

MSc/PGDip

Housing and City Planning

Shelter is one of the most basic human needs. But the provision of that shelter – that is, the development of enough housing of the right type and quality, in the most appropriate locations – is a challenge that many nations struggle with. This MSc offers an inter-disciplinary perspective on the ‘housing question’ in advanced economies, based on a programme with core contributions coming from The Bartlett School of Environment, Energy and Resources.



Overview

Planning systems do not always direct new housing to the right places; and the old housing that societies inherit – or even the new housing that is being built – is seldom as good as it could be. The quality of housing development needs to be judged against several key benchmarks. It needs to be part of the solution to the environmental challenges that all societies face and it needs to be delivered in a way that contributes to achieving social justice, by being accessible and affordable.

The Housing and City Planning MSc brings together these critical perspectives in three linked streams, examining how planning policy and practice contributes to the wider environment for development; how housing development is financed and managed; and how new housing may have a lighter environmental footprint, and older housing retrofitted to lessen its impact. The programme develops core knowledge and key skills within each of its streams.

The programme is directed at urban professionals and graduates from the fields of planning, property, architecture and project management who are looking to specialise in the area of housing development. The opportunity is available to study full-time or on a modular/flexible basis. Domestic and international applications are encouraged. The curriculum covers UK-specific policy and practice as well as a range of international case studies and globally relevant debates in the provision of housing.

Structure/Content

Further details on all modules are provided in the directory at the rear of this brochure. The core modules are:

- BPLN0044 Planning for Housing: Process (15 credits)
 - BPLN0045 Planning for Housing: Project (15 credits)
 - BENV0041 Principles of Sustainable Housing Design (15 credits)
 - BENV0039 Low Energy Housing Retrofit (15 credits)
 - BPLN0019 Economics and Finance of Housing Projects (15 credits)
 - BPLN0018 Management of Housing Projects (15 credits)
 - BPLN0039 Dissertation (60 credits)
- Students may then pick from a wide-range of optional modules from across, and beyond, The Bartlett School of Planning. The choice of these electives must be approved by the Programme and Module Tutor. Students wishing to gain RTP1 accreditation, however, must take the following two modules as their elective choices:
- BPLN0037 Spatial Planning: Concepts and Context (15 credits)
 - BPLN0020 Critical Debates in Housing Development (15 credits)
- There are no stipulations on elective module choice for RICS accreditation.

Field Trip

The Housing and City Planning MSc programme includes an integral field trip aimed at giving students the opportunity to observe examples of good (and bad) practice in housing development and housing design.

Field trips involve students being introduced to development projects by local experts, drawn from academia, local government, private enterprise or local politics. The destination of the Housing and City Planning MSc field trip is to be confirmed.

Entry Qualifications

Applicants must have obtained a minimum of a good second-class Bachelor's degree or other qualification of equivalent standard (preferably 2.1 or higher, but 2.2 with appropriate experience or equivalent will also be considered). Some practical experience in addition to academic qualifications is welcomed but not required (the course is designed for graduates of all disciplines and those with no planning background at all, as well as welcoming those with some experience).

A high level of competence in both spoken and written English is also required. Overseas students whose first language is not English will be asked to provide evidence of competency in English. A minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each of the sub-tests is required. Applicants may be requested to submit a writing sample.

Careers

Graduate students from The Bartlett have been very successful in gaining subsequent employment. At present there is a growing demand for our Master's graduates from a wide range of both public and private employers in the UK and overseas. Many graduates have taken up posts in local and central government planning; others have moved into planning related consultancies. Past students have found employment in numerous specialist sectors: in housing and transport; planning, urban regeneration and environmental agencies; public and private utility companies; and also in teaching and research. As well as preparing students for careers in planning practice and housing delivery, all of our programmes offer an introduction to research and to key research skills. These skills are developed and tested through completion of a dissertation, which demonstrates the graduate's capacity for independent thinking and working.

	Term 1 Oct-Dec	Term 2 Jan-Mar	Term 3 Apr-May	Summer Jun-Sep
Planning for housing	BPLN0044 (PT yr 1) Planning for Housing: Process	BPLN0045 (PT yr 1) Planning for Housing: Project	BPLN0039 (PT yr 2) Dissertation in Planning	
	BENV0041 (PT yr 2) Principles of Sustainable Housing Design	BENV0039 (PT yr 2) Low Energy Housing Retrofit		
Economics and delivery	BPLN0019 (PT yr 1) Economics and Finance of Housing Projects	BPLN0018 (PT yr 1) Management of Housing Projects		
Elective modules	Elective A (PT yr 2)	Elective B (PT yr 2)		