



UCL

MSc Urban Economic Development



Bringing economic research and analysis to city
planning and management for promoting urban
prosperity, equity and sustainability

Programme Leaders

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Core and Optional Modules

Managing the City Economy
Practice in Urban Economic Development
An Introduction to Public Economics and Public Policy
Cost Benefit Analysis: Theory and Practice
Urbanization and Development
The Informal Economy and Urban Development

MSc Urban Economic Development

Overview The MSc Urban Economic Development is designed to train development practitioners to better understand the dynamics of the city economy and encourage them to develop their own perspectives and world views on how to tackle complex urban challenges through sound research, economic analysis and creative policy formulation.

The programme is strongly interdisciplinary, attracting students from diverse backgrounds with shared values around social justice, equity and environmental sustainability.

The MSc UED focuses on a range of contemporary themes in urban economic development. These include debates around the impact of globalisation, liberalisation and decentralisation on the socio-economic fabric of cities; the role of infrastructure, knowledge, social capital, values and beliefs in steering urban economies on high-road trajectories; market failures and negative externalities; the use of technologies for creating smart and sustainable cities; and developing enabling urban contexts for co-creation and emergence in pursuit of quality-employment, productivity and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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 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 written during the summer on a topic selected by the student.

The programme involves field work abroad (undertaken in recent years in Cairo, Egypt; Accra, Ghana; Tarapoto, Peru 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 UED programme is a core programme at the Development Planning Unit and alumni benefit from the international recognition enjoyed by the DPU thanks to its expertise in and contribution to urban development and action planning.

There is great 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 government and inter-governmental organisations and NGOs in the Global South.

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

DPU boasts a global network of alumni spread across many continents, countries and organisations, often facilitating that essential first introduction of a UED graduate into employment.