

REDEFINE THE POSSIBILITIES AHEAD

MPhil and PhD in Asian Urbanisms

Orlando WOODS

Programme Director and
Associate Dean (Research and PG Programmes)
Lee Kong Chian Fellow



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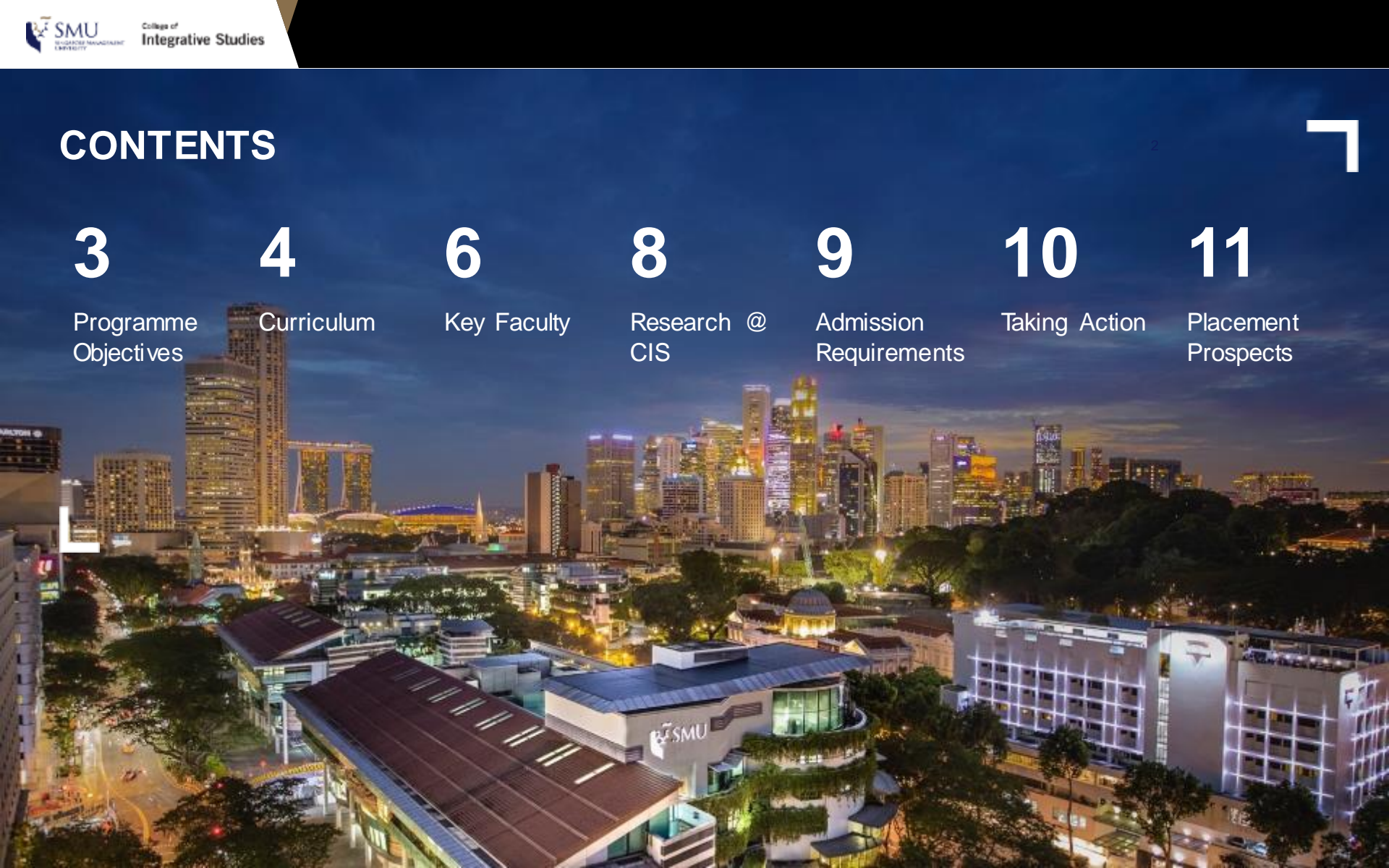
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Programme objectives

1. Provide an opportunity for students from Singapore and other Asian countries and beyond to access interdisciplinary postgraduate-level degrees in urban studies in Singapore that would be theoretically and empirically focussed on Asia
2. Provide a truly interdisciplinary postgraduate learning experience that is based in CIS, but which integrates courses and supervision from other SMU Schools as well, especially those with urban expertise
3. Foster potential collaborations with top-tier universities throughout the world that would eventually facilitate the exchange of faculty and students, and collaboration on interdisciplinary research projects and grant proposals for research in and on Asia

Curriculum – MPhil in Asian Urbanisms

Year	Curriculum	
1	Core Courses+ (4 Course Units)	Elective Courses+ (4 Course Units)
	Any 4 from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Studies: Theory and Method • Cities in Asia: Planning, Policy and Praxis • Principles of Sustainability • Studying Cities: Research Methods • Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research • Graduate Seminar with Invited Industry Partners 	Any 4 from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative Urbanisms • Urban Sustainability • Urban Technologies/Geographic Information Systems • Social Life of the City • Urban Economics & Policy • Urban & Regional Economics • Independent Study • Urban-related courses offered by Visiting Fellows
	Ongoing: develop thesis proposal	
2	Thesis and Oral Defence (12 Course Units)	
	Term 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and defend thesis proposal • Conduct research 	Term 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research • Prepare and submit thesis • Conduct defence for thesis

