Urban Studies BSc

This programme has been designed with a range of professional career opportunities in mind. It offers great flexibility for students curious to explore a broader range of studies relating to the built environment, as well as other related subjects offered elsewhere in UCL.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2020

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// This programme provides a broad-based education in urbanism and the built environment, offering flexibility to choose additional related modules across UCL and benefit from the wide educational offerings across the university.

// The Bartlett has a strong history of research and leading policy advisory work. It places itself at the heart of international debates on the future of cities and regions.

// Based in London, we are able to offer our students a range of fascinating 'live projects' to use as case studies in their academic work, access to a diverse range of employers, and an unrivalled concentration of professional meetings, seminars, conferences, exhibitions and events.

// The School has a strong international outlook and provides opportunities for combined study overseas in Europe, North America, Australia and Hong Kong.

Accreditation

This BSc does not lead to eligibility for professional membership of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) or Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). If students are interested in gaining these accreditations, they would be advised to choose one of our sister programmes, the Urban Planning, Design and Management BSc or the Urban Planning and Real Estate BSc. Alternatively, students can apply for a suitable accredited Master's programme following graduation, which would be an alternative route leading to eligibility for professional membership.

Degree structure

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 15 or 30 credits, adding up to a total of 120 credits for the year. Modules are assessed in the academic year in which they are taken. The balance of compulsory and optional modules varies from programme to programme and year to year. A 30-credit module is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

The Urban Studies BSc shares common modules with the Urban Planning, Design and Management BSc and the Urban Planning and Real Estate BSc, but it allows a more flexible mode of study. In addition to a specified number of core modules, students are free to choose from a range of eligible modules across the faculty and university in the second and third years.

Core modules are structured around the three streams of understanding, managing and delivering urban change. They include a range of theoretical and practical modules in the urban planning, social science and design disciplines.

The programme offers the opportunity to study overseas for a term in the second year. The school has long-established links with many universities in Europe as well as a growing list in the USA, Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

Over the second and third years, Urban Studies students can choose seven eligible and related modules from across The Bartlett and UCL.

YEAR ONE

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Contemporary Cities (15 credits)
// Beyond Cities: Rural Economies, Communities and Landscapes (15 credits)
// Introducing Planning Systems (15 credits)
// Introducing Urban Design: Design Skills (15 credits)
// Management for Built Environment Professionals I (15 credits)
// Making Cities: The Production of the Built Environment (15 credits)
// Planning History and Thought (15 credits)
// Urban Lab I: Graphic Skills (15 credits)

YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Economics of Cities and their Regions (15 credits)
// Green Futures (15 credits)
// Strategic Planning Project (15 credits)
// Cities and Social Change (15 credits)
// Urban Lab II: Spatial Analysis (15 credits)

Optional modules

// You will take 45 credits of optional undergraduate modules offered within the School of Planning or other departments of UCL.

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

// Urban and Environmental Politics (15 credits)
// Real Estate Development (15 credits)
// Regional Development, Planning and Policy in a Global Context (15 credits)
// Transport Policy and Planning (15 credits)

Optional modules

// You will take 60 credits of optional undergraduate modules offered within the School of Planning or other departments of UCL.
Your learning

The School of Planning advocates and employs a very interactive, hands-on form of learning. Alongside lectures, seminars and tutorials we include field visits, group project work, and laboratory and design work sessions to improve your learning experience.

Fieldwork
Students have the opportunity to go on two extended field trips during their degree: a European city in their first year and a UK city in their third year. In addition, many modules include fieldwork or site visits as part of the learning experience.

Placement
In the third term of the third year, a voluntary two-week work experience placement is offered, drawing from our pool of employers.

Assessment
Your final marks will reflect your success in a wide range of assessment types including essays, individual and group reports, urban design outputs such as posters and models, presentations, and a small number of exams. This is a distinctive feature of our planning programmes, and of The Bartlett's approach in particular. As an Urban Studies student, the balance of your assessments will depend on the free modules chosen in the second and third years.

Your career

The programme enables you to acquire highly transferable knowledge and skills such as data collection, analysis and presentation, graphic skills, resolution of problems and conflicts, negotiation and mediation, teamwork and leadership, managing work tasks, preparing and writing professional reports, as well as written, graphic and oral presentation skills.

Graduates work in a vast range of positions in the private, public and third sectors within the built environment and urbanism disciplines (such as planning, property, urban design, economic development, housing, transport, and regeneration), as well as in other sectors where their analytical, negotiating, problem-solving and creative skills are valued.

Your application

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

We will look for evidence of your interest in our subject in your personal statement. We hope to see demonstrable interest in, and understanding of, the complex nature of cities, the links between urban planning and design, as well as an ability to write coherently, communicate effectively, think critically, and to understand and solve complex problems. We will also assess your use of English.

Shortlisted applicants living in or near to the UK will be invited to an applicant open day. This will typically include an introduction to UCL and the School of Planning, a presentation on UCL accommodation and finance, a taster lecture delivered by an academic in the School of Planning, lunch and a tour of the campus with current students, and an interactive Q&A session with members of staff and current students.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Standard Offer: ABB. No specific subjects.
Contextual Offer: BBB. No specific subjects.

GCSE
English Language and Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

IB DIPLOMA
Standard Offer: 34 points. A score of 16 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5.
Contextual Offer: 32 points. A score of 15 points in three higher level subjects, with no score lower than 5.

CONTEXTUAL OFFERS – ACCESS UCL SCHEME
As part of our commitment to increasing participation from underrepresented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer as part of the Access UCL scheme. For more information see www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS
UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES (International foundation courses)
UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.
For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc.

TUITION FEES
The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2019/20 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2019/20 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK & EU: £9,250 (2019/20)
// Overseas: £25,770 (2019/20)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students website.

Additional costs
If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc. on this programme, please get in touch with the relevant departmental contact (details given on this page).

FUNDING
Funding may be available from the Bartlett School of Planning or the Bartlett Faculty Office.
Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

CONTACT
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Brexit
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

Disclaimer
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 Undergraduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus