

# MSc Urban Economic Development

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





## **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 cites; the role of infrastructure, knowledge, social capital, values and beliefs in steering urban economies on highroad 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 qualityemployment, productivity and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### Programme Leader

Dr Naji Makarem Dr Alessio Kolioulis

# **Graduate Teaching Assistant**Mayling Thong

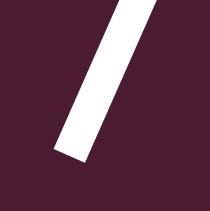
Ms Jing Zhang

## **Other Members of Staff**

Prof Le-Yin Zhang Dr Magarethe Theseira Mr Étienne von Bertrab Dr Alexandra Panman

#### **Core and Optional Modules**

Managing the City Economy |
Practice in Urban Economic
Development | An Introduction to Public
Economics and Public Policy |
Urbanization and Development | Economic
Policy Evaluation Tools

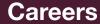


## **Structure**

The MSc Urban Economic Development is structured so that 75% 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 practice engagements, 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 a London-based practice engagement (the London Project), allowing students to put into practice some of the tools and techniques acquired during the programme, and one overseas practice engagement (tackling economic development issues in Global South, the cases in recent years have included Yucatán, Mexico; Accra, Ghana and Tarapoto, Peru).



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 economic development and planning.

There is great variety in the careers UED graduates pursue, ranging from working with UK-based organisations in the public, private and social sector focusing on local as well as international development, to employment with government and inter-governmental organisations and NGOs worldwide.

There is also diversity in the geographic locations of UED alumni. While 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 around the world, a valuable network our students can tap into for advice and employment

