

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SPECIALIZATION, MUP Program

The specialization in environmental planning aims to integrate diverse knowledge of urban and natural systems to address environmental problems in rapidly changing cities and metropolitan areas across the world. It emphasizes the design, planning, and management of urban patterns and infrastructure that minimize environmental impacts, enhance resilience to natural hazards, and improve the quality of life of human populations. The specialization provides the theoretical, methodological, and legal background necessary for planners to play an effective role in integrating scientific knowledge of environmental systems into environmental decision-making and planning. The specialization prepares professional planners to:

- Integrate different disciplinary approaches to analyze urban and regional environmental problems.
- Use a broad set of analytical and evaluation techniques to assess the impacts of urban development on ecosystems and human wellbeing.
- Apply a multi-disciplinary perspective to design and implement environmental strategies, policies, and plans.
- Apply advanced spatial data infrastructures and technologies to urban environmental analysis and decision making.
- Apply methods for resolving conflicts in environmental and resource management.
- Address institutional and intergovernmental constraints to the implementation of environmental policies and plans.

The specialization is designed to provide essential knowledge and skills for MUP students who aim to become environmental planners as well as for those who intend to work at the interface between other planning fields and the environment. The specialization prepares students for a broad range of career options, including governmental agencies at the state and local level, research institutions focusing on sustainability, private consulting, environmental non-profits, and environmental management and policy organizations, both at the local and international level.

Required foundation courses*

URBDP 598	Making Policy with Science	Autumn (will not be offered Autumn 2022 or 2023)	Whittington
OR			
URBDP 598	Research Design for Urban Science	Autumn, Year 2	Alberti
URBDP 598	Environmental Planning	Spring	Alberti
URBDP 522	Geospatial Analysis	Winter	variable

Electives

A minimum of two additional courses in urban ecology, natural hazards mitigation, or other environmental planning subjects covered in courses within or outside the department, to be determined in consultation with the faculty advisor.

Thesis or professional project

A thesis or professional project related to this area of specialization.

* Except where prerequisites are noted, required courses can be taken in the 1st or 2nd year.