



# UCL

## MSc Urban Economic Development



Bringing economic analysis to city planning and management, this programme explores how economic solutions can contribute to urban sustainability and wellbeing

### Programme Director

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### Core and Optional Modules

Managing the City Economy

Practice in Urban Economic Development

Cost Benefit Analysis: Theory and Practice

Urbanization and Development

An Introduction to Public Economics and Public Policy

The Informal Economy and Urban Development

# MSc Urban Economic Development

**Overview** The central concern of the MSc Urban Economic Development at the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) is to identify methods of enhancing urban productivity while promoting sustainability and equity through public intervention at the city level.

Cities are much more than human habitats; they are crucial and advanced components of the national and global economy, acting as engines of economic development and agents for social change. The city represents a crucial context for societies to meet the challenges of sustainable development,



especially the eradication of poverty and the creation of a new low-carbon economy. Unfortunately, many cities fail to rise to these challenges. Signs of urban decay and poverty are commonplace, even in the most developed parts of the world.

Policy makers and researchers are only just starting to recognise that many social and environmental problems have their roots in economic failures and structural weaknesses. Such problems require professionally trained people who understand the dynamics of the city economy and are equipped to tackle these challenges through effective policy formulation and implementation. This programme is designed to train and supply such people.

**Structure** The MSc Urban Economic Development is structured so that 75 per cent of the taught components (90 credits) is devoted to the core subjects of economics in urban development and managing the city economy, and 25 per cent (30 credits) to an option from a range of modules on offer. The core modules provide the theoretical and methodological components of the programme while the optional modules allow students to examine different approaches and issues in accordance with their own particular interests.



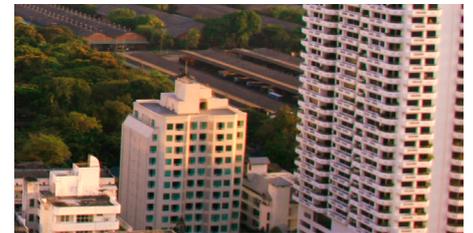
The programme is delivered through lectures, seminars, workshops, case studies and field trips, and involves reading, essay writing, and individual and group project work. Student performance is assessed through programme work, examinations, and an individual dissertation report undertaken during the summer on a topic selected by the student.

Field trips

The programme involves field work abroad (undertaken in recent years in Cairo Egypt; Accra, Ghana; and Mek'ele, Ethiopia), as well as in UK, allowing students to put into practice some of the tools and techniques acquired during the programme.

**Careers** The MSc UED is widely recognised by international organisations, including UN agencies and the World Bank; bilateral aid organisations from different countries, including the UK's Department for International Development, as well as other government aid programmes; and by many national organisations.

The UED programme is a core programme at the Development Planning Unit and alumni benefit from the international respect enjoyed by DPU thanks to its expertise in and contribution to urban development and action planning.



There is enormous variety in the careers UED graduates pursue, ranging from working with UK-based organisations in the public, private and community sectors that focus on local as well as international development, to employment with governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations operating in a development capacity in the South.

There is also diversity in the geographic locations of UED alumni: some return to their home countries with the additional MSc qualification and engage in the practice, teaching or research of urban development there; others find employment in development organisations (from grassroots to multilateral tiers) away from their own countries.