



جامعة الإمام عبد الرحمن بن فيصل

IMAM ABDULRAHMAN BIN FAISAL UNIVERSITY

**Department of Urban and Regional Planning
College of Architecture and Planning**

PhD in URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM MANUAL

**Rajab 1445 H/January 2024 G
Dammam**

**In the Name of Allah
The Most Merciful the Most Compassionate**

Acknowledgement

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1. INTRODUCTION

Since 1970 the government in Saudi Arabia has been successively launching five-year development plans covering national, regional and local levels which has called for highly trained professionals in the field of urban, rural and regional planning. In order to formulate future development policy and to execute the new Provincial System as outlined in the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the government felt it is necessary to:

“... encourage specialized colleges, universities and the Institute of Public Administration to design educational and training programs incorporating new government regulations and development approaches so as to enhance the capabilities of Saudi citizens in the field of urban and regional planning.”¹

The Sixth Five-Year Plan invoked the institutions of higher learning to contribute to national development so as to meet the new challenges and to respond to the ever-expanding social and economic demands. In response, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, College of Architecture and Planning at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (the Dammam campus of King Faisal University at that time), introduced a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program. The first batch of doctoral students was admitted in Rajab 1426H (September 2006G).

¹ The Sixth Five-Year Plan, Ministry of Planning, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, 1995, p. 422.

2. PROGRAM VISION, MISSION AND GOALS

2.1 The National Vision

In order to guide future growth and development of the country and to formulate future policies to promote healthy lifestyles, improve the quality of life in cities, and ensure environmental sustainability, the government has made commitments to encourage specialized colleges to design educational and training programs incorporating new government regulations and development approaches to enhance the capabilities of Saudi citizens in the field of urban and regional planning.¹ The consecutive five-year plans invoke the institutions of higher learning to contribute to national development to meet the new challenges and to respond to the ever-expanding physical, social and economic demands.

The Saudi Vision 2030, promulgated in 2016, depends on three dimensions: vital society, thriving economy and ambitious homeland. These dimensions are integrated and consistent with each other in order to achieve the objectives of the Kingdom and to maximize the benefit from this vision²:

- The first dimension represents a "**vital society**" to achieve this vision and establish a solid foundation for our economic prosperity. The Vision starts from the society, and ends in it. This dimension stems from the belief in the importance of building a vital society, whose members live according to Islamic principles and an approach of moderation, take pride in their national identity and cultural heritage. They live in a positive and attractive environment with quality-of-life ingredients for citizens and expatriates, and on an enriching solid foundation of primary health care and social enablers.
- In the second dimensions of "**thriving economy**," the focus is on creating opportunities for all by building an educational system linked to labor market needs and development opportunities for everyone from entrepreneurs and small businesses to large corporations with the conviction in the need to develop tools for the Kingdom to launch promising economic sectors and to diversify the economy and generate

¹ The Sixth Five-Year Plan, Ministry of Planning, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, 1995.

² The official website of the 2030 Vision: <https://www.mep.gov.sa/ar/vision-2030>

employment opportunities for citizens. It recognizes the role of competitiveness in raising the quality of services and economic development, and intent to concentrate efforts in government services and improving the business environment to attract top talents and quality investment to exploit our unique strategic location.

- Because efficiency and responsibility are essential concepts, it is necessary to seek their application at all levels to build an ambitious homeland with its production and achievements. Hence the focus of the third dimension of the Vision, "**ambitious homeland**," in the public sector. Efficient government is made by enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accountability, by encouraging the culture of performing to enable human resources and energies of the Kingdom and by creating the necessary environment for citizens, businesses, and the non-profit sector to assume their responsibilities, take the lead in addressing the challenges, and seize opportunities.

The focus of Vision 2030 on achieving the three requirements (vital society, thriving economy and ambitious homeland) requires highly efficient and balanced development of all the regions of the Kingdom within the framework of sustainable physical, social, and economic development. With sustainable development planning, these regions will be capable of providing stability to their inhabitants within their administrative boundaries. They should be fully integrated with each other to create effective development systems leading to higher living standards and better quality of life for all citizens and expatriates.

2.2 The Vision, Mission and Objective of the University

The Vision of the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University is:

A leading University achieving distinction nationally, regionally, and internationally.

The Mission of the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University is:

Providing creative knowledge, research, and professional services with effective community partnerships.

The Values of the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University are:

Loyalty, Excellence, Teamwork, Transparency, Diversity, Creativity and Social Responsibility.

The Strategic Goals of the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University are:

1. To provide high quality learning and knowledge services.
2. To develop scientific research and innovation system.
3. To promote responsibility and community partnership.
4. To enforce university values and develop its human resource.
5. To achieve sustainable built environment.
6. To build a modern institutional administrative system.
7. To achieve financial sustainability of university resources.
8. To enhance communication and information technology systems.

2.3 The Vision, Mission and Objective of the College

The Vision of the College of Architecture and Planning is:

To achieve distinction regionally, nationally, and globally as a leader in producing professionals in architecture and planning.

The Mission of the College of Architecture and Planning is:

To provide high quality educational programs and facilities for contributing towards achieving a sustainable built environment in Saudi Arabia, while ensuring excellence in professionalism, scientific research, innovation, and community outreach.

The Values of the College of Architecture and Planning are:

Competency, Creativity, Diversity, Social Responsibility, and Islamic and Local Culture.

The Strategic Goals of the College of Architecture and Planning are to:

The College will achieve its vision and mission of attaining scientific and professional excellence domestically and globally in the areas of architectural and urban planning education, scientific research and community service. The objectives of the College may be grouped in the three categories as follows:

1) Ensure high quality knowledge and educational services, and state-of-the-art resources and facilities

- Review the existing programs and establish new programs in-line with the market needs
- Provide up-to-date learning resources, and state-of-the art laboratories and facilities, to meet the demands of all programs offered by the college
- Provide training opportunities for students to enhance creative thinking and to cope up with the professional challenges
- Provide students sufficient motivation and facilities for extracurricular activities.

2) Create a culture of research and design excellence, which drives innovation in science and professional practice:

- Increase faculty participation in collaborative research projects.
- Increase emphasis on undergraduate student research.
- Identify new areas of research in which the college can develop competitive advantage.
- Develop new research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Improve quality and number of publications of the faculty.

3) Expand and enhance collaborative engagement with community and strategic partnership with selected institutions:

- Develop and implement community-based learning activities and events.
- Establish a network of national and international advisory groups for the college and its departments.
- Enhance strategic partnerships with selected professionals and institutions, for effective community service.
- Establish alumni network to enhance their participation in college development.

4) Recruit and retain excellent faculty and staff to enhance positive contribution to the college's growth and development:

- Review and improve the effectiveness of performance management systems for academic and general staff.

- Support faculty and staff with appropriate professional development opportunities and activities in national and international levels
 - Develop and implement plan to recruit distinguished faculty and staff.
 - Develop and implement policies to retain highly valued faculty and staff.
 - Develop and implement policies and procedures for rewarding outstanding faculty through continuous assessment for faculty and staff performance.
- 5) Enhance the infrastructure, and train the faculty and graduates, to contribute for the achievement of a sustainable built environment:**
- Provide faculty and students with sufficient information on the significance of sustainability in the built environment.
 - Provide training opportunities for faculty and students to plan, design and create a sustainable built environment.
- 6) Develop and implement Quality Management and Risk Management systems:**
- Develop quality management system to instill the culture of quality in all college activities.
 - Achieve and maintain accreditation of all programs at national and international levels.
 - Develop and implement robust risk management system.
- 7) Develop and expand financial resources to support academic and administrative activities:**
- Establish paid-programs and short courses in multi/inter-disciplinary specialties.
 - Establish strategic partnerships with selected professionals and institutions to expand financial resources.
 - Strengthen and enhance utilization of the Center for Architectural Studies and Research.
- 8) Enhance the information technology, computer, and software facilities:**
- Meet the current and future needs of IT resources required to meet the demands of all the programs and research activities

- Provide up-to-date software and computing facilities required to perform design, modeling, and simulations in the domain of architecture and planning.

2.4 The Vision, Mission and Goals of the Department of URP

The Vision of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning is:

Towards comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development for Saudi regions, urban centres and rural communities.

The Mission of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning is to:

Provide distinctive scientific, technical, and professional knowledge; scientific research; and community services related to local, regional and national development projects and programs.

