



GEOP8030

Smart Urbanism

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	3
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	7

Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and lecturer

Jessica McLean

jessica.mclean@mq.edu.au

Room 262 in 25B Wally's Walk

Tuesdays 10am-12pm or by appointment over email

Benai Pham

benai.pham@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MEnvEd or MEngMgt or MEnvMgt or MEnvStud or MPlan or GradCertEnvPlan or MEnvPlan or MSusDev or MPH or MWldMgt or MEnv or GradDipEnv or GradCertSusDev or GradDipSusDev or GradCertSIA or GradDipSIA or GradCertEnvPlan or MConsBiol or GradDipConsBiol or MDevStud or MPPPMDevStud or MPASRMDevStud or MSc in Remote Sensing and GIS

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Visions and practices of smart urbanism are rapidly gaining traction across Australia and around the world. The integration of digital technologies with buildings, environments, networked infrastructures and people is reconfiguring urban spaces while cities are developing smart city plans and strategies to shape their future development. This unit explores the emergence of smart urbanism in relation to infrastructure, governance and everyday life. It considers how ideas of smart urbanism are mobilised in theory and practice and the implications for ethics, sustainability, equity and citizen engagement. Contemporary examples of smart urbanism in sectors such as housing, transport and urban greening are used to highlight key planning debates. Overall, students will gain insights and practical knowledge of how cities are shaped by the relationships between digital technologies, people and places.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Identify and critique the adoption of digital technologies within and across cities

ULO2: Analyse and evaluate smart city plans, policies and projects

ULO3: Critically assess the implications of smart urbanism for people, places and environments

ULO4: Apply concepts of smart urbanism to a range of case studies

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

*This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). **Late submission of time sensitive tasks** (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) **will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.***

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Smart urbanism essay	40%	No	11/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
City profile	40%	No	05/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Quizzes	20%	No	18/08/2026	Individual	No	Open

Smart urbanism essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **11/09/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

2000 word essay that critically assesses the implications of smart urbanism for people, places and environments

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and critique the adoption of digital technologies within and across cities
- Critically assess the implications of smart urbanism for people, places and environments
- Apply concepts of smart urbanism to a range of case studies

City profile

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **05/11/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

A digital output that analyses and evaluates smart urbanism policy and practice in a case study city.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and critique the adoption of digital technologies within and across cities
- Analyse and evaluate smart city plans, policies and projects
- Apply concepts of smart urbanism to a range of case studies

Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **18/08/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

3 quizzes across the semester, drawing on key concepts from the unit

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and critique the adoption of digital technologies within and across cities
- Critically assess the implications of smart urbanism for people, places and environments

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

Welcome to GEOP8030! GEOP8030 Smart Urbanism is offered for internal and external students.

Internal students will have class each **Tuesdays 2-5pm, in 08SCO 116 Tutorial Room**.

External students will engage with learning and teaching activities at times that work for them. Approximately 1 hour of the seminar will be recorded for online students. External students will listen to the recording (1 hour) and complete structured activities online (2 hours).

It is important to note that all students have the same submission times and dates for assessments. On occasion, we will have the opportunity to do zoom classes at the same time as scheduled for internal students and I will contact you about these in advance.

We have a field trip to Sydney CBD early on in the semester to evaluate and critically engage with smart urbanism in practice. Both internal and external students are able to do this activity, either during class time or independently, but we don't expect external students to be able to attend as you are enrolled externally for a reason!

Each week students are expected to complete the assigned readings for that theme prior to class, and engage in online or face-to-face discussions, activities and reflections to deepen their learning. The internal and external learning modes involve a mix of activities including lectures and discussion-based activities (debates, Q&A, role play).

Assessments will be worked on during the seminars and in online activities so that you are supported in achieving your learning outcomes. Feedback will be given as you develop draft assessments over the semester. The total workload for the unit is estimated to be 150 hours.

GEOP8030 will make use of web-based teaching support through iLearn. Students will require access to the internet and regular contact with the unit's iLearn site where all key components of the unit will be stored, including links to readings (via Leganto), and assessment submission links. To complete assignments students will need access to basic word processing programmes, access to library resources, and internet access to submit assignments via iLearn.

Unit Schedule

Week/date	Topic
-----------	-------

1 29 July	What is smart urbanism? Introducing key concepts and assessments
2 4 August	Smart urbanism field trip Sydney CBD
3 11 August	Smart citizens in smart cities
4 18 August	Alternative smart cities
5 25 August	Digital place-making
6 1 September	The feel of smart cities: a new urban aesthetic?
7 8 September	Universities as smart cities
8 15 September	Workshop: smart urbanism essays
MID-SEMESTER BREAK	
9 6 October	Digital twins, AI and planning
10 13 October	Smart urban nature
11 20 October	Hacking alternative digital futures and returning to Sydney CBD
12 27 October	City profile: Working on your assessments
13 3 November	Smart urban futures? And Digital shadows

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)