The production, reproduction and transformation of urban space via socially, economically, and environmentally just methods presents a complex challenge for professionals. This MSc combines cultural, social, economic, political and spatial analysis to recalibrate the urban design project, presenting a holistic response in which informality and marginality are central features.

Degree summary

The programme will equip students with a political economy understanding of space a comprehension of the needs, abilities, aspirations and forms of resistance of urban dwellers the ability to respond with strategically co-ordinated proposals to leverage local abilities to meet local needs an ability to critically engage with the practice of urban design and architecture in developmental processes particularly in the Global South.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year; Part-time: 2 years; Flexible: 2-5 years
Location: London, Bloomsbury

Full-time students study for 37.5 hours per week during term time. Typically, lectures and seminars occur on two days per week. Part-time and Flexible students normally attend half this amount.

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of three core modules (90 credits), either one or two optional modules (30 credits) and a development and planning dissertation (60 credits).

Please note that the list of modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

COMPULSORY MODULES

- Transforming Local Areas: Urban Design for Development
- Participatory Process: Building for Development
- The BUDD Studio: Building and Urban Design Practice

OPTIONAL MODULES

- Critical Urbanism Studio I: Learning from Informality: Case studies and alternatives
- Critical Urbanism Studio II: Investigative Design Strategies for Contested Spaces
- Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities
- Post Disaster Recovery: Policies, Practices and Alternatives
- Housing Policies: Practical Dimensions and Alternative Options
- Housing as Urbanism: Housing Policy and the Search for Scale
- Adapting Cities to Climate Change in the Global South
- The Political Ecology of Environmental Change
- Sustainable Infrastructure and Services in Development
- Urban Water and Sanitation, Planning and Politics
- Social Policy and Citizenship
- Gender in Policy and Planning
- The City and its Relations: Context, Institutions and Actors in Urban Development Planning
- Urban Development Policy, Planning and Management: Strategic Action in Theory and Practice

Please note, the availability of some modules may be dependent on student numbers.

DISSERTATION/REPORT

All MSc students submit a 10,000-word report on a topic related to the main themes of the programme. The topic can be chosen to enhance career development or for its inherent interest.

During the third term, students carry out a longer field expedition in a city of the Global South. Students collate their strategies in a final, end-of-year report that forms part of their final assessment.

The cost of flights, visas, necessary vaccinations, accommodation, and fieldwork-related travel and facilitations costs, are incorporated within the programme fees. Meals and other expenditure must be covered by the student.
Your career

The programme enables graduates to work in NGOs and local government – facilitating community organisations and households to improve their living conditions. Graduate destinations range from UK-based organisations in the public, private and community sectors, to governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, which operate in a development capacity in the South. Recent graduates have also been employed by international NGOs and aid and development agencies and architectural and design practices. Some graduates return to their home countries and engage in urban design and architecture practice, teaching, or research of urban development there; others have successfully sought employment away from their own countries.
Entry requirements

The normal minimum qualifications are a good second-class Bachelor's degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

Consideration will also be given if the qualification is a degree of lower than second-class Honours standard, or an equivalent overseas qualification, in a subject appropriate to the programme, plus relevant work experience. Applicants who do not hold a first degree may, in exceptional cases, be admitted to the programme if they are able to demonstrate considerable senior-level professional experience in planning or a related field.

English language proficiency level

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency.

The level of English language proficiency for this programme is: Standard.

Information about the evidence required, acceptable qualifications and test providers is provided at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/english-requirements

Your application

Students are advised to apply as early as possible due to competition for places. Those applying for scholarship funding (particularly overseas applicants) should take note of application deadlines.

When we assess your application we would like to learn:
// why you want to study Building and Urban Design in Development at graduate level
// why you want to study Building and Urban Design in Development at UCL
// what particularly attracts you to the chosen programme
// how your academic and professional background meets the demands of this challenging programme
// where you would like to go professionally with your degree

Together with essential academic requirements, the personal statement is your opportunity to illustrate whether your reasons for applying to this programme match what the programme will deliver.

There is an application processing fee for this programme of £75 for online applications and £100 for paper applications. Further information can be found at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/taught/application.

FEES AND FUNDING 2019/20 ENTRY

// UK: £14,960 (FT), £7,480 (PT)
// EU: £14,960 (FT), £7,480 (PT)
// Overseas: £24,250 (FT), £12,110 (PT)

The tuition fees shown are for the year indicated above. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. Further information on fee status, fee increases and the fee schedule can be viewed on the UCL Students website.

Fees for flexible, modular study are charged pro-rata to the appropriate full-time Master's fee taken in an academic session.

Applicants may be eligible for the DFID Shared Scholarship Scheme and the Otto Koenigsberger Scholarship.

Full details of funding opportunities can be found on the UCL Scholarships website: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Full-time applicants: 26 July 2019
Flexible/Modular applicants: 30 August 2019
Details on how to apply are available on the website at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

Programme Manager

Email: dpu@ucl.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 1111

EU referendum

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit