



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 cities; 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 quality-employment, productivity and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Programme Leader

Dr Naji Makarem
Dr Alessio Kolioulis

Graduate Teaching Assistant

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).

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 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