UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

LONDON’S URBAN DEVELOPMENT: POLITICS, POLICY AND DESIGN

Key Information

Module code ISSU0034
Taught during Session Two: Monday 22 July - Friday 9 August 2019
Module workload 45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours
Module leader Dr Dan Kilburn
Department Centre for Languages and International Education
Credit 15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US
Level Level 1, first year Undergraduate
Pre-requisites Standard entry requirements
Assessment Fieldwork record (25%)
Presentation (25%)
Essay (50%)

Module Overview

This module explores the processes shaping urban development in contemporary London and the challenges facing its role as a ‘global city’ is the face of economic, social, and environmental challenges. Drawing on ideas, perspectives and approaches from social science and urban design, the module will critically examine how London is responding to these urban development challenges through a sequence of related topics:

Week One – Introduction to urban governance in London
  • Models of urban politics and decision-making
  • London’s key planning policy frameworks
  • Researching urbanisation and urban development

Week Two – Contemporary debates:
  • Airport expansion,
  • The architecture and design of super-tall buildings
  • The housing crisis

Week Three – The challenges of sustainable urbanisation:
  • Environmental sustainability and design
  • Social sustainability and inclusion
  • Economic sustainability and development

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
Module Aims
The module aims to engage students in contemporary academic (social science) debates and research concerning:

- The processes driving urban development in cities such as London.
- Current urban policies and decision-making factors in London.
- Impacts of major development projects and key urban issues or problems.
- The challenges associated with fostering ‘sustainable’ urban development.

Teaching Methods
Teaching will be delivered through:

- 1-hour lectures (daily): To introduce key concepts, ideas and debates; explore perspectives from the literature; develop insights into case studies and empirical examples; outline the requirements of forthcoming assessment and fieldwork.
- 2-hour classes/seminars (daily): To develop hands-on research skills and techniques (including through computer labs); undertake reading-based exercises; debate key perspectives.
- Fieldwork in and around three London sites (weekly): To support situated and experiential learning; provide opportunities for data collection through observation; to form the basis for assessment (through a fieldwork diary and presentation).

A Moodle page will provide the repository for electronic learning resources, a means of delivering feedback (including audio feedback), and a medium for self-study activities.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will:

- Be able to identify the forces driving urban development on a global scale and to evaluate their impact on the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of cities.
- Be familiar with key policies relating to urban development and with the processes through which planning decisions are made in London.
- Be equipped to engage with debates concerning urban development by examining competing perspective and formulating responses.
- Have experience of designing urban research projects, conducting fieldwork, analysing evidence from a range of sources, and producing high-quality reports and outputs.
- Be able to apply their knowledge and skills to critically analyse urban development in other contexts around the world.

Assessment Methods

- Fieldwork record (25%)
- 10-minute presentation (25%)
- 2,000-word essay (50%)

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Key Texts