The Values of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning are:

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

The Goals of the Department of Urban & Regional Planning is to:

Implement its vision and mission through continuous monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of its educational programs in the light of the changing socio-economic circumstances and new and newer challenges in the field of comprehensive, balanced, and sustainable development in the Kingdom. The Goals of the URP Departments are:

1. Provide high quality learning and knowledge services.
2. Conduct scientifically distinct and socially useful research.
3. Provide high-quality community services.
4. Enhance the competencies of human resources of the Department.
5. Maintain sustainable and stimulating work environment.
6. Enhance the efficiency of administrative structure of the Department.
7. Ensure economic efficiency in managing the Department.

8. Optimize the use of advanced technologies in all activities.

2.5 Vision, Mission and Goals of the PhD in URP Program

The Vision of the PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program is:

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.

The Mission of the PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program is:

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.

The Values of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning are:

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

The Goals of the PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program (academic and professional) are:

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

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PhD IN URP PROGRAM

The PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program offers a specialized, research-oriented degree in urban and regional planning and aims at preparing students for careers in research and/or teaching. There are five main stages for students to go through before obtaining the PhD degree. As explained in Figure 3-1, these stages are: a) Admission, b) Course work, c) Comprehensive Examination, d) Dissertation Preparation, and e) Dissertation Final Defense.

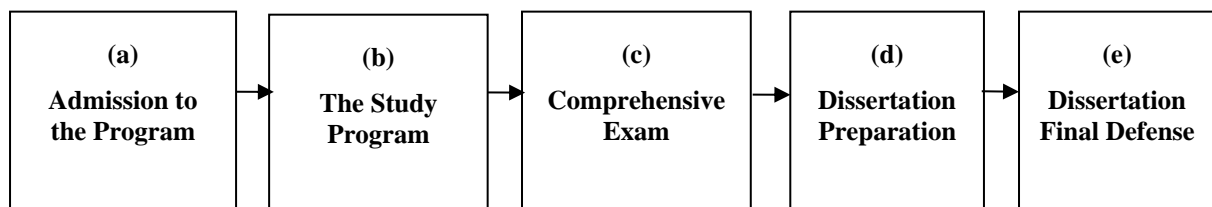


Figure 3-1 Main Stages of the PhD in Urban and Regional Planning Program

The Department Council appoints a Program Monitoring Committee to administer and ensure the smooth running of the program and recommend policy guidelines and program control and enhancement measures to the department.

3.1 Admission to the Program

For admission into the PhD program, all students have to meet the requirements of the regulations laid down by the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (henceforth 'the Ministry') and specified in the Unified Graduate Studies Byelaws published in 1418H/1997G (henceforth 'the Graduate Studies Byelaws'). Besides, the student has to meet any additional requirements recommended by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (henceforth 'the department') and approved by the College of Architecture and Planning (henceforth 'the college') and Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (henceforth 'the 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.

3.1.1 Application and Assessment of Applicants

All students have to apply through the Graduate School by filling the admission form supported by relevant documents. An application will be judged based on the following conditions:

1. The applicant must be a Saudi, or a non-Saudi with an official scholarship.
2. The applicant must have a master's degree in urban and regional planning or in a relevant area from a recognized university, with minimum grade of "very good".
3. The applicant must provide an essay specifying his background, long-range career objectives, and his research interests.
4. The applicant must have proof of English language proficiency (a 500 score in the TOEFL test, or any other English proficiency test approved by the department).
5. The applicant must submit two letters of recommendation from his previous teachers at the master's level.
6. An interview to identify areas where additional preparation by the student may be deemed necessary.
7. No objection letter from the employer if the applicant works in the Kingdom.
8. Full time commitment.

3.1.2 Admission

Students found suitable to undertake doctoral study shall be recommended for admission into the program. 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. Such an applicant may be required to take specified pre-requisite courses for a period not exceeding three semesters. The student should pass all the pre-requisite courses without re-sit with the grade of at least "B" separately in each course and with an overall GPA of "B." A student registered for pre-requisite courses shall not be considered as 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 he/she has one or two pre-requisite courses left to take as per Article 18 of the Graduate Studies Bylaws.

