>					

### 2. Elective Requirements: (9 Credit Hours) to be chosen from table 5.a or table 5.b according to Stream:

a. Urban Design and Regeneration Stream (9 Credit Hours) to be chosen from the following:

Course ID	Course Name	Credit Hours	ECTS	Teaching method	Contact Hours		Prerequisites / Co-requisites
					Lect	Studio	
SP 701	Special Topics in Urban Design and Urban Regeneration	3		F2F	3	0	-
SP741	Theories and Concepts of Urbanism	3		F2F	3	0	SP740 or AC748
SP742	Land-Use Planning and Legislations	3		F2F	2	2	SP740
SP743	Landscape Urbanism	3		F2F	2	2	SP740
SP744	Waterfront Development	3		F2F	2	2	SP740
SP745	Planning in Cities and Metropolitan Areas	3		F2F	2	2	SP740
SP746	Housing in the Urban Context	3		F2F	2	2	SP740
SP747	Urban Transportation	3		F2F	3	0	SP742
SP748	Regional Planning	3		F2F	3	0	SP740
SP772	Environmental Aesthetics	3		F2F	3	0	SP740
SP788	Human and Creative Construction of Place	3		F2F	3	0	SP740
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>					

b. Implementation Management Stream (9 Credit Hours) to be chosen from the following:

Course ID	Course Name	Credit Hours	ECTS	Teaching method	Contact Hours		Prerequisites / Co-requisites
					Lect	Studio	
SP702	Special Topics in Implementation Management	3		F2F	3	0	-
SP771	Sustainable Planning II	3		F2F	3	0	SP770
SP781	Real-Estate Development Planning	3		F2F	3	0	SP780
SP782	Post-Crisis Development and Conflict Resolution	3		F2F	3	0	SP740
SP783	Tourism Planning	3		F2F	3	0	SP740 or AC748
SP784	Planning and Marketing Strategies	3		F2F	3	0	SP780
SP785	Project Management and Implementation	3		F2F	3	0	SP780 or AC748
SP786	Planning and Management Information Systems	3		Blended	3	0	SP740
SP751	Appropriate Technology	3		F2F	3	0	SP 710 or AC755
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>					

### 3. Masters Thesis (9 Credit Hours):

Course ID	Course Name	Credit Hours	ECTS	Teaching method	Contact Hours		Prerequisites / Co-requisites
					Lect	Lab	
SP799A	Master Thesis / Spatial Planning	0		F2F	-	-	SABE724
SP799B	Master Thesis / Spatial Planning	3		OL	-	-	SABE724
SP799C	Master Thesis / Spatial Planning	6		F2F	-	-	SABE724
SP799D	Master Thesis / Spatial Planning	9		F2F	-	-	SABE724
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>					

## VI. Study Plan Guide

First Year				
First Semester				
Course ID	Course Name	Cr Hr	Prerequisites	Co-requisite
SP710	Planning Studio I	3	-	-
SP740	Planning Theories and Strategies	3	-	-
SABE724	Research Methods	3	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>		

First Year				
Second Semester				
Course ID	Course Name	Cr Hr	Prerequisites	Co-requisite
SP711	Planning Studio II	3	SP710	
SP780	Spatial Socio-Economic Development Planning	3	-	
SP770	Sustainable Planning I	3	-	
SP000	Elective Requirement (1)	3	-	
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>		

---

<sup>c</sup>The following study plan guide assumes having passed all placement tests

Second Year				
First Semester				
Course ID	Course Name	Cr Hr	Prerequisites	Co-requisite
SP000	Elective Requirement (2)	3	-	
SP000	Elective Requirement (3)	3	-	
SP799B	Master Thesis / Spatial Planning	3	SABE724	
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>		

Second Year				
Second Semester				
Course ID	Course Name	Cr Hr	Prerequisites	Co-requisite
SP799C	Master Thesis / Spatial Planning	6	SABE724	
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>		

## VII. Course Descriptions

### 1. Compulsory Courses

<b>SP710 Planning Studio I</b>	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
--------------------------------	----------------	----------------

A studio-based course which involves field investigation to test processes of spatial planning. Projects include data collection, recording, and documentation while identifying potentials and limitations of case analysis. Data collection techniques may include field surveys and interviews, visual surveys and observations, focused groups, participatory rapid appraisal, and community participation, behavioral mapping, space syntax, and others.

*Prerequisites:*

*Corequisites:*

<b>SP711 Planning Studio II</b>	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
---------------------------------	----------------	----------------

A continuation of SP 710 Planning Studio where the outcomes of the analysis and interpretation of gathered data will be used as a base to provide various planning scenarios, alternatives, and implementation strategies, as well as evaluation of alternatives.

*Prerequisites: SP710*

*Corequisites:*

<b>SP740 Planning Theories and Strategies</b>	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
---	----------------	----------------

The course focuses on selected classic and current debates and theories in planning, such as synoptic planning, disjointed incrementalism, mixed scanning, advocacy planning, communicative planning, cooperative action planning, radical planning, and others. It also focuses on cross-cutting concepts of spatial planning and links them to thematic planning issues. The course highlights three main blocks: an introductory part that includes definitions and discussions of various types of planning and development of scientific knowledge in general; different theoretical approaches and modes of planning; and comprehensive and critical understanding of past and present debates of planning as a basis for further reflections on planning approaches.

*Prerequisites:*

*Corequisites:*

<b>SP770 Sustainable Planning I</b>	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
-------------------------------------	----------------	----------------

The course intends to create greater awareness of problems and potentials related to use, conservation and management of natural resources. Emphases are on the concept of resource efficient planning, and the interdependencies between environmental factors and human activities as basic requirements for planners. The course includes the following topics: introduction to the basics of landscape ecology, ecosystems and interaction between man and nature, international environmental conventions, land use zoning, classification and evaluation, environmental economics, natural resources management and conservation, and implementation of environmental projects.

*Prerequisites:*

*Corequisites:*

<b>SP780 Spatial Socio-Economic Development Planning</b>	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
--	----------------	----------------

The course presents an integrated development planning that helps students to encompass qualitative and quantitative capacities for assessing proper implementation in the context of socio-cultural entities as well as social structures, while promoting integrated economic development. It further highlights theories, strategies, and policies of economic development and location theories.

*Prerequisites:*

*Corequisites:*

<b>SABE724 Research Methods</b>	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
---------------------------------	----------------	----------------

This course provides students with theoretical and practical knowledge needed to write and present technical research papers. The course covers research norms, data collection tools and techniques, methods of evaluating information, data analysis techniques and data interpretation, quantitative (experimental, quasi-experimental, and survey) and qualitative studies (case studies, comparative analysis, field reconnaissance surveys, participant observation, and archival). The review includes all methods of observation and data collection with focus on measurements, reliability, validity, data analysis, interpretation, inferences, reporting, and research ethics. This course also provides students with theoretical and practical knowledge needed to write thesis proposals and final Master's Thesis. The course covers preparation for thesis writing, thesis management, proposal rewriting, conducting oral and visual presentations, and teaching and training didactics.

*Prerequisites:*

*Corequisites:*

## 2. Elective Courses

<b>SP 701 Special Topics in Urban Design and Urban Regeneration</b>	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
---	----------------	----------------

This course allows specialized or in-depth study of a subject supplementing in urban design and urban regeneration. Student interest and instructor expertise help determine the topic, to be announced in the classroom.

*Prerequisites:*

*Corequisites:*

<b>SP741 Theories and Concepts of Urbanism</b>	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
--	----------------	----------------

The course introduces approaches to Urbanism and its link to urban planning and architecture theories and trends up to date. The main focus is on the different urban contexts and issues of concern in each context. The course offers students concepts related to the roles, decisions, and implications involved in urban design, including negotiations related to impacts on society, environment, and economy. It includes providing the research experience in realistic land use solutions in an urban context.

*Prerequisites: SP740 or AC748*

*Corequisites:*

<b>SP742 Land-Use Planning and Legislations</b>	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
---	----------------	----------------

The course concerns land-use strategies, policies and planning legislations. It presents principles, requirements and strategies for technical infrastructure networks (transport, water supply and drainage, energy supply and communication). The 12 course aims at acquainting students with substantial knowledge and skills in the legal and organizational issues of overall planning at micro and macro levels. It also introduces the sustainable necessities of land use plans and methods of their transformation into action plans.

*Prerequisites: SP740*

*Corequisites:*

<b>SP743 Landscape Urbanism</b>	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
---------------------------------	----------------	----------------

The course introduces landscape theory and empirical studies incorporated in the urban context. It investigates the potential of landscape as an instrument for new urbanization. The course will enable students to develop urban visions and strategic urban design that incorporate ecological assessment of the environment and, thereby, to master more sustainable planning through natural and manmade landscape.

