

Social and Technical Sustainability in Housing (20 points)

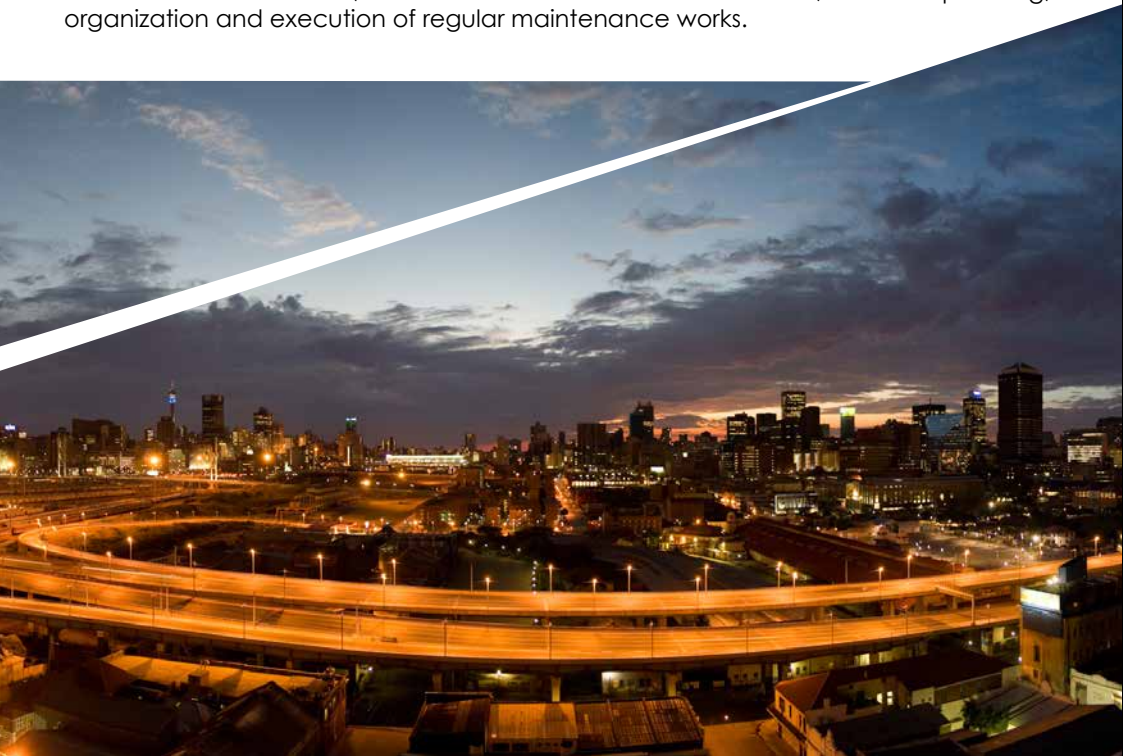
This course critically analyses the interaction between housing and the social/cultural, economic and biophysical environment, approaches to enhance sustainability of housing and mitigate negative impacts, and to sensitively and constructively engage with local communities and service providers to identify and tackle housing challenges. The socio-cultural component of this course addresses the meaning of home, participation, gender, diversity, as well as health issues such as HIV/Aids. It covers conceptual and theoretical debates as well as practical approaches that have been developed in response to these realities.

Housing Seminar – Informal Settlement Upgrading (20 points)

This seminar-based course grapples with various aspects of informal settlement upgrading, first focussing on understanding informal settlements from a variety of angles, and then moving to policies and programmes that aim to intervene in informal settlements. The course is grounded in visits to informal settlements and exposure to in depth research insights. From this perspective, supplemented by local and international literature, the course interrogates and assesses policy and programmes.

Management of Existing Housing Stock (20 points)

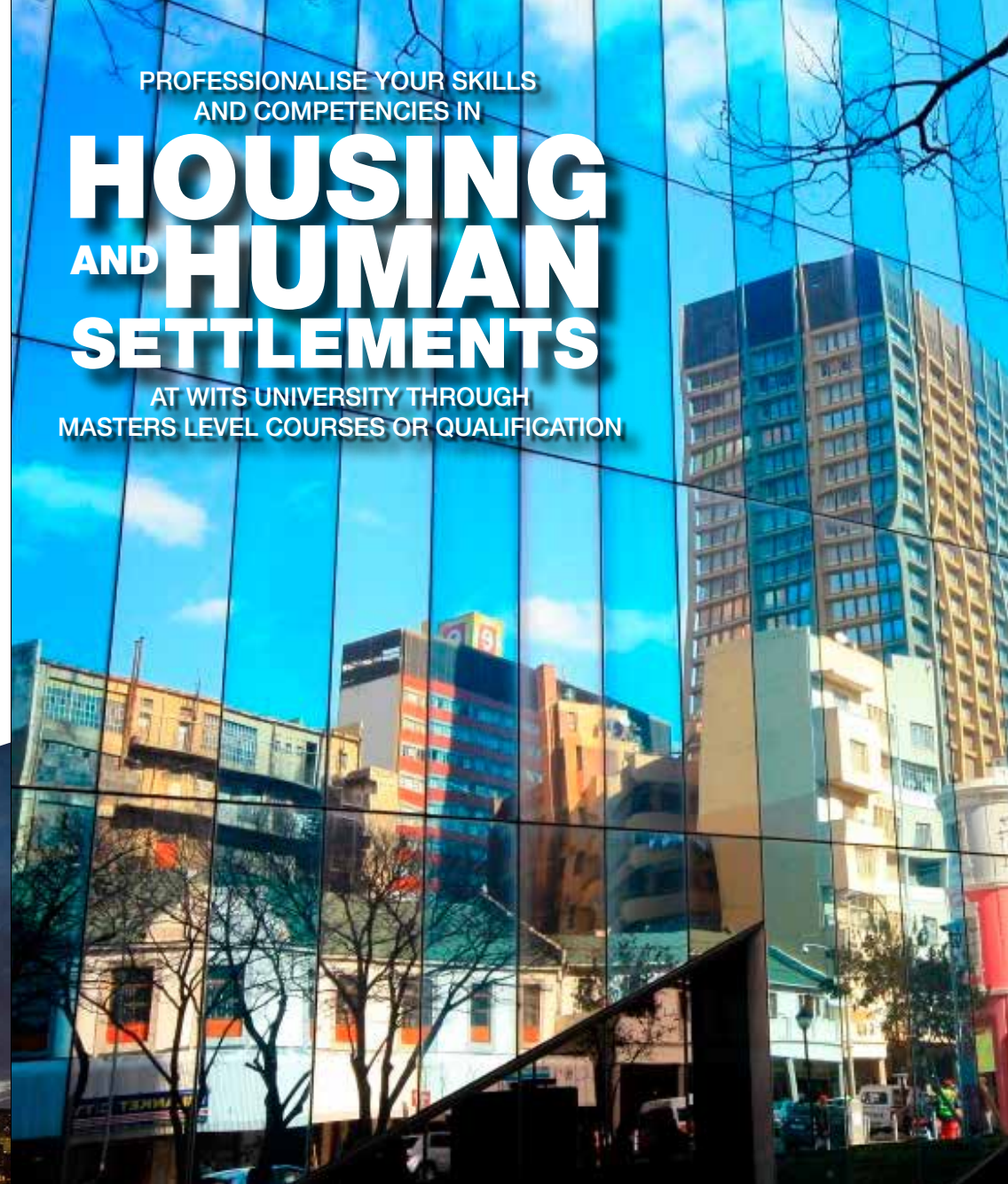
This course introduces the basic tools and techniques for running and managing existing housing stock, examining these from a practical as well as theoretical basis. It covers basic principles of property management as they apply to low income housing owned by the state or by housing associations, renting and leasing, facilities management, life cycle costing, obsolescence management, corporate and labour policies, project feasibility and management, implementation procedures, marketing and sales administration, cultural and human relations matters, and the planning, organization and execution of regular maintenance works.



PROFESSIONALISE YOUR SKILLS
AND COMPETENCIES IN

HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

AT WITS UNIVERSITY THROUGH
MASTERS LEVEL COURSES OR QUALIFICATION



The School of Architecture and Planning at Wits University offers a series of certificated housing short courses, listed below.

In addition, its Master of the Built Environment (Housing) degree is tailored to part time study. It can be taken through

- full degree registration for coursework plus research, or through
- certificated individual short courses which can be accumulated for entry into the second year of the part time MBE (Housing) degree.

An attendance only (non-certificate) option for the short courses is possible.

Year 1 Part Time: Coursework

| | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Mid Jan | Introduction to the Conventions of Academic Writing | | Short course only |
| Feb/March | Housing Theory Concepts and Policy | | Short course option |
| April/May | Housing Finance and Law | | Short course option |
| June/July | Social and Technical Sustainability in Housing | | Short course option |
| Aug/Sept | Elective | Informal Settlement Upgrading OR | Short course option |
| | | Managing Housing Stock | Short course option |

Year 2 Part Time: Research

| | |
|---------|---|
| Feb-May | Research Methods and Proposal Development |
| May-Dec | Research Report |

Introduction to the Conventions of Academic Writing is a one week course, requiring two days' presence in class. Each of the other courses requires four full days' presence in class, structured in two two-day blocks one month apart. Some teaching blocks include half-day field visits. Over and above the direct contact time during teaching blocks, students study and interact with each other and the facilitators through an online platform.

For further information and applications: MBE Housing: www.wits.ac.za/housing
Short courses: www.wits-enterprise.co.za/short-courses



The Wits School of Governance offers a practitioner-oriented Certificate in Housing Policy Development and Management. For further information see: www.wsg.wits.ac.za/executive-education/certificate-in-housing-policy-development-management/

Introduction to the Conventions of Academic Writing

(assessed but not for credits – passing this course is a requirement for admission into the other short courses)

This course covers the principles and conventions of academic study, academic writing and referencing and the library system. This is applied to an exploration of broad themes in housing and human settlements, in particular the role of the state, communities and intermediaries such as NGOs. It explores these roles in relation to different forms of human settlement interventions, whether multi-storey developments, free standing units or informal settlement upgrading. The course includes training on the online platform, which is used throughout the housing and human settlements courses.



Housing Theory Concepts and Policy (20 points)

This course covers theories relevant to an understanding of housing production and its inadequacies, including informal expressions of housing, and the formulation of solutions. The course discusses concepts that are currently applied in the analysis of housing problems. These include livelihoods, vulnerability, exclusion, autonomy and the right to the city. Turning to concepts more directly applied in current policy, the course explores the ideas of equity and efficiency, participation, partnerships, enablement, and asset creation. This forms a basis for examining international shifts in policy since the 1960s, as well as shifts in South African policy. In conclusion, the course explores policy implementation, analysis and evaluation.

Housing Finance and Law (20 points)

This course provides international and South African perspectives on key aspects of housing law and housing finance. In terms of finance, it examines the positions of international agencies, governments, banks, developers, community-based organisations and end-users. It covers sources of housing finance, various models for the structuring and release of government subsidies, private sector finance, end-user finance, credit and savings. The course introduces the legal system and legislative framework for housing in South Africa, focuses on housing rights internationally and in South Africa, and introduces key principles and mechanisms for securing land tenure.