



جامعة الإمام عبد الرحمن بن فيصل
IMAM ABDULRAHMAN BIN FAISAL UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

STUDENT PROSPECTUS

**PhD in Urban and
Regional Planning Program**





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College of Architecture and Planning

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Student Prospectus

PhD in Urban and Regional Planning Program

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

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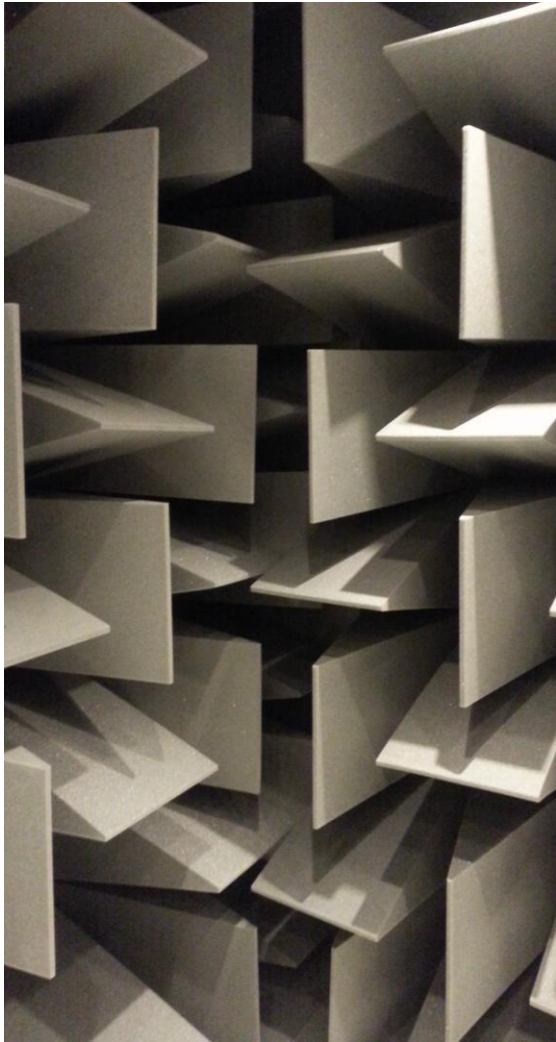
PhD in URP Program Student Prospectus, 2nd Edition
© 2024, Department of Urban and Regional Planning
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**In the name of Allah,
the most Gracious,
the most Compassionate**

Rajab 1445 - January 2024



CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN	VI
MESSAGE FROM DURP CHAIRMAN	VII
INTRODUCTION	1
PROGRAM VISION, MISSION AND VALUES	2
PROGRAM GOALS	3
PROGRAM STRUCTURE	3
ADMISSION	3
COURSES	4
COMPREHENSIVE EXAM	4
RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION	4
DEFENSE OF DISSERTATION	5
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS	5
PROGRAM RESOURCES	8
Physical Resources	8
Human Resources	9
CONTACT INFORMATION	10

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Planning is one of the most essential environmental design professions which sets the contextual prerequisites for landscape, architectural, construction, and interior design and other design professions. It provides the macro scale spatial standards and criteria that preserve the identity and function of the larger land use pattern thereby achieving better belonging and users' satisfaction. Comprehensive urban and regional planning is significant to urban development because it considers the integration of physical, social and economic aspects of the environment. This will lead not only to a healthy, safe and comfortable physical environment but also to sustainable and preserved environmental resources

The College of Architecture and Planning is certain that the PhD program of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning offers all types of academic and professional support to its students to attain in-depth knowledge of different areas of the planning discipline and acquire the skills to conduct research. Apart from classroom courses, continuous discussions and interactions occur among students and supervising professors. The educational guidelines of the university, college and the department ensure that the topics are beneficial to society, add to the scientific and professional experience of students and contribute to future research.



Dr. Tareq I. Alrawaf , Dean
College of Architecture and Planning
Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University
Dammam, Saudi Arabia

MESSAGE FROM DURP CHAIRMAN

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning in Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University (IAU) prides itself in being the first in the Kingdom to offer a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program. Since its inauguration in 1987, the PhD program has continued to excel, becoming a renowned nationally and internationally.