*Prerequisites: SP740*

*Corequisites:*

	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
--	----------------	----------------

**SP744 Waterfront Development**

The course introduces theories and case studies of river or seaside developments. It introduces methods of transforming private and public waterfronts into communal development and settlements. The course also highlights strategies and approaches towards revitalization of waterfronts at the national and regional levels. It compares inland and waterfront developments as a difficult problem the critical cases of heritage associated with waterfronts.

*Prerequisites: SP740*

*Corequisites*

**SP745 Planning in Cities and Metropolitan Areas**

**3 Cr Hr**

**00 ECTS**

The course conveys concepts of strategic city planning incorporating theory and empirical case studies and dealing with institutional spatial arrangements, procedural and strategic spatial development, and objective-oriented planning. The course also discusses the impact of formal and informal types of cooperation at the different 13 levels of the city regarding stable growth and development of cities and metropolises. The course demonstrates instruments of good governance and proper strategic thinking for an integrated planning in cities and metropolises.

*Prerequisites: SP740*

*Corequisites:*

**SP747 Urban Transportation**

**3 Cr Hr**

**00 ECTS**

The course provides students with theoretical and empirical approaches to implement and plan models of transportation using census, assessment, and evaluation of the need for new transportation networks and transportation investment. It presents pedestrian-friendly environments as unconventional strategies and models for transportation within urban settings.

*Prerequisites: SP740*

*Corequisites:*

**SP748 Regional Planning**

**3 Cr Hr**

**00 ECTS**

The course provides a comprehensive demonstration of tools related to the emergence of regional planning. It explores disparities between regional idealism and practice and management of planning. It also presents an assessment, evaluation, and identification of planning deficits and indicators at the regional level. Emphasis is on assets and obstacles of regional planning strategies in relation to environmental protection, economic development, social justice, and land legislations.

*Prerequisites: SP740*

*Corequisites:*

**SP772 Environmental Aesthetics**

**3 Cr Hr**

**00 ECTS**

This course explores the aesthetics of both the built and the natural environments and places. The course addresses multidimensional aspects of the aesthetic understanding and the appreciation of beauty of the natural and the built environments. Art as a phenomenon and history of philosophy are introduced in order to conceptualize discussions of contemporary aesthetic thinking. The course discusses traditional and contemporary philosophical issues, speculative approaches and psychological theories. It addresses cognitive and non-cognitive views. The course also discusses empirical aesthetics and scientific interpretation of aesthetic phenomena. The course covers both formal and symbolic

*Prerequisites: SP740*

*Corequisites:*

**SP788 Human and Creative Construction of Place** **3 Cr Hr** **00 ECTS**

The main theme of the course is focused on understanding and making places on diverse scales. Concepts of human spatial experience, meaning, and sense of place are examples of the human aspects of understanding place. Concepts of design narratives and cinematography are examples of the creative aspects of constructing place. The course adopts multi-layered perspectives to place: one is of the designer, another is of the user as either an active-passive actor, or as a creative actor. These perspectives are taken within varying socio-cultural and psychological contexts. The course adopts an interdisciplinary approach to cover the concepts and theories of place and space in different fields of knowledge: architecture, art, philosophy, drama, cinema, human geography and environmental psychology.

*Prerequisites: SP740*

*Corequisites:*

**SP702 Special Topics in Implementation Management** **3 Cr Hr** **00 ECTS**

This course allows specialized or in-depth study of a subject supplementing implementation management. Student interest and instructor expertise help determine the topic, to be announced in the classroom.

*Prerequisites:*

*Corequisites:*

**SP771 Sustainable Planning II** **3 Cr Hr** **00 ECTS**

The course covers management of natural resources with emphasis on sustainable land use and the role and impact of agriculture on development as a global policy. It particularly deals with ecological profiles, conservation of natural resources, and sustainability of environmental impact assessment. It also covers concepts of land significance, role, and use at the regional, national, and local levels.

*Prerequisites: SP770*

*Corequisites:*

**SP781 Real-Estate Development Planning** **00 Cr Hr** **00 ECTS**

The course provides theories, strategies, and methods for real estate prognosis. It utilizes observations and analysis of local and regional real estate development projects. It specifically deals with management and impact assessment of such developments, while inspecting the socio-cultural norms and structures. The course provides analysis skills of proper emergence and development of sustainable planning that is based on assessment of real market needs and demands, as well as location analysis for proper marketing devolution. The course content is directed towards feasibility studies and integrated planning that may have positive impact on real estate development.

*Prerequisites: SP780*

*Corequisites:*

**SP782 Post-Crisis Development and Conflict Resolution** **3Cr Hr** **00 ECTS**

The course highlights the importance of transforming crisis into opportunities for sustainable development. It introduces theories related to conflict resolution, urban risk, risk management and other relevant theories that sharpen graduate students' perception of problem solving. The course handles case studies of natural hazards, disasters and conflicts, whose good management like mitigation and post crisis rehabilitation may lead to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

*Prerequisites: SP740*

*Corequisites:*

**SP783 Tourism Planning** **3 Cr Hr** **00 ECTS**

This course provides students with the appropriate understanding of the relationship between the built environment and the complexity of tourism activities, and its impact on society and resources allocation. It covers various processes in tourism planning and development including government involvement. It also presents various 17 planning approaches including land-based, market-based, and community-based tourism. Extensive field trips and field research will be utilized.

*Prerequisites: SP740 or AC748*

*Corequisites:*

**SP784 Planning and Marketing Strategies** **3 Cr Hr** **00 ECTS**

The course defines anchor points and indicators in market assessment in a changing business environment. Topics include definition and role of marketing; analysis of marketing environment; market research - uses and techniques especially in defining demand and supply; and of marketing mix in planning. The course also reviews local strategies and policies in relation to land use, urban gentrification and growth, and human settlements as well as accompanying development programs. Case studies are to be used as research tools.

*Prerequisites: SP780*

*Corequisites*

**SP785 Project Management and Implementation** **3Cr Hr** **00 ECTS**

The course deals with institutional and practical issues of designing and implementing development projects in the region. It covers theories and knowledge about systems management of development plans at the local and regional levels. It also covers the issues of administrative and political structures and reforms associated with decentralization, legislations, collaboration and other governance issues.

*Prerequisites: SP780 or AC748*

*Corequisites:*

**SP786 Planning and Management Information Systems** **3 Cr Hr** **00 ECTS**

The course comprises in-depth applications of information and communication technology (ICT) for urban land management and advanced GIS methods. It utilizes qualitative and quantitative research design and methods related to planning, making use of data collection and analysis for spatial and participatory approaches. It also 18 deals with methods in urban management and development as practiced by the central government, municipal councils, and private sector.

*Prerequisites: SP740*

*Corequisites:*

**SP751 Appropriate Technology** **3 Cr Hr** **00 ECTS**

This course comprises research, design, and fabrication of appropriate technologies related to planning in developing countries. Students learn to design and evaluate appropriate technologies and their implementation. Case studies of technology projects introduced by the World Bank, NGOs, and non- profits organizations are used to investigate the role of cultural responsibility, community accountability, and project follow-up. Students will be encouraged to develop own criticism of the appropriateness of technology for a certain community and how it can best function to balance culture and economy.

*Prerequisites: SP 710 or AC755*

*Corequisites:*

### 3. Thesis

<b>SP799A Master Thesis / Spatial Planning</b>	<b>00 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
--	-----------------	----------------

This course involves extensive research in Spatial Planning. The Master's Thesis is based on field research and demonstrates student's background knowledge. A defense will be set to evaluate student's capabilities of carrying out research, with a focus on the analysis and interpretation of skills gained.

*Prerequisites: SABE724*

*Corequisites:*

<b>SP799B Master Thesis / Spatial Planning</b>	<b>3 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
--	----------------	----------------

This course involves extensive research in Spatial Planning. The Master's Thesis is based on field research and demonstrates student's background knowledge. A defense will be set to evaluate student's capabilities of carrying out research, with a focus on the analysis and interpretation of skills gained.

*Prerequisites: SABE724*

*Corequisites*

<b>SP799C Master Thesis / Spatial Planning</b>	<b>6 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
--	----------------	----------------

This course involves extensive research in Spatial Planning. The Master's Thesis is based on field research and demonstrates student's background knowledge. A defense will be set to evaluate student's capabilities of carrying out research, with a focus on the analysis and interpretation of skills gained.

*Prerequisites: SABE724*

*Corequisites:*

<b>SP799D Master Thesis / Spatial Planning</b>	<b>9 Cr Hr</b>	<b>00 ECTS</b>
--	----------------	----------------

This course involves extensive research in Spatial Planning. The Master's Thesis is based on field research and demonstrates student's background knowledge. A defense will be set to evaluate student's capabilities of carrying out research, with a focus on the analysis and interpretation of skills gained.

*Prerequisites: SABE724*

*Corequisites:*