



Harvard University
Graduate School of Design
George Gund Hall 48
Quincy Street Cambridge,
MA 02138
www.gsd.harvard.edu

Harvard Design School

July 3, 2012 Dear MUP Class of 2014, Welcome to Harvard University and our Department of Urban Planning and Design. We are delighted that you will be joining us for a stimulating two-year intellectual engagement with cities, the built environment, and the opportunities and challenges for planning around the world. As soon as you arrive, you will be faced with a large array of choices about courses, public events to attend, colleagues to meet, and other aspects of graduate student life at Harvard. Some of you may be wondering if you should be preparing now in specific ways for the beginning of school. Our answer generally is no. Enjoy your summer and come refreshed and ready to dig in with faculty, fellow students, and the many other resources at Harvard and elsewhere in Cambridge and Boston. We do have some information to convey to you now. Please note that information is often updated, so it is useful to check in at the following websites from time to time. In addition we will be substantially updating the UPD web site over the summer and fall and adding a blog.

- Curriculum requirements are posted on-line at <http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/#/academic-programs/urban-planningdesign/mup/index.html>
- Course listings and schedules are posted on-line at <http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/courses/index.cgi>

Note that students may be able to exempt themselves from certain curricular requirements by taking an exemption examination at the beginning of the year. Information about these possibilities will be emailed to you later this summer.

Preparing for the Digital Demands of the GSD There are two software packages that students should purchase and install on their laptops before arriving at school: office productivity software for word processing, spreadsheets, etc. (e.g. Microsoft Office) and desktop publishing software (e.g. Adobe Creative Suite). Anticipate using these software programs starting the first day of classes. If you are ~~eager to get a head start~~, consider working through a few on-line tutorials for [InDesign](#), [Photoshop](#), and [Excel](#).

Computers should be running the Microsoft Windows operating system, which is required for running ArcGIS and Windows will be the platform upon which your tutorials will be based. During orientation week, the Computer Resources Group (CRG) will be hosting several sessions on “Getting Started with Technology at the GSD”. Please be sure to check your orientation packages for the dates and times.

For those looking to purchase a new computer or software, the following links provide information on different laptop options, and Harvard discounts:

- Computer Recommendations:
<http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/#/gsdresources/computer-resources/your-computer.html>
- Buying a Computer at Harvard: www.computers.harvard.edu and www.lenovo.com/harvard
- ~~Buying Software at Harvard~~: www.computers.harvard.edu - Click on the red button “Shop at Harvard”. Your Harvard University ID number and pin authentication, which you received via email from the Registrar, are required.

If you have any questions about computer specifications, please contact the Computer Resources Help Desk (helpdesk@gsd.harvard.edu). **Important Dates** You will be sent a full Orientation Schedule from the Office of Student Services shortly, but we would like to flag several dates now.

- th□ International students are invited to attend an International Student Orientation on Friday, August 24 at 2:00 pm. □ Orientation for all incoming students begins on Monday, August 27th at 9:00 am in Gund Hall.
- th□ A Welcome Reception for new and returning urban planning and urban design students, along with faculty, will take place on Saturday, September 8 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Harvard Faculty Club located at 20 Quincy Street in Cambridge.
- th□ On Wednesday, August 29 faculty members will present descriptions of their lecture and seminar courses offered during the fall term.
- On Thursday, August 30th studio instructors will describe the various elective fall studios offered at the school, always interesting but not specifically relevant to you because you will be taking the “core urban planning studio” in your first term.
- Classes begin Tuesday, September 4th. □ We are also planning a Tour of Boston with Jim Stockard on Saturday, September 15th. We hope you can arrange to join in.

The GSD-wide, student-run Student Forum and the student-run Harvard Urban Planning Organization (HUPO) will host a variety of social activities throughout the orientation period. You will learn more about their plans later this summer. There are many more things that we will be telling you about upon your arrival. We very much look forward to greeting you in person in August. If you have any questions or concerns in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact us at rmehrotra@gsd.harvard.edu or aforsyth@gsd.harvard.edu. Enjoy the rest of your summer. Sincerely,

Rahul Mehrotra
Professor and Chair ~~Department of Urban Planning and Design~~

Ann

Forsyth
Professor and Director Master in Urban
Planning Degree Program

