



MSc Urban Development Planning

Expanding the room for manoeuvre
for socially and spatially just urban
development planning: confronting
contemporary challenges in cities
and urban areas in the Global South.



Overview

The MSc Urban Development Planning (UDP) programme is designed to equip students with analytical skills and practical tools to engage reflexively with urban development in the global South and North. At a time when urban areas are being transformed into increasingly unequal, fragmented and environmentally degraded spaces, this programme argues that planning has an essential contribution to make in fostering more socially, spatially and environmentally just urban trajectories.

By critically examining the theory and practice of urban development planning at different territorial scales, the programme seeks to meet two interrelated objectives. The first is to provide students with a solid understanding of the key processes generating urban change and their local manifestations. The second is to develop students' knowledge and capacities to respond to such changes in an equitable, participatory and sustainable manner. Central to this approach is an appreciation of the ethics of urban development planning practice and the role of the UDP practitioner.

Programme Leaders

Dr Jordana Ramalho
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Graduate Teaching Assistant

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Other Members of Staff

Prof. Caren Levy | Dr Colin Marx |
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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

Structure

The UDP programme comprises three taught 30-credit core modules, which provide the central theoretical, methodological and practical components of the course. In addition, UDP students complete one 30-credit optional module (or two 15-credit optional modules) and a 60-credit dissertation, allowing students to deepen their engagement with specific approaches and issues, in accordance with their research interests. The UDP programme consists of lectures, seminars, workshops, case study analysis and practice engagement in London and abroad (where possible). Students are expected to play an active part in their learning. Academic performance is assessed via coursework (individual and group-based), time-bound assessment and a dissertation project.

Key to the UDP programme is the development of a critical understanding of the theory/practice nexus in planning. Accordingly, practice-based learning with long-standing partners in London and overseas plays an important role across the programme, and in the practice module specifically. Such learning is based on the premise of developing partnerships 'with equivalence', where projects and knowledge are co-produced with our partners, providing a valuable learning experience for students, along with actionable resources for our local partners. In recent years, the UDP programme has partnered with the Just Space network in London, and with a variety of partners in Mumbai, Cairo, Bangkok, Dar es Salaam, Colombo and Yogyakarta. Should restrictions be in place that make travel impossible, the UDP programme will pursue engagement with our partners, using a full range of online and offline platforms.

Careers

The UDP programme attracts an interdisciplinary group of students with backgrounds in the social sciences and built environment. These diverse yet complimentary perspectives support rich learning and exchanges during class and in group work activities.

Alumni from the UDP programme benefit from the international respect enjoyed by the DPU, related to its expertise in, and contribution to, urban development and action planning globally. The programme is widely recognised by international organisations, bilateral aid organisations, national planning and development departments, local governments and non-governmental organisations. Upon graduating, UDP alumni have pursued careers in the practice, teaching and research of urban development planning in the public, private and community sectors, in both the Global South and North.