This prospectus, would help those who are considering to seek admission into the program with an eye to develop a career in research and/or teaching of issues related to planning.

It outlines the structure of the program and the curriculum with course contents Educational resources such as labs, libraries and faculty list are also included in this guide. Those who gain admission would still find this prospectus useful in conjunction with the Students' Handbook and University Catalog, which will aid them in planning for the completion of the degree requirements in a timely and orderly manner. Students are also encouraged to meet their advisors regularly to follow up on their academic progress. It is the policy of the department to promote students' learning and to motivate them to seek knowledge within and beyond the classroom.



Prof. Faez Saad Al-Shihri, Chairman
Department of Urban and Regional Planning
College of Architecture and Planning
Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University
Dammam, Saudi Arabia





INTRODUCTION



THE UNIVERSITY

Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (IAU) opened its doors to women and men in 1975 with two colleges, the College of Medicine and the College of Architecture. Almost four decades later, this academic institution has grown into a leading research university with 21 colleges spread throughout the Eastern Province and a student population of over 45,000. IAU began as the Dammam Campus of King Faisal University based in Al-Hasa. The Dammam campus was separated and established as an independent university, the University of Dammam, in 2009. The name was changed to Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University in 2016.

THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

The first batch of 60 students was admitted in the fall of 1975 to commence studies in the College of Architecture and Planning. The College of Architecture and Planning has grown to include five departments enrolling more than 900 students in five undergraduate and seven graduate programs. The departments are: Architecture, Building Engineering, Landscape Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning, and Interior Architecture. The college is housed in its own building in the new East Campus of the university, near the Central Library and Administration Building.

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning in the College of Architecture and Planning is one of only four departments in this discipline in the universities of Saudi Arabia. It was the first department to open in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in 1975 as a supporting department of the college. The department began its own master's program in 1986. A bachelor's program began in 1991. The PhD program in the department was initiated in 2005. Until now 13 students have graduated from this program which is the first of its kind in the Kingdom.

The design, construction, operation and management of new cities, the repair and maintenance of the existing cities, and the development of new urban management and technologies, have become serious concerns for the urban and regional planning profession, particularly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the issues of sustainability, pollution, energy use and health are crucial in the fast-growing built environment. Trends such as globalization and application of information and communication technology are posing unprecedented challenges as well as opportunities for urban development.

There is, therefore, a need for competent researchers in the field of urban and regional planning in Saudi Arabia, who with their scientific knowledge and skills are capable of predict and find solutions to the persistent and emerging problems of urban and regional development in the Kingdom. Accordingly, the PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program is designed to inculcate among students the knowledge of planning theories and issues as well as skills of conducting scientific research. The program offers a specialized, research-oriented degree in urban and regional planning and aims at preparing students for careers in research and/or teaching.

The PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program was initiated in the light of the Sixth Five-Year Plan that invoked institutions of higher learning to contribute to national development so as to meet the new challenges of internal development and globalization, and to respond to the ever expanding social and economic demands. The first students in the program were admitted in 1426 H/2006 G. As of 1440 H/2019 G, the program has awarded the PhD in URP degree to thirteen candidates, including one foreign candidate.

PROGRAM VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Vision

To maintain a leading position in preparing the graduates of the Urban and Regional Planning PhD Program to effectively contribute to the process of sustainable and balanced spatial development.

Mission

To provide state-of-the-art knowledge, research, and professional skills to urban and regional planning doctoral students to augment their potential to enhance the life and environmental qualities of Saudi communities.

Values

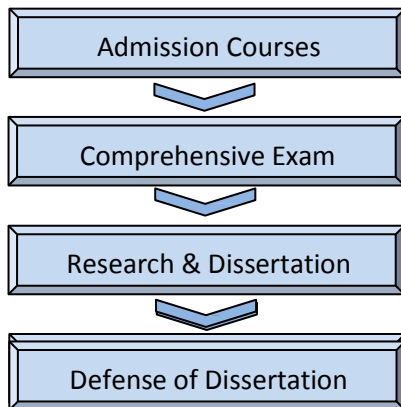
Excellence, Professionalism, Creativity, Diversity Team Spirit, Islamic and Local Culture, and Social Responsibility.

