master of urban design (M.U.D.)
The Master of Urban Design (MUD) is a 1-year degree designed for participants with backgrounds in architecture, landscape architecture, and physical planning, who have ambitions for leadership in designing the next generation of global cities. Globally-engaged and grounded in practice, participants leverage new knowledge in real estate, humanities, and ecology to address complex problems facing global cities, postindustrial cities, and megacities. Participants study with a cadre of experienced and diverse faculty, travel to the selected metropolitan region twice during the program, and use their design knowledge to produce innovative alternatives for urban development. An urban development symposium each winter exposes participants with opportunities to interact and network with prominent thought leaders in real estate, urban economics, and urban design. The MUD degree program sits within a vibrant design and planning college and a world-class university.

The degree program is structured around two course types:
1) OneCity Studios focused on a single metropolitan region for 4 consecutive semesters; 2) Integrative Seminars and required courses that bring specific knowledge into the context of urbanism: humanities, urban theory, real estate, planning, and ecology/sustainability.

OneCity Studios
Rio de Janeiro (2012-13)
Mumbai (2013-14)

The MUD OneCity Studios I, II, III, focus on a single metropolitan region with two trips to the region during the program. The OneCity Studios Studio explore territories and constituencies (UD Studio I), settlement spatialities (UD Studio II), and public/private spheres (UD Studio III). Using a single metropolitan region, participants are challenged to go in depth with research, analyses, and design solutions/alternatives. Interaction with experts in the selected city as well as University of Michigan faculty in other disciplines with expertise in the cultures of the region enables participants to base their work on tangible understanding of the broad cultural, social and economic factors that influence current conditions.

Integrative Seminars and Required Courses
Integrative Seminars in CityCultures, and Project-based development supplement OneCity Studios. CityCultures is a seminar jointly taught by a humanities and design faculty and exposes participants to current research in humanities and cultural theories applicable to the region of focus. Integrative Project Development seminars are connected to studio projects and force consideration of financial and construction plausibility. Together, the integrative thinking engendered by these course offerings allow participants to move seamlessly between innovative design proposals, real estate pro formas, and analyses of urban infrastructure and ecologies.

Professional Development
Urban design skills combined with integrative thinking allows for participants to think beyond conventional career options. As the disciplines of architecture and urban planning blur, and as cities’ problems become more complex, new forms of design practice and new allegiances between designers and others are emerging. Through networking opportunities with leaders in architecture and urbanism, real estate and planning, participants receive mentorship and support for future career goals, including access to university-wide resources in entrepreneurship. Team projects and collaborative work — such as the ULI Competition and Real Estate Club — model collaborative work in professional practice.
Please visit www.taubmancollege.umich.edu/urbandesign for detailed information about the M.U.D. requirements, application instructions, scheduling a visit, sample schedules, and course descriptions.

For more information, please visit: taubmancollege.umich.edu/urbandesign