

# Version Update on Creating My Own Master's Program in Futures Studies & Foresight PART 2 - New Programs Added

I'm stunned by the support and encouragement from the community I received from the last post ([here's the link](#)).

## Update the Mind Map and Venn Diagram with Additional Programs:

Newly added programs are shown in a light view of the mind map for easy distinguishing.

## Revise the Project Purpose & "Who is This For":

In addition to serving self-directed learners, with the feedback from the last post, three additional groups may benefit:

- **Prospective Students:** This could help you choose a better-fitting program rather than just going for the only futures program you've heard of or the one nearest to home.
- **Current Master's Students:** Get a glimpse of what other programs are offering, and perhaps pick up complementary elements to your current program's emphasis, building a unique capability and knowledge set. For example, Design Futures + Political Science, or Business + Urban Futures.
- **Futures Studies Educators:** This might serve as inspiration for collaboration and new course development.

If you know anyone who fits in these groups, please tag them. This project is free, open-access, non-commercial, and for the community.

## What's New and What's Next?

### Concrete Steps:

1. If you want updates and don't want to be at the mercy of LinkedIn's algorithm, you can sign up with this form, and I'll personally send you an email. I promise I'll never spam you or send irrelevant things.
2. A PDF version of the document is available [here](#). But since this is still in the early stages and I'm making constant updates, I suggest you check my LinkedIn for the most recent version.

3. I'm continually collecting and organizing course syllabi. I'll post and share them once I have a critical mass.

### ★ Big Ideas I'm Pondering and Would Like to Tap into Your Wisdom on How to:

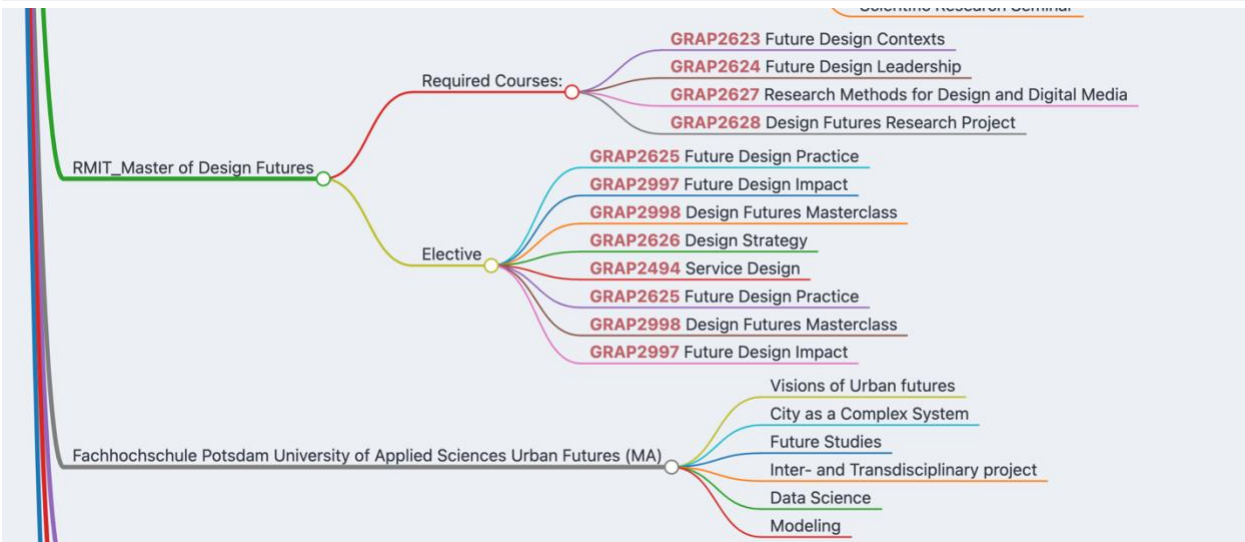
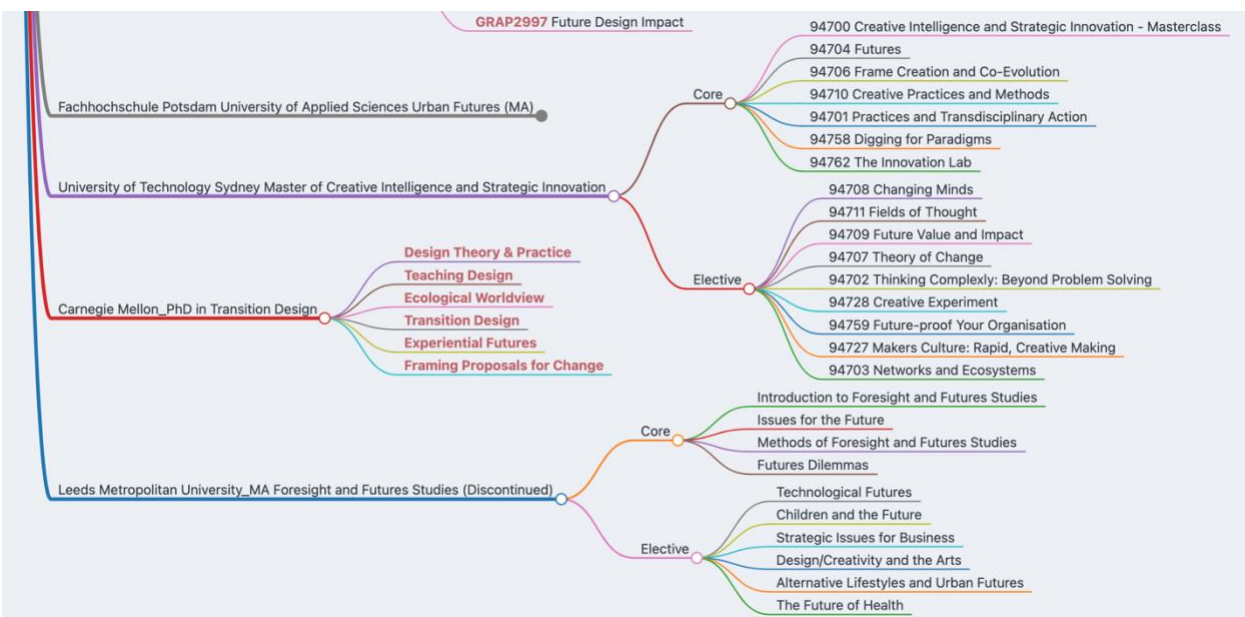
- Asynchronous Learning Community
- Self-Directed Learner Peer Network
- DIY Equivalent/Substitute for Master's Thesis and Internship
- The Missing Feedback: How to Know When You're Wrong
- Accelerated Expertise: Proficiency Development Post-Beginner Stage

