

Minor in Cities

Why a Minor in Cities?

The world is rapidly urbanising with over **70%** projected to live in cities by **2050**. Home to some of the largest and most rapidly growing cities, Asia is in a favourable position at the cusp of urbanisation to examine this phenomenon. They face complex urban challenges involving higher population density, competition for developmental spaces, liveability goals, resilience, sustainability and security.



Determine the Future Sustainability of the World

These challenges create demand for an emergent type of urban professionals and city administrators with system thinking skillsets and cognitive capacity to work in transdisciplinary collaborative ways to enable cities to meet liveability agenda. They must be equipped with the ability to translate theoretical principles into practical applications for scenario planning as well as future projections



3 pillars of NUS Cities

Education

offers a unique interdisciplinary curriculum to train students to be future changemakers by delving deeper into the application and research of a systems approach to cities

Research

seeks to address key urban challenges through a systems approach built on complexity science and open collaboration with experts in diverse domains

Advisory

offers strategic advice, leveraging on its diverse disciplinary expertise and extensive research knowledge based on urban and architectural engineering systems that require interdisciplinary solutions

led by

Panel of Advisors | Steering Group | Director (Prof. Yeo Siew Haip)

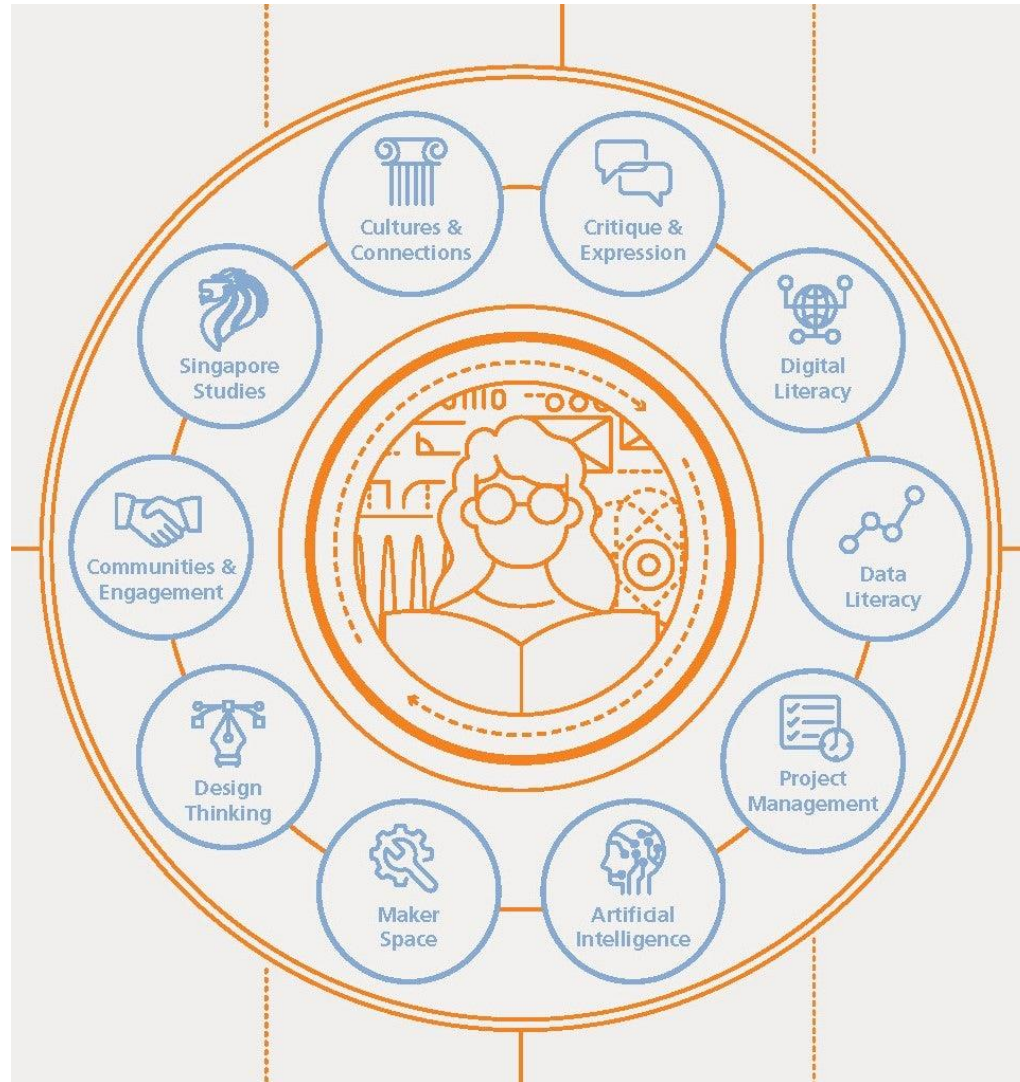
in collaboration with

Other NUS Faculties and Centres

Faculty

Partner & Collaborators

NUS Cities in the CDE Curriculum



Unrestricted Electives
can expand your horizons, with over 4000 options across CDE and NUS at your fingertips.


10 courses



Primary Major
offers in-depth education in your chosen discipline and set yourself up for future success, wherever your passions take you!


20 courses



Common Curriculum
gives you a solid foundation so you can maximise opportunities to advance your career, regardless of your discipline.


