URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING MSc / 2019/20 ENTRY

www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/
The Urban Development Planning MSc explores planning theories and international practices in urban development policy, planning and management that address contemporary spatial, socio-economic and political transformations in cities of the Global South.

**Degree summary**

This MSc aims to equip participants to work effectively as development planners and practitioners in urban contexts through imparting a deeper understanding of the processes that generate urban change. The programme aims to enhance participants’ diagnostic and strategic capacities to respond to such change within the framework of socially just urban governance.

This programme argues that planning is key to dealing with urban problems and opportunities presented by rapid urbanisation in the Global South, but that its potential cannot be harnessed without a critical understanding of the processes that generate urban change in specific contexts.

The programme seeks to equip students with the capacity to develop critical diagnoses of urban issues, as a basis for developing propositional responses within the framework of socially, spatially and environmentally just urban governance.

The programme promotes a deeper understanding of community-led and partnership-based urban development planning. Students also benefit from the Development Planning Unit’s longstanding and geographically expansive alumni and partner network.

The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, group work, workshops and field trips. Field trips so far have taken place in Egypt, Ghana, India, Thailand, and Tanzania. Student performance is assessed through essays, coursework, team project reports, written examinations, the overseas field trip and a 10,000-word dissertation.

**Degree structure**

**Mode:** Full-time: 1 year; 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. Flexible students normally attend half this amount.

Students undertake modules to the value of 180 credits. The programme consists of three compulsory modules (90 credits), either one or two optional modules (30 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**

- 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
- Practice in Urban Development Planning

**OPTIONAL MODULES**

- Adapting Cities to Climate Change in the Global South
- An Introduction to Public Economics and Public Policy
- 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
- Food and the City
- Gender in Policy and Planning
- Housing as Urbanism: Housing Policy and the Search for Scale
- Housing Policies: Practical Dimensions and Alternative Options
- Industrialisation and Infrastructure
- Knowledge Systems and Sustainable Food Production
- Managing the City Economy
- Neo-Structuralism and the Developmental State
- NGOs and Social Transformation
- Or any other open MSc module on offer at UCL, with Programme Leader approval.

Please note: not all optional modules listed above may be available.

**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.

In the third term (May) students travel abroad to a city in the Global South to conduct a two-week field trip in groups. The purpose of the trip is to give hands-on experience of processes of urban change, community-led initiatives and policy challenges in the urban context of the Global South. 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

This MSc is widely recognised by international organisations and agencies (such as UN agencies and the World Bank) and bilateral aid organisations from different countries. 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. Graduates have also been employed by international NGOs and aid and development agencies. Some graduates return to their home countries and engage in the practice, teaching or research of urban development practice; other graduates have successfully sought employment in international development organisations away from their own countries.

Employability

The programme aims to help students:

- prepare balanced and critical analyses/arguments, attentive to the particularities of place, based on theoretical insights and empirical evidence
- undertake well-supported diagnoses of the problems and opportunities in given urban development contexts, in ways that reframe strategic opportunities for action
- formulate systematic and well-supported strategic action planning proposals, aimed at responding to complex urban development situations, including organisational and institutional development
- build presentation, advocacy and negotiation skills
- develop research skills including interviewing, conceptual framework formulation, and the ability to analyse a range of information sources
- deliver group projects, and negotiate the dynamics of working in diverse teams
- operate professionally in unfamiliar environments, including in global south contexts
Entry requirements

The normal minimum qualifications are a second-class Bachelor's degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. A minimum of six months work experience is also recommended.

Applicants who do not meet the minimum academic requirements 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 and an ability to engage academically with the subject matter.

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 Urban Development Planning at graduate level
- why you want to study Urban Development Planning 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: £14,610 (FT)
- EU: £14,610 (FT)
- Overseas: £23,300 (FT)

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.

Applications may be eligible for the DFID Shared Scholarship Scheme (CSSS) and the Otto Koenigsberger Scholarship (OKS).

General information on funding and scholarships is provided by the DPU administration team.

Overseas students are also encouraged to contact a local office of the British Council for information on possible scholarships.

The following other organisations may be able to offer financial support:

- United Nations
- Ford Foundation
- European Development Fund
- Architects Registration Board (ARB)
- Chevening Scholarships
- Aga Khan Foundation for scholarships for applicants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kenya and Tanzania.

EU funding is also possible for studentships through the European Union.

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
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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

This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL’s degree programmes please see the UCL Graduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate

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