### Update Log & Acknowledgements 🙌:

- **Edward Niedbalski:** Added the missing Tamkang program in the Venn diagram & added the 'Education' bubble.
- **Steven Lichty & Vanessa Carstens:** PGD and MPhil curriculum from Stellenbosch.
- **Chris Forbes:** Suggested a PDF version.
- **Martin Silcock:** Suggested a Learning Community.
- **Jan Oliver Schwarz:** Suggested the Master of Global Foresight & Technology Management at Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt.
- **Manahil Huda:** Suggested the RMIT University Master of Design Futures.
- **Jamie Saunders:** Suggested the Foresight and Futures Studies Master's at Leeds Metropolitan University (Discontinued).
- **Lyn Jeffery:** Suggested Carnegie Mellon Ph.D. in Transition Design.
- **Caroline Tunnell-Jones & Steven Lichty:** Suggested the University of Technology Sydney Master of Creative Intelligence and Strategic Innovation.
- **Jawn Lim & Regina Atienza:** Suggested the Royal College of Art Design Futures MDes.







# Creating my Own Master Program in Futures Studies & Foresight

I collected and compiled the curriculum of 10 grad-school programs in futures studies. If you are also on an autodidactic journey, this might be useful. Additionally, by comparing the courseworks, there seem to be different "flavors." If you do want to go for a formal Master's, image 3 may help you find the best fit.

## **But first, here is WHY I'm doing this**

I discovered my passion for Futures Studies & Foresight two years ago and have been on a (mostly) self-directed learning journey (although I have participated in a few short training programs). One nagging worry I have is that my knowledge and learning lack structure and systematic approach. It's like navigating the jungle with only a compass rather than a full map.

On the other hand, I'm hesitant to commit to a formal program for a few reasons: personal, financial, and the fact that not many schools offer it even when looking globally. Besides, I don't really care about the credential & diploma (I know people really take pride in their diploma, frame it, and hang it up. Good for them. My undergrad diploma is still at the bottom of a suitcase from four years ago, and I've never bothered to unpack it 😊).

So, to sum up: I care deeply about developing solid knowledge and a deep understanding of the field, but not about the degree itself. Inspired by Tim Ferriss's book *Tools of Titans*, where he created his own real-world MBA, I decided to try creating my own Master Program in Futures Studies & Foresight.

## **This is HOW I did it:**

First, I found the programs. This was made easy by the lists compiled by APF (<https://www.apf.org/academics>) and WFSF (<https://wfsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Academia-FLS-WFSF.pdf>).

Next, I went on their university websites and found their course catalogs. See image 3 (Note: the APF and WFSF lists of programs include more than 10, but some of them don't have course descriptions in English. So, I had to skip them. If you speak a second language, particularly Spanish (many programs are in Latin America) and French, it would be worthwhile to give them a look.)

Then, I compiled all their lessons into a big list. See image 2 (unfortunately heavily compressed by LinkedIn. See images 5-10 for Zoom In Shot)

Based on the course design and program setup, I made a Venn diagram to show different emphases or flavors. Of course, since I haven't attended any of them, this is merely based on my speculation from the course descriptions. So, take it with a grain of salt.

The next step would be to dig deeper into each course syllabus with a focus on the learning outcomes and required readings. Unfortunately, I only found the course-level syllabi from Houston and Turku. If you are a current student, alumni, instructor, or program director of other mentioned program and willing to sharing the syllabus or course guide, I'd be most grateful.

I'll continue to share my DIY Futures Studies Master's journey. If you are interested, stay tuned for part 2.