Curriculum – PhD in Asian Urbanisms

Year	Curriculum	
1 and 2	Core Courses⁺ (6 Course Units)	Elective Courses⁺ (6 Course Units)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Studies: Theory and Method • Cities in Asia: Planning, Policy and Praxis • Principles of Sustainability • Studying Cities: Research Methods • Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research • Graduate Seminar with Invited Industry Partners 	<p>Any 6 from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative Urbanisms • Urban Sustainability • Urban Technologies/Geographic Information Systems • Social Life of the City • Urban Economics & Policy • Urban & Regional Economics • Independent Study • Urban-related courses offered by Visiting Fellows
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation Proposal • Qualifying Exam 	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation Research 	
4	<p>Dissertation (28 Course Units)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research • Complete and submit dissertation • Complete dissertation defence 	

KEY FACULTY



LILY KONG

Research Areas:

Inter-communal relations

Cultural

Industries/Creative Cities

Smart Cities

*Urban Heritage and
Conservation*



SUN SUN LIM

Research Areas:

*Digital Transformations &
Workforce Resilience*

*Public Understanding of
Smart City Technologies*

Digital Literacies



ORLANDO WOODS

Research Areas:

Smart Cities

*Critical Infrastructure
Studies*

*Superdiversity &
Multiculturalism*



WINSTON CHOW

Research Areas:

*Urban Climate Risks in
Asian Cities*

*Climate Change
Adaptation & Mitigation*

*Sustainable Tourism &
Climate Change*

KEY FACULTY



FIONA WILLIAMSON

Research Areas:

Environmental History

*Climate History &
Urbanism*

Colonial Meteorology



JONATHAN CHASE

Research Areas:

*Urban Computing &
Smart Cities*

Public Safety & Security

*Digital Transformation
through AI*



TERRY VAN GEVELT

Research Areas:

Climate Change

Urban Resilience

*Risk Perceptions &
Behavioural Change*



AIDAN WONG

Research Areas:

*Circular Economy &
Urban Waste
Management*

*Informal Economies &
Labour*

Urban Citizenship

Research – Selected Recent Projects of CIS Faculty

Cooling Singapore 2.0: Urban Climate Risks – PI: Winston Chow

2022 to 2025

The 'Other' Garden City: Documenting Singapore's Edible Gardening – PIs: Fiona Williamson and Justin Tse

2022 to 2024

Technocratic Regionalism in Southeast Asia: The Translational Politics of Smart City Knowledge Transfer

– PI: Orlando Woods

2022 to 2025

Tracking precipitation and ENSO impacts in historic Singapore, Sumatra and Malaysia – PI: Fiona Williamson

2022 to 2023

Heritage-Focused Nation-Building Through Active Citizenship – PI: Aidan Wong

2021 to 2022

Longitudinal Study to Quantify and Qualify the Impact of the EPR framework for E-waste in Singapore

– PI: Aidan Wong

2021 to 2025

Towards Carbon Neutrality: Catalysing H₂O and CO₂ to Green Resource Carriers – Collaborator: Terry Van Gevelt

2020 to 2023

SouthEast Asia SEA-Level Program (SEA2) – Co-PI: Fiona Williamson

2019 to 2026

New Religious Pluralisms in Singapore: Migration, Integration and Difference – PI: Orlando Woods

2019 to 2022

Admission Requirements

MPhil in Asian Urbanisms

- Bachelor's degree in a related discipline (such as, but by no means limited to, urban studies, architecture, urban planning or urban geography), from a reputable undergraduate programme with excellent academic performance.

- Good GRE results
- Good English Proficiency Test (TOEFL or IELTS) scores
- Statement of Purpose, up to 1500 words
- Research Proposal, up to 2500 words
- Curriculum Vitae
- At least two Referral/ Recommendation letters

PhD in Asian Urbanisms

- Bachelor's and Master's degree, at least one of the two in a related discipline (such as, but by no means limited to urban studies, architecture, urban planning or urban geography), from a reputable undergraduate programme with excellent academic performance.

Taking Action

Application period

Intake	Opening Date for Application	Closing Date for Application
August	1 August (of prior year)	31 January (of intake year)

Application portal

<https://cis.smu.edu.sg/postgradresearch/admission/online-application>



Placement Prospects

- **Academic institutions**, particularly Universities and other research-oriented organisations which require PhD graduates with integrative skills and multi-dimensional perspectives.
- **Government departments**, which require PhD graduates who are able to conduct policymaking with a holistic lens, to take on urban planning and strategic thinktank roles.
- **Consultancy and industries that focus on urban development**, which require PhD graduates with the knowledge of sound methodologies and skills to reconcile urban developmental considerations with business goals, and craft urbanism solutions that contribute to revenue growth or cost reduction.

Thank You

SMU PhD: Scholarships & Fellowships

Fully-funded Scholarships

- Year 1 to Year 4 (Year 1 to Year 2 for MPhil)
- Covers registration & tuition fees
- Provides monthly stipends:

Nationality	MPhil Monthly Stipend (SGD)	PhD	
		Monthly Stipend before Qualifying Examination (SGD)	Monthly Stipend after Qualifying Examination (SGD)
Singapore Citizens	2,800	2,800	3,300
Singapore PRs	2,000	2,400	2,900
International Students	1,900	2,200	2,700

- *In the 5th year, students who have been on the scholarship may receive continued support through research and teaching assistantships, graduate instructor positions or industry grants.*

SMU PhD: Scholarships & Fellowships

Presidential Doctoral Fellowships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-year award • May be offered another Fellowship award or a Full Scholarship at expiration • Provides a monthly stipend • S\$3,500 research trip (to be utilised within 2 years from the start of the award duration), over and above the monthly stipend
Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowships	

Nationality	Monthly Stipend (SGD)
Singapore Citizens	3,600
Singapore Permanent Residents	3,400
International Students	3,100