3.1.3 Initial Guidance/Supervision

After admission, a student would be placed under the guidance of an academic advisor(s) who will guide him/her in the program. Upon the completion of 50% of the course work (2 courses) with "B" grade, the student will be allowed to submit his/her dissertation proposal. If the proposal is accepted, the department will assign a Preliminary Advisory Committee for the student. The Preliminary Advising Committee, which will be responsible for guiding the student throughout the dissertation proposal preparation stage.

The dissertation proposal should consist of about 2000 words including an abstract and the main body, which should fully explain the title, the research problem, purpose and justification, the guiding conceptual framework, research methodology, review of previous work, data to be collected, techniques to be used, and a tentative outline.

The Department Council on the recommendation of the Graduate Committee will appoint the Advisory Committee. It will comprise of 2 or 3 members, whose ranks are not lower than Associate Professor. At least one of these members should be from the department. This committee shall help the student through the various stages of the program (to develop an acceptable study program, and guide him/her through his/her thesis work). One of the members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the department to act as the Principal Advisor. The Principal Advisor should be a person who shares interest in the substantive area in which the student wants to do his/her research. The principal advisor shall be a faculty member from the department with a rank not lower than Associate Professor. In the event of changes in the membership of Advisory Committee or in the area of research, the Graduate Committee and Chairman of the Department, in consultation with the student, shall reconstitute the Advisory Committee as per Articles 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52 of the Graduate Studies Byelaws.

3.1.4 Dismissal:

In case a student is found to be irregular or not serious in his/her studies, the Advisory Committee shall notify the department in writing, and the department shall warn the student in writing. If a student receives such warnings twice and does not improve on his/her performance, he/she shall be dismissed by the Graduate Council on the recommendation of the Department Council and the College Council. A student may also be dismissed from the program under the circumstances stated in the Graduate Studies Byelaws Article 26.

3.1.5 Duration of the study:

The duration of PhD studies shall not be less than six semesters and not more than 10 semesters, excluding the summer semesters. The period of study shall be counted from the date of registration to the date when the Principal Advisor submits a report to the Chairman of the Department along with a copy of the dissertation as stated in the Graduate Studies Bylaws Articles 36 and 37.

With the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and the approval of the Department Council, the Dean of the College, and the Dean of Graduate Studies, a leave of absence or postponement of study may be allowed up to a maximum of two consecutive semesters. These two semesters shall not be counted towards the maximum time allowed for the degree, provided the conditions stated in the Graduate Studies Bylaws Articles 22 and 23 are met.

3.1.6 Re-admission:

If a student fails to get the degree within the specified period, he/she can be given one additional chance for a maximum of two semesters, based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and the approval of the College and University Councils, as stated in Article 29 of the Graduate Studies Bylaws.

3.2 The Study Program

The aim of the PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program is: (i) to inculcate scholarly abilities necessary for critically examining the changing nature and scope of planning, and (ii) to conduct independent research in the field of urban and regional planning. The required courses, therefore, should cover two levels of knowledge:

- Students are expected to complete 21 credit hours with a GPA of “B”. The credit hours will have the following breakdown: 12 credit hours for courses and 9 credit hours for the preparation of a doctoral dissertation.
- The credit hours allotted to the courses are intended to provide students with advanced planning knowledge including advanced planning theories, emerging issues in urban and regional planning, and advanced research methods in planning. While the credit hours allotted to the doctoral dissertation are intended to allow the student

to have command over a substantive area, he/she would wish to research into during the dissertation preparation stage.

3.2.1 Study Courses

(a) Theory and Contemporary Urban Planning Issue Seminars

A PhD candidate in urban and regional planning will take two courses covering the continuing debates in planning. The courses are on:

- Emerging Issues in Planning, providing a critical review of economic, social, spatial, and environmental theories that have been used and are still being used to explain the structure of cities and regions, and how the new forces of globalization and information technologies are rephrasing them.
- Theories of Planning, providing a review of the traditional and emerging theories in and of planning with a view to promote a critical understanding of what planners do and/or should be doing in shaping urban, sub-regional, regional and supra-regional development.

(b) Advanced Research Methods in Planning Seminars

PhD students study two courses in research methods exclusively covering:

- Quantitative research methods aimed at developing fundamental research competence incorporating statistical techniques, research and survey design, data collection and analysis, and fieldwork skills.
- Methods in policy sciences (e.g. historical, descriptive, interpretative), and methods of spatial and regional analysis aimed at developing objectivity and proficiency in the design of policy-oriented research.

3.2.2 The Doctoral Dissertation

The credit hours assigned to the doctoral dissertation are intended to direct each student during the dissertation preparation stage to concentrate on a specific field of planning he/she would wish to research into, such as, regional planning, urban planning, urban design, quantitative planning techniques, transportation planning, social planning, public administration, etc.

During the course work stage, there shall be a review of progress of the student's work by the Advisory Committee at the end of every semester. The purpose is to evaluate progress achieved and determine work plan for the following semester. The review shall provide the Advisory Committee and the student the chance to go over the student's major and minor fields of study, issues related to doctoral seminar, examination preview, and the opportunity to sort out any difficulty the student might encounter.

3.3 Comprehensive Examination

On completion of the course work (4 courses) with a GPA of at least "B" grade, the student shall be allowed to take the comprehensive examination. The Department Council shall appoint an Examination Committee. 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. The results should be reported to the department. A student who fails to obtain a "B" grade in the first comprehensive examination may be re-examined within two semesters. A successful student will be admitted into the PhD candidacy. 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.

3.4 Dissertation Preparation

Once admitted into PhD candidacy, the student will be placed under the guidance of a Permanent Advising Committee, which will be responsible for guiding the student throughout the dissertation preparation stage.

Once the dissertation proposal is approved by the department, the student is allowed to register 9 credit hours for "Doctoral Dissertation." The student is granted a grade "in progress" at the end of each following semester until he fulfills all the requirements of the dissertation preparation stage. Only when the student passes his final defense, the grade of "Doctoral Dissertation" shall be changed to "No Grade-Pass".

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. The seminars are intended to offer the faculty the opportunity to know what the candidate intends to do, and how his/her findings are expected to contribute to research, as well as to provide their suggestions. The candidate, on the other hand, benefits from the opportunity of listening to a diversity of faculty views that could enrich his/her research efforts.

It is the responsibility of the Dissertation Supervising Committee to assess if the student is prepared for his/her dissertation defense and report to the Chairman of the Department when he/she is.

The study should be completed within a maximum period of 10 semesters starting from the date of commencement of the study (Article 53 of the Graduate Studies Bylaws).

Before obtaining their PhD degrees, students will be encouraged to publish scientific papers in local, regional and international conferences and journals.

3.5 Dissertation Final Defense

The dissertation submission process and subsequent defense by the PhD. candidate shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Articles 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 & 60 of the Graduate Studies Bylaws.

On the basis of recommendations by the Department and College Councils, the Graduate Council shall approve the composition of the Dissertation Examination Committee in accordance with the provisions of Article 56 of the Graduate Studies Bylaws.

The acceptance of the dissertation or otherwise shall be based on the regulations stated in the Graduate Studies Bylaws. Each member of the Dissertation Examination Committee shall have the right to write his/her own observations and send it to the Chairman of the Department and the Dean of Graduate Studies within a period not exceeding two weeks from the date of dissertation defense.

3.6 General Rules

All the above statements are meant to explain but not to replace or contradict any of the regulations stated in the Graduate Studies Byelaws of 1418 H (1997 G).

Any matter not covered above shall be found in the Graduate Studies Byelaws and shall be under the jurisdiction of other regulations laid down by the Ministry of Education and the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University Council.

Table 3-1 Operational Sequence of the PhD Program

	Year	Cr hrs.	Year 1			Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
	Semester		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Admission													
	Student evaluated												
	Formalities completed												
2. Coursework													
	Seminar (1): Advanced Urban and Regional Planning Theories.	3											
	Seminar (3): Doctoral Research Methods	3											
	Seminar (2): Emerging Issues in Urban and Regional Planning	3											
	Seminar (4): Dissertation Research Methods	3											
3. Comprehensive Exam													
4. Dissertation													
	Submission of Dissertation Proposal	9				→							
	Doctoral Seminar (1)					→							
	Doctoral Seminar (2)						→						
	Preparing The Dissertation							→					
5. Dissertation defense													
	Total Number of Credit hrs.	21											

DEPARTMENT COUNCIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide policy guidelines - Final approvals/sanctions - Appoint and recommend the various committees.
PROGRAM MONITORING COMMITTEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administer the program - Recommend program control and enhancement measures to the department.
THE PRELIMINARY ADVISING COMMITTEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guide the student throughout the dissertation proposal preparation stage
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess student's proficiency - Conduct written and oral examinations. - Evaluate the examinations.
DISSERTATION SUPERVISING COMMITTEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guide Student's Research - Monitor Student's Progress - Report the Readiness of the Dissertation for Final Defense
DISSERTATION EXAMINATION COMMITTEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and assess the dissertation. - Conduct final defense.

Figure 3-2 Committees Involved in the Management of the PhD Program

4. CURRICULUM AND STUDY PLAN

The aim of the PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program is to inculcate in students scholarly abilities necessary (i) for critically examining the changing nature and scope of planning, and (ii) to conduct independent research in the field of urban and regional planning. The required courses, therefore, cover two levels of knowledge: (1) general planning knowledge including advanced planning theories and advanced research methods in planning; and (2) knowledge of a specific field in planning commanding a substantive area that the students would wish to research into. This section introduces the components of the curriculum for PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program, including the study plan and course descriptions.

4.1 Study Plan

Students are expected to complete 21 credit hours—12 credit hours for courses and 9 credit hours for doctoral dissertation. The credit hours assigned to the courses (4 courses) provide students with advanced planning knowledge including: (a) advanced planning theories and (b) advanced research methods in planning. The credit hours assigned to the doctoral dissertation is meant for guiding the student throughout the dissertation preparation stage in a specific field in planning.

Table 3-1 presents the curriculum and study plan showing the various activities distributed along the minimum period required to obtain the PhD in urban and regional planning degree.

4.2 Course Descriptions

A short description of each course offered in the PhD program is presented below, while detailed course descriptions are provided in the program resource folder kept in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning office.

4.3 The PhD in URP Study Program

Table 4-1 Curriculum and Study Plan of the PhD in Urban and Regional Planning Program

FIRST YEAR - FIRST SEMESTER			Credit Hours	Prerequisite
URPL	801	Seminar (1): Advanced Urban & Regional Planning Theories	3	Admission
URPL	803	Seminar (3): Doctoral Research Methods	3	Admission
SUB TOTAL:			6	
FIRST YEAR - SECOND SEMESTER			Credit Hours	Prerequisite
URPL	802	Seminar (2): Emerging Issues in Urban and Regional Planning	3	Admission
URPL	804	Seminar (4): Dissertation Research Methods	3	Admission
Submission of Dissertation Proposal			-	Finish two courses
SUB TOTAL:			6	
SECOND YEAR - FIRST SEMESTER			Credit Hours	Prerequisite
URPL	850	Comprehensive Exam	-	Finish all courses
Starting the doctoral dissertation			9	Passing the Comprehensive Exam
URPL	900	Preparation and registering credit hours for Doctoral Dissertation		
SUB TOTAL:			In progress	
SECOND YEAR - SECOND SEMESTER			Credit Hours	Prerequisite
URPL	900	Doctoral Dissertation	In progress	"In progress" grade in Doctoral Dissertation from the previous semester
SUB TOTAL:			In progress	
THIRD YEAR - FIRST SEMESTER			Credit Hours	Prerequisite
URPL	900	Doctoral Dissertation	In progress	"In progress" grade in Doctoral Dissertation from the previous semester
SUB TOTAL:			In progress	
THIRD YEAR - SECOND SEMESTER			Credit Hours	Prerequisite
URPL	900	Doctoral Dissertation	In progress	"In progress" grade in Doctoral Dissertation from the previous semester
Dissertation Final Defense			-	Thesis Readiness Report from the Major Advisor
SUB TOTAL:			9	
CURRICULUM TOTAL:			21	

5. SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

This chapter presents the brief course description of the courses in the PhD in URP study plan.

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

Credit hours: 3 Contact hours: 3 Pre-requisite: Admission to the Program

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 the 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 developments. Yet, these models should be aligned with the context of socio-cultural and institutional experiences and aspirations of the Kingdom. The models should recognize the facts, values, knowledge, and experiences of the past and the inspirations of the future of local communities and society.

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

Credit hours: 3 Contact hours: 3 Pre-requisite: Admission to the Program

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

Credit hours: 3 Contact hours: 3 Pre-requisite: Admission to the Program

This seminar provides the students with practical and intellectual tools to help them design, conduct, and criticize scholarly research. It places heavy responsibility on the students to prepare and present research papers in their area of interest, preferably directly related to their proposed dissertation topic. Assuming that students have some background in analytical and statistical methods and research design, the course focuses on methods to develop a sound research proposal/paper. The course attempts to shed light on how to: select a research topic, define a research problem, develop questions, articulate aim and objectives, state a hypothesis; delineate the scope, collect secondary and primary data, conduct analysis of nominal and ordinal data; synthesize data, develop and evaluate alternative solutions, compile findings and conclusions, write scientific paper, assess the quality of your research paper, and publish scientific research.

URPL 804: Seminar (4): Dissertation Research Methods

Credit hours: 3 Contact hours: 3 Pre-requisite: Admission to the Program

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.

URPL 900: Dissertation

Credit hours: 9

Pre-requisite: Passing Comprehensive Exam

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) dissertation final defense.

6. Resources Available to Run the PhD Program in URP

The Urban and Regional Planning Department at the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University was the first academic department in the Kingdom and the Gulf Cooperation Council region to launch a graduate program in urban and regional planning. The Department has produced experienced cadres working in teaching, research, consultancy work, and community service. Alumni of the department with bachelor's and master's and PhD degrees hold positions and responsibilities in numerous public and private institutions. This testifies to the Department's capacity to transfer knowledge and skills in the field of urban and regional planning successfully and effectively. The physical and human resources available to support the PhD in Urban and Regional Planning Program are as follows:

6.1 Physical Resources and Facilities:

(1) Work/study space:

Currently the College of Architecture and Planning is housed in its own three-storied building in the main campus of the university. This building contains enough space to accommodate the teaching activities of the PhD in Urban and Regional Planning program.

(2) The Central Library:

This library has a significant collection of books, journals and periodicals in engineering, architecture and planning fields. The library has enough space to provide for PhD research students as well as to accommodate possible future increase in its collections. Also, it contains an electronic library facility.

(3) The Geographic Information System (GIS) Lab:

The College has a GIS lab equipped with all the hardware and software required to facilitate advanced studies and research work in the areas of planning and geographic information.

(4) The Environmental Studies Center:

The centre contains a comprehensive range of instruments needed to conduct advanced research studies in the field of environmental planning e.g. weather and climatic studies, noise studies etc.

(5) The Audio-visual Center:

This centre has an adequate variety of audio-visual equipment required for teaching and related activities in the program.

(6) The Model-Making Workshop:

This workshop has all the materials, equipment and expertise that might be needed by students in the PhD program.

(7) Information Document Center:

This centre is a special part of the central library in the university campus. The center is rich in terms of its collection of master/comprehensive plan reports, planning studies, books and maps required for research and academic investigation in the PhD program.

(8) The Computer Center & Internet Services:

The College has very rich computer and Internet facilities, which provide supportive services to PhD research students in a satisfactory manner and in many useful ways: e.g., providing access to worldwide databases and information centers, intranet and internet resources and interaction, electronic and distant learning, etc.

6.2 Human Resources

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning is rich in human resources required to facilitate PhD research and educational activities. The Department has long-standing experience in administering and monitoring both teaching and research activities. Since its initiation in 1975, the Department has produced hundreds of graduation project reports and over one hundred master's theses. The staff has significant experience in conducting research and in supervising master's theses and PhD dissertations, as well as assessment of

scientific papers, research documents, and promotion reports both inside and outside Saudi Arabia. For instance, recently the staff has been involved in several research projects sponsored by the Scientific Council and the KACST.

In addition, the program benefits from distinguished faculty members in other departments of the College of Architecture and Planning, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, in other Saudi universities, and in other universities in Arab and Islamic countries. Tables 1-1 and 1-2 summarize the human resources of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Table 6-1 Faculty Available in the Department of Urban & Regional Planning (Rajab 1445H/ Jan. 2024G)

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the department and its programs, contact the **Head of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning** at the following address:

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For more information about admission into and regulations of the graduate programs of the university, visit the website of the Deanship of Graduate Studies:
<https://www.iau.edu.sa/en/administration/deanships/deanship-of-graduate-studies>