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Enhance and advance knowledge and skills.
2. Carry out meaningful research.
3. Offer high quality community services.
4. Enhance human and professional competencies of all program affiliates.
5. Maintain sustainable working environment for students and staff.
6. Promote efficient administrative structure for the program.
7. Improve economic competencies in running the program.
8. Optimize the use of technological advancement in all program activities.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program follows a structure in which, to earn the degree, one has to complete **12 credits of courses and 9 credits for dissertation** within a **period of three-to-five years**. This is full-time only program. There are five main stages for students to go through before obtaining the PhD degree as shown in the figure below:



ADMISSION

For admission into the PhD program, a prospective student has to meet the requirements laid down in the regulations of the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and specified in the Unified Graduate Studies Byelaws (UGSB), published in 1418 H/1997 G. Besides, the student has to meet any additional requirements recommended by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and approved by the College of Architecture and Planning and Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University. Requirements are subject to change from time-to-time and prospective students are advised to be familiar with them at any particular point in time.

The major requirements for admission are:

- 9 Saudi nationality, or, if non-Saudi, recipient of scholarship for postgraduate studies.
- 9 Master's degree from a Saudi university or from any recognized university.
- 9 Must be of good conduct and behavior and medically fit.
- 9 Two recommendation letter from his instructors who previously taught them.
- 9 No Objection Certificate from the employer if the applicant is employed.
- 9 Master's degree in the field of specialization.
- 9 TOEFL score of 500 or its equivalent.

A promising applicant from disciplines other than urban and regional planning may be admitted to the program based on a recommendation from the department and college and the approval of the Deanship of Graduate Studies. They may need to undertake additional non-credit courses.

Applications must be submitted online through the admissions portal of the university Website. For information, log into <https://www.iau.edu.sa/ar/administration/deanships/deanship-of-admissions-and-registration>.

COURSES

In the first year of study after admission, the student has to take four courses (listed and described in the next page), two each in the first and second semesters. The student has to secure a minimum grade of 'B' in each course.

Students who are not from the urban and regional planning discipline may be required to take pre-requisite courses for a period not exceeding three semesters. The student should pass all the pre-requisite courses without re-sit with a minimum grade of 'B' in each course. A student registered for pre-requisite courses shall not be considered a PhD student, hence neither the years spent nor the credits earned shall be counted toward the award of the PhD degree. The student may be allowed to register in the PhD courses only if they have one or two pre-requisite courses left to take as per Article 18 of the Graduate Studies Bylaws.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

On completion of the course work (four courses) with a minimum GPA of 'B', a student shall be allowed to take the comprehensive examination. The main objective of the examination is to assess the student's proficiency in the major and the minor planning fields. It would consist of a written and an oral examination. A student securing a grade of 'B' or above in the examination shall be admitted into PhD candidacy. A student who fails to obtain a 'B' grade in the first attempt may be re-examined within the next two semesters. A student who fails the examination for the second time shall be asked to leave the program according to Article 40 of the Graduate Studies Byelaws.

RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION

Upon the completion of 50% of the course work (two courses) with a minimum grade of 'B' in each, the student will be allowed to submit their dissertation proposal. If the proposal is accepted, the department will assign a Preliminary Advisory Committee for the student. The Preliminary Advising Committee will be responsible for guiding the student throughout the research proposal preparation stage until she/he is admitted into PhD candidacy.

Once the student passes the comprehensive examination the Department Council, on the recommendation of the Graduate Committee, will appoint a permanent Advisory Committee. One of the members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the department to act as the Principal Advisor/Supervisor.

The research proposal has to be prepared in the prescribed format of the university. Once the dissertation proposal is approved by the department, the student is allowed to register 9 credit hours for 'Doctoral Dissertation'.

The objective of the dissertation is to offer the student the opportunity to apply the theoretical and practical knowledge gained and analytical methods learnt to the resolution of a research problem. The research should be original and contribute to the existing body of applied or theoretical knowledge. During the process of dissertation development, candidates are expected to conduct at least two doctoral seminars, one at the beginning of the research and the other after preliminary analysis phase of the research.

