This MSc programme aims to further the understanding of architecture and urban design in the development of building cities and the social groups that inhabit them. It offers an increased specialism to those interested in the research and design of the built environment intending to take either an academic pathway or a specific direction within their current professional practice.

Degree summary

The programme addresses the study of architecture and cities using the theoretical and analytical framework of space syntax as well as wider theoretical and analytical approaches. Students learn to specialise in one of several streams related to contemporary world challenges: architecture and computing, sustainable urbanism, social inclusion and exclusion, informal settlements, spatial cognition, the physical and immaterial dimensions of social networks and design innovation.

The programme provides a unique approach to the study of architecture and cities worldwide, equipping students with exceptional theoretical and analytical skills. It is located at The Bartlett, one of the UK’s largest multidisciplinary built environment faculties, bringing together scientific and professional specialisms required to research, understand, design, construct and operate the buildings and urban environments of the future.

The programme is unique in integrating architecture and urbanism, and adopting a user-centred approach. Students receive advanced and exceptional training in theories, data analysis and their creative integration with design thinking.

The degree draws on the rich design industries in London including Space Syntax Ltd and provides networking opportunities to help advance students in their academic and professional capacities both during and after the programme.

The programme is delivered through seminars, lectures, design studios, hands-on computer workshops, a variety of field trips in and around London and an international trip (optional). Assessment is through essays, written and take-home examinations, oral presentations, project reviews, debates, group and individual projects, classroom exercises and the dissertation.

Degree structure

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

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of five compulsory modules (75 credits), two optional modules (45 credits) and a 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

- Design as a Knowledge-Based Process (15 credits)
- Buildings, Organisations and Networks (15 credits)
- Space Syntax Methodology and Analytical Design (15 credits)
- Spatial Cultures (15 credits)
- Architectural Phenomena (15 credits)

OPTIONAL MODULES

- Analytical Design Research Project (30 credits)
- E-Merging Design and Analysis (30 credits)
- Spatial Dynamics and Computation (15 credits)
- Spatial Justice (15 credits)

DISSERTATION/REPORT

All MSc students submit a 10,000-word dissertation related to the main themes of the programme, typically involving a directed research project on a building or urban site. MSc Spatial Design: Architecture and Cities Dissertation (60 credits).

The E-merging analysis and design studio (optional module) is usually accompanied by an international trip.

The cost to the student is not exceeding £500 per person, based on standard costs as specified by the Bartlett School of Architecture.
Your career

Graduates of the programme go on to many different careers: many have ploughed their knowledge back into furthering their architectural/design careers; In the past few years an increasing number of graduates have obtained jobs at prestigious architectural, urban design and urban planning firms working within top multi-disciplinary design and planning teams. Some others have gone into policy-making and worked for local or regional authorities; and some have progressed to PhD degrees and have obtained academic positions in top universities worldwide.

First destinations of recent graduates include roles with leading design and architecture practices, as well as academic or research positions at prestigious international universities or research centres.

Employability

This programme enhances students’ intellectual and design abilities in the field of urban/architectural theory, architectural/urban morphology and the social aspects of the urban environment. Graduates of this programme can be involved in both professional and academic activities. Graduates who choose to go into practice will have a leading edge in evidence-informed and research-based design. Those who choose an academic path will have the advanced knowledge and skills required for high-level academic positions.
Entry requirements

Normally a minimum of a lower second-class Bachelor's degree from a UK university or an equivalent overseas qualification in an architectural or urban design related subject is usually required. Consideration will also be given to applicants from other fields, particularly human geography, anthropology and archaeology, and to applicants with degrees of a lower classification if they have considerable senior-level professional experience in the field. For applicants without a first degree or full professional membership, but with relevant and substantial work experience in the field, a special qualifying examination may be set; details are available from the Bartlett's Graduate Faculty Office.

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 Space Syntax: Architecture and Cities at graduate level, and at UCL
// what particularly attracts you to the chosen programme
// how you see the proper role of research in design; whether you have experience of using space syntax or other built environment research methodologies
// 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: £13,750 (FT), £6,840 (PT)
// EU: £13,750 (FT), £6,840 (PT)
// Overseas: £26,660 (FT), £13,340 (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.

UCL offers a range of financial awards aimed at assisting both prospective and current students with their studies.

Any additional funding available from the Bartlett School of Architecture and the Built Environment Faculty Office are advertised on the respective websites.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Full-time: 26 July 2019
Flexible/Modular: 30 August 2019

Details on how to apply are available on the website at:
www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

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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