10 courses

Education

Building a corps of expertise with the skills and knowledge to apply the urban systems approach based on complexity and other sciences.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Minor in Cities

CDE2501 Sustainable Systems for Liveable Cities

Core course for all CDE students

CDE2502 Cities for All

CDE2503 Cities in Nature

CDE3507 Regenerative Cities

CDE2506 Healthy Cities

Electives from other departments across NUS

CDE3504 Smart Cities in a Competitive Economy

CDE3505 Planning and Governing Cities

GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Master of Cities

6 Core Courses + 2 Electives + 1 Capstone
Launched in 2026

The Cities Programme (Executive)

Programme Features
Practical Case Studies | Interactive Networking |
Immersive Field-based Learning

Minor in Cities

Complete 20 units (5 courses) from our library of courses from over
14 different departments in CDE, CHS, Biz and SSHSPH

1 x core course + 1 each from the 4 pillars (min. 2 CDE-coded courses)

Governance, Collaboration & Planning

CDE2506 Healthy Cities
CDE3505 Planning and Governing Cities
GL1101E Global Issues
RE2702 Land Law
PS2240 Introduction to Public Administration
CE3121 Urban Transportation Engineering
AR3223 Introduction to Urbanism

Economy

CDE3504 Smart Cities in a Competitive Economy
MNO1706X Organizational Behavior
RE2705 Urban Economics
IE4248 Energy and Green Economy
PF4502 Green Development



Society

CDE2502 Cities for All
SC1101E Making Sense of Society
SPH2005 Health, Society and the Social Determinants
AN2206 Humans and Natures
GE2231 Living Space: Introducing Social and Cultural Geography
NM4254 Media, City and Public Culture

Environment

CDE2503 Cities in Nature
CDE3507 Regenerative Cities
ESE2001 Environmental Challenges in the Anthropocene
LSM2251 Ecology and Environment
ENV3206 Evaluating Sustainability
LAD4012 Urban Greening: Technologies and Techniques

Courses in Semester 1

CDE2503 Cities in Nature

Under Environment Pillar

Course Overview

Approaches to “cities in nature” underline the interlinkages of social and ecological processes to foster a sustainable and liveable urban environment, allowing nature to coexist or thrive with urban development through balancing the needs of various stakeholders/agents, human and non-human, while minimising the adverse impacts urbanisation and economic growth may pose on the environment and humanity.

Some Topics Covered

- Social and ecological principles for a sustainable and liveable urban environment
- Against the odds: growing food in a city in nature
- Harnessing nature’s power: towards a low-carbon city
- A city in nature: shifting values, shaping actions

Learning Format

Seminars are targeted to focus on strategies, policies, and approaches in the themes that are set for this course

Studio projects allow students to examine a given area and propose sound solutions to achieve given goals

CDE3504 Smart Cities in a Competitive Economy

Under Economy Pillar

Course Overview

This course explores how to design smart, innovative, sustainable solutions to create a competitive economy.

Some Topics Covered

- Liveable Cities – Creating an innovative and competitive economy
- Financing a City and Working with Markets

Learning Format

Seminars are targeted to focus on strategies, policies, and approaches in the themes that are set for this course

Urban Plan Workshop provides an opportunity to experience masterplanning

Studio projects allow students to explore and tackle urban problems

CDE3505 Planning & Governing Cities

Under Governance, Collaboration and Planning Pillar

Course Overview

This course exposes students to Singapore's current planning system and linkages of city planning, urban governance, and public policy implementation, as well as stakeholder collaborations to address the gaps within our planning system and policy implementation.

Some Topics Covered

- Urban Planning, Data Analytics and Policy Framework
- Community Resilience: Singapore's Governance System and Community Participation
- Urban Planning, Sustainable Development and Complexity Science

Learning Format

Lectures delivered by renowned practitioners and academics

Moot consultancy projects to formulate, evaluate and present solutions through a good understanding of the principles of a liveable city, key success factors in policy implementation and the importance of public participation in urban governance

Courses in Semester 2

CDE2502 Cities for All

Under Society Pillar

Course Overview

This course develops an appreciation for the complexity of urban systems such as housing, transportation and community in working together to contribute towards a high quality of life.

Some Topics Covered

- Housing & Hardware Solutions
- Accessibility and Transportation
- Sustainability & Urban Greenery
- Health & Ageing
- Heritage & Sense of Belonging

Learning Format

Seminars delivered by renowned practitioners and academics

Studio Projects examine seminars' themes of quality life to implement within HDB towns

CDE2506 Healthy Cities

Under Governance, Collaboration and Planning Pillar

Course Overview

This course examines how urban environments influence human health outcomes and explores strategies for planning and governing more equitable and healthier cities.

Some Topics Covered

- Open Space and Nature
- Urban Mobility and Physical Health
- Social Inclusion and Places
- Food, Environment and Planning
- Impact of Climate Change on Public Health

Learning Format

Lectures delivered through a collaborative joint course between SSHSPH and NUS Cities, a rare cross-faculty learning experience

Presentations and reports develop skills to evaluate and strategise for optimal health outcomes in cities

CDE3507 Regenerative Cities

Under Environment Pillar

Course Overview

This course explores how regenerative approaches restore and enhance ecosystems within urban environments, highlighting pathways cities can take toward long-term environmental health and balance.

Some Topics Covered

- Water Management & Sponge City Concept
- Circular Economy & Closed Loops
- Urban Food Production & Local Supply Chains
- Ecosystem Connectivity & Habitat Routes

Learning Format

Lectures delivered by renowned practitioners and academics

Site visits to experience on-the-ground conditions and efforts

Collaborative campus plan develop analytical and design skills to shape cities that are regenerative

Minor in Cities Graduates



Lim Wei Xiang

Bachelor of Engineering
(Mechanical Engineering)



Tan Shu Qi

Bachelor of Arts
(Architecture)



Tay Wei Hian

Bachelor of Engineering
(Civil Engineering)



Givson Ong

Bachelor of Arts
(Industrial Design)

Hear from our students