DEFENSE OF DISSERTATION

Upon the completion of the research and writing of the dissertation according to the prescribed format of the university, the candidate shall present and defend their work before an examination committee consisting of internal and external members, formed by the department according to the guidelines of the UGSB.

Each member of the committee shall submit their evaluation of the dissertation. Acceptance of the dissertation or otherwise is done on the basis of the UGSB. With the acceptance of the dissertation, the 9 credits for dissertation shall be earned by the candidate.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

There are four 3-credit courses in the program.

First year first semester:

- URPL 801: Seminar (1): Advanced Urban & Regional Planning Theories.
- URPL 803: Seminar (3): Doctoral Research Methods.

First year second semester:

- URPL 802: Seminar (2): Emerging Issues in Urban & Regional Planning.
- URPL 804: Seminar (4): Dissertation Research Methods.

URPL 801: Seminar (1): Advanced Urban & Regional Planning Theories

This course offers PhD students the opportunity to address, in considerable depth, pressing and enduring issues being faced by the planning theorists and practitioners. These issues center around what role could or should planners play in the

development of cities and regions within the prevailing forces of Islamic culture, institutions and the Western influences. Students are encouraged to examine the diverse, sometimes conflicting and contradictory, views on wide-ranging planning issues. In addition, the course explores the various uses, forms and limits of theorizing and its relationship to the practice of planning in the West and in the Muslim world, with specific emphasis on the Kingdom and the Gulf. Students are required to develop their own intellectual models of theory in, for, or of planning that takes into consideration timely measures and

URPL 802: Seminar (2): Emerging Issues in Urban & Regional Planning

Recent events are pointing to new and challenging contexts of planning thought and action including emerging new social, economic, technological, administrative, and spatial issues. Social structure and order of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) with more youthful demographic profile are demanding more and better public goods (jobs, homes and social and physical infrastructure). These changes constitute unprecedented challenges for planners, especially in the context of globalization and development of telecommunications and information technology. The seminar focuses on discussing modern concepts and techniques and their consequences in the economic and social conditions. The seminar seeks strategies to support balanced spatial development in cities and regions.

URPL 803: Seminar (3): Doctoral Research Methods

Recent events are pointing to new and challenging contexts of planning thought and action including emerging new social, economic, technological, administrative, and spatial issues. Social structure and order of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) with more youthful demographic profile are demanding more and better public goods (jobs, homes and social and physical infrastructure). These changes constitute unprecedented challenges for planners, especially in the

telecommunications and information technology. The seminar focuses on discussing modern concepts and techniques and their consequences in the economic and social conditions. The seminar seeks strategies to support balanced spatial development in cities and regions.

URPL 804: Seminar (4): Dissertation Research Methods

The course is designed for advanced students particularly those preparing for their dissertation research proposal. It assumes that students have background in research design and analytical methods and hence will focus on the following areas: hypothesis and their tests; analysis of nominal and ordinal data; analysis of variance; correlation and regression techniques of analysis; dummy variable and multi-co linearity; path analysis; research report writing, etc.

Apart from the four courses above that comprise a total of 12 credits, the student, upon entering candidacy, shall register for 9 credits of ‘Doctoral Dissertation’.

URPL 900: Doctoral Dissertation

The objective of the doctoral dissertation is to apply the theoretical and practical knowledge and analytical methods to the resolution of a specific research problem in one of the subfields of urban and regional planning: regional planning, urban planning, urban design, transportation planning, social planning, public administration, quantitative planning techniques, etc. The research must be original and contribute to the existing body of applied or theoretical knowledge. The dissertation stage consists of three main parts: (1) filing the dissertation proposal, (2) doctoral seminars, and (3)

Operational Sequence of the PhD Program

Activity		Year/Semester												
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1. Admission	Application, screening	█												
	Test, evaluation, acceptance, admission formalities	█												
2. Coursework	Seminar (1): Advanced Urban and Regional Planning Theories		█											
	Seminar (3): Doctoral Research Methods			█										
	Seminar (2): Emerging Issues in Urban and Regional Planning				█									
	Seminar (4): Dissertation Research Methods					█								
3. Comprehensive Examination				█										
4. Dissertation	Submission of dissertation proposal			█	→									
	Doctoral Seminar (1)			█	→									
	Doctoral Seminar (2)				█	→								
	Preparing the dissertation					█	→							
5. Defense of Dissertation							█	→						



Central library

استنباط نموذج هجين لمبادئ تخطيط وتصميم الأحياء السكنية بالمدينة
السعودية
حاضرة الدمام كحالة دراسية

Deriving a Hybrid Model of Planning and Design
Principles for Residential Neighborhood in the Saudi city
The case of Dammam Metropolitan Area

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قسم التخطيط الحضري والاقليمي
برنامج الدراسات العليا (مكتوراة)
2017م - 1439هـ

Cover of sample
dissertation



Presentation by a PhD candidate



GIS lab

PROGRAM RESOURCES

The Department of Urban & Regional Planning at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University is one of the first in introducing the graduate studies in Urban & Regional Planning in the Kingdom and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Therefore, the department has to its credit significant teaching, research and consultation expertise. Graduates of this department have already assumed high responsible positions in the public and the private sectors. This testifies that the Department of Urban and Regional Planning has been able to impart the right kind of knowledge and skills successfully. The physical and human resources to support the PhD program in Urban & Regional Planning are as follows.

Physical Resources

Work/study space: The College of Architecture & Planning is housed in a spacious, three-storied building exclusively for its own use in the new campus of the university.

The Central Library in the Campus: This library has a rich collection of books, journals and periodicals in engineering, architecture, planning, and related fields. The library has the necessary facilities and space to cater to graduate research students. Also, there is an extensive collection of scientific databases that can be accessed online.



GIS Lab: The college has a Geographic Information System (GIS) laboratory equipped with all the hardware and software required to facilitate advanced studies and research in the areas of socio-economic and geographic information.

Environmental Studies Center: The college has a comprehensive range of instruments needed to conduct advanced research in the field of environmental planning e.g. weather & climatic studies, noise studies etc.

Audio-Visual Center: This college has an adequate variety of audio-visual equipment required for teaching and related activities envisaged in the proposed modification.

Model Making Workshop: This workshop has all the necessary materials, equipment (including 3D printers and laser cutters) and expertise that might be needed by students in a graduate program of studies in diverse aspects of

Computer Center and Internet Services: The College of Architecture and Planning has a rich array of computers as well as high-end software available to staff and researchers. High-speed, secure Internet service is available in all academic facilities of the university. Cloud-based data storage and sharing facilities are also available. BlackBoard, an e-learning platform is used at all levels of education in the college. The university subscribes to the services of Turnitin, which is used for submission of written assignments and students can use it to ensure that their submissions are free from plagiarism.

Accommodation and Student Services: The Deanship of Students' Affairs of the university provide accommodation for students at the university dormitories on the basis of need and availability. There are a number of interest-based students' clubs for extracurricular activities and different programs are arranged by the deanship throughout the year. For more information, check the webpage of the Deanship of Students' Affairs.

Human Resources

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning is privileged to have a strong teaching staff to run the PhD program.

All senior members of the faculty have higher academic qualifications from universities in North America, Europe and Japan. They have a diversity of research interests giving students a wide of range of research options to choose from.

No	Name of Faculty	Rank	Research Interests
1	Prof. Faez Al-Shihri	Professor	Regional Planning, Planning for Land Conservation
2	Prof. Mahmoud A. Abdellatif	Professor	Urban Dev. & Design, Desert Dev., Housing, Architectural and Computer Education.
3	Prof. Khandoker Maniruzzaman	Professor	Disaster Management, Spatial Analysis, GIS
4	Prof. Antar A. Abou Korin	Professor	Regional Development; Urban Analysis; Population & Development; Spatial Analysis
5	Prof. Abdulkarim Al-Howaish	Professor	Regional Economic Analysis; Urban & Rural Economics
6	Dr. Abubakar R. Ismaila	Professor	Urban Sustainability; New towns Development; Urbanization; Environmental Planning; Urban services.
7	Dr. Ali M. Al-Qahatany	Professor	Sustainability Urban Planning
8	Dr. Umar Lawal Dano	Associate Professor	GIS and Remote Sensing Application, Sustainability and Urban Transport.
9	Dr. Maher S. Al-Shammri	Asst. Professor	GIS, Planning Techniques, Quantitative Methods in Planning; Sustainable Dev.; Physical Planning
10	Dr. Karim A. Gazzeh	Asst. Professor	Housing, Sustainable Urban Dev., Risk Management
11	Dr. Nawaf Abdulkarim Al-Shabibi	Asst. Professor	Transportation Planning and Traffic Engineering
12	Dr. Mubarak F. Al-Hajri	Asst. Professor	Housing and Residential Development
13	Dr. Khalid M. Almatter	Asst. Professor	Transportation Planning and Traffic Engineering
14	Dr. Abdulaziz Almulhim	Asst. Professor	Water, Utility and Infrastructure Planning and Management
15	Dr. Abdullah A. Al-Hamoudi	Asst. Professor	Urban Development; Housing; City Management
16	Dr. Salem Ibrahim Aljoaib	Asst. Professor	Urban Governance and City Management
17	Dr. Suliman M. Almazroua	Asst. Professor	Urban Planning
18	Dr. Khalid A. Al Melhem	Asst. Professor	Housing Policy and Analysis
19	Eng. Abdulmalik Y. Al-Shinawi	Lecturer	GIS; Disaster Management; Urban Economics
20	Eng. Abdulrahman A. AlSayel	Teaching Asst.	Green City; Smart Growth; New Urbanism
21	Eng. Abdulrahman Alqahtani	Teaching Asst.	Urban and Regional Planning

CONTACT INFORMATION



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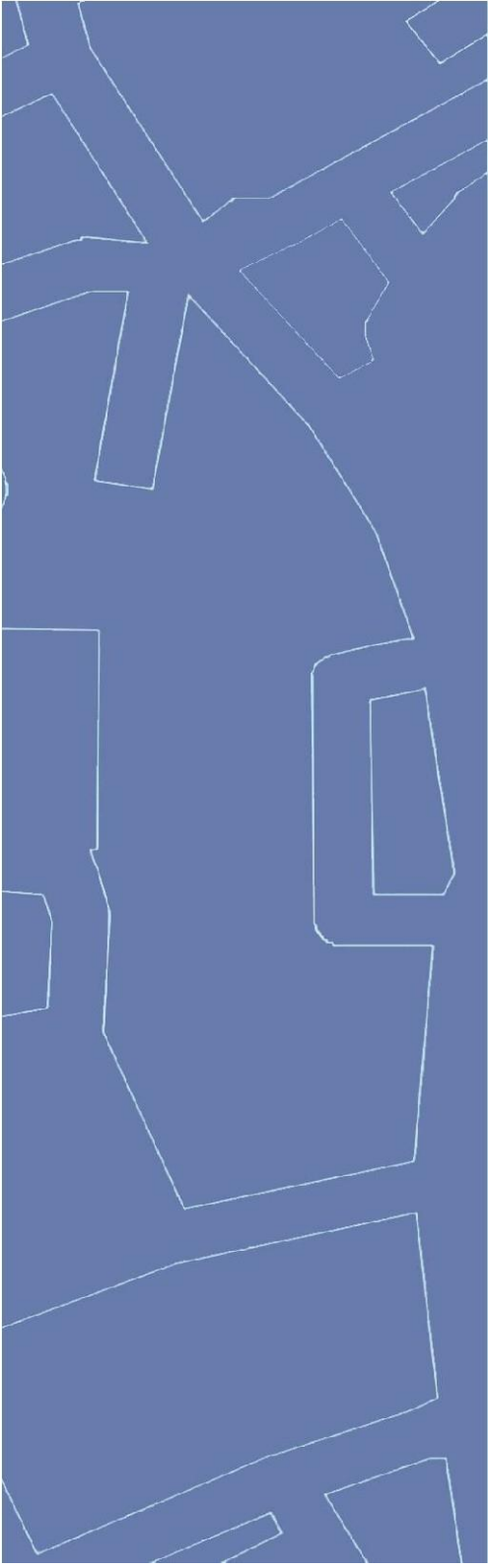


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<https://www.iau.edu.sa/en/colleges/college-of-architecture-and-planning/departments/department-of-urban-and-regional-planning>





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