

MPlan City Planning

This new two year postgraduate degree programme started in September 2017. It will provides students with the knowledge, theory, skills and values required to become effective professional planners in both the UK and internationally. It is distinguished by being the first two year full time Masters in planning in the UK, where the norm is for one year masters programmes. The additional time allows for students to undertake either a period of study abroad learning about planning systems and cultures in a different context, or to spend time in a work placement in London (or under some circumstances elsewhere in the UK) to reflect on the relationship between planning theory and practice. The MPlan City Planning is fully accredited by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).



Overview

The MPlan City Planning is a two-year taