

**DESIGNATED EMPHASIS GRADUATE GROUP
GLOBAL METROPOLITAN STUDIES
DESIGNATED EMPHASIS PROGRAM STATEMENT**

Overview

Global Metropolitan Studies established a field of study at Berkeley to address major transformations in cities around the world, and to change how we study cities. Urbanization brings a range of new political configurations and challenges — ecological crises, processes of democratization and de-democratization, urban marginality, and emergent strategies of recognition and resistance. Global Metropolitan Studies is a community of scholars across disciplines at Berkeley that investigates these new challenges and politics of the new urban century.

The Designated Emphasis (DE) in Global Metropolitan Studies (GMS) is for UC Berkeley PhD students interested in urban and metropolitan and issues across the globe. The objective of the GMS Designated Emphasis is to support multidisciplinary doctoral-level education and research on global metropolitan issues, through a wide range of course offerings as well as through participation in seminars and conferences organized by GMS. The DE provides students with a context for the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and development of research, opportunities for research funding, as well as a Designated Emphasis certification. Students applying to GMS may come from any discipline across campus.

A Designated Emphasis at UC Berkeley is an area of study constituting a new method of inquiry or an important field of application relevant to two or more existing doctoral degree programs. It is not a free-standing degree program, but must be added as an additional “major” along with an existing doctoral degree program. Students electing to add a Designated Emphasis are required to complete the academic work in the Designated Emphasis in addition to all the requirements of the doctoral program. There are no adjustments made to the normative time of the student’s program when a student undertakes a Designated Emphasis.

Admission to the Designated Emphasis

Students must be accepted to the Designated Emphasis **before** taking their Qualifying Examination. Therefore, it is recommended that students apply at least two semesters before they plan to take their exams. The GMS Co-Directors select students on the basis of academic qualifications, research interests, and the enrollment capacity of the required courses. Applicants must already be enrolled or accepted in an existing PhD program at Berkeley (master’s students and students at other institutions are not eligible). To apply for admission, please complete the [GMS - DE Application](#). For inquiries, email globalmetrostudies@berkeley.edu. Please refer to Graduate Division Degrees Policies, [section F2.1](#) for more information.

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GMS Program Requirements

Curriculum

GMS DE students must complete **two core courses** and **three electives**. All electives and GMS 200 must be taken pre-candidacy, whereas GMS 201 should be taken post-candidacy.

The student's dissertation topic must also relate to metropolitan issues.

Core Courses

1) *GMS 200 Global Metropolitan Studies: Introduction to Theories, Histories, and Methods*

This course is designed to expose students to the range of theoretical perspectives and methodologies used to understand and address urban processes and problems. This course must be taken for a letter grade.

2) *GMS 201 Global Metropolitan Studies Dissertation Seminar*

The dissertation writing seminar is designed for students who have completed their qualifying exams, and are working on their dissertations. Students engage with one another's ongoing research projects and grapple with alternative approaches to the study of urban processes and problems.

Elective Courses

[GMS - DE Electives List](#)

Students in the Designated Emphasis in Global Metropolitan Studies are required to take three elective courses on topics in metropolitan studies. Students must either select from the GMS - DE Electives List or petition for an outside course. DE Electives must be taken for graduate credit unless otherwise noted on the Electives List. No more than one elective course for the DE can be taken from the student's home department. Note that not every course will be offered in any given year. Further, course titles may change slightly but the course number and instructor should match those listed.

Petitioning for Electives

GMS encourages students to petition for courses outside this list to be counted for credit as a GMS elective. To petition, email Co-Directors your request with course title and number, instructor name, and syllabus.

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GMS Program Requirements (continued)

Committee Requirements

To qualify for the Designated Emphasis, students must include a GMS [Faculty Affiliate](#) on their PhD Qualifying Examination Committee and must be examined also in an area related to the Designated Emphasis. A GMS [Faculty Affiliate](#) must be also included in the student PhD Dissertation Committee.

Preceding Oral Qualifying Exam:

- 1) Complete the Application for the Qualifying Exam. This can be found in Cal Central – My Dashboard > Student Resources > Submit a Form > Higher Degree Committees Form. Once submitted, the form will be electronically routed to your home department as well as to the GMS DE for approval.
- 2) [GMS – DE Oral Qualifying Exam Checklist](#). Please complete the checklist and submit to globalmetrostudies@berkeley.edu.

Following the Oral Qualifying Exam:

Complete the Application for Candidacy. The form can be found in Cal Central – My Dashboard > Student Resources > Submit a Form > Higher Degree Committees Form. Once submitted, the form will be electronically routed to your home department as well as to the GMS DE for approval. GMS will evaluate the form to ensure that the dissertation committee has an appropriate representative of the DE in its membership and that the student was examined on the area of the Designated Emphasis.

Funding for GMS DE Students

The GMS program regularly funds graduate student research and conference travel grants. Please consult the [funding page](#) for announcements and calls for proposals.

Inquiries and Support

For any inquiries on the administrative processes, please email globalmetrostudies@berkeley.edu or speak with the GSAO in 224 Wurster Hall.

For inquiries on DE admissions, elective course substitutions, funding, and general questions on the program, please contact the [Co-Directors](#).

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