



UCL

MSc Urban Development Planning



Programme Co-Directors

Caren Levy
Dr Barbara Lipietz

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Rafaella Lima

Other Members of Staff

Jorge Fiori, Dr Colin Marx, Julian Walker, Ruth McLeod, Daniel Oviedo

Core and Optional 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; Gender in Policy and Planning; Transport Equity and Urban Mobility

MSc Urban Development Planning

Overview The MSc Urban Development Planning (UDP) focuses on international practices in urban development policy, planning and management that address contemporary political, socio-economic, spatial and environmental transformations in cities of the global south.

As urban growth continues apace, fuelled by the uneven effects of globalization processes, cities and towns are being reconfigured as key drivers of regional and national development. Increased fragmentation, intensifying inequality and environmental degradation are taking place in a context marked by the differentiated impacts of neoliberal policy, altering the roles and relationships between those involved in the development and management of cities.

This programme argues that planning has an important contribution to make to these contemporary urban challenges. Accord-



ingly, the programme seeks to provide candidates with the analytical and practical approaches to engage reflexively with urban development and planning processes, as well as enhance their strategic and propositional capacities, within the framework of socially just urban governance. Working with an appreciation of the situated complexities of practice, along with a recognition of processes of inequality, difference and diversity, the course aims to delineate collective agency for planning, and the contours of strategic action planning.

Structure The course comprises three compulsory core modules (90 credits) devoted to its focus on urban development and international practices in urban development policy, planning and management; optional module(s) (30 credits) from a range of modules on offer within and outside the DPU; and a dissertation (60 credits). The core modules provide the theoretical, methodological and practice components of the course, whilst optional modules and the dissertation allow students to examine different approaches and issues in accordance with their own particular interests.

The course consists of lectures, seminars, workshops, case study analyses, and field trips in the UK and abroad. Students are expected to take an active part in their own learning through reading, essay writing and individual and group project work. Student performance is assessed through course



work (individual and group work), examinations and an individual dissertation.

Field based learning is a key element of the DPU's UDP course and pedagogic approach. Students are encouraged to translate the theoretical concepts and methodological approaches acquired during the course, into practical planning interventions in diverse settings in London and a city in the global South. Recent field trips have taken place in Cairo (Egypt), Accra (Ghana), Mumbai (India), Bangkok (Thailand) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania).

Careers The course attracts an interdisciplinary group of students, including planners, architects, geographers, political scientists, sociologists, economists and public administrators. These different and complementary perspectives make for rich exchanges during class and group work, and provide the building blocks of an impressively international and multi-disciplinary alumni network.

DPU Alumni from the MSc UDP benefit from the international respect enjoyed by DPU thanks to its expertise in, and contribution to, urban development and action planning. The MSc UDP is widely recognised by international organisations, including United Nations agencies and the World Bank; by bilateral aid agencies from different countries; by many national governments and non-governmental organisations.



On graduating, UDP alumni have pursued careers in the practice, teaching and research of urban development. They have done so in the public, private and community sectors – working in the UK or in the Global South; with governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations (from grassroots to multilateral tiers); and focusing on local as well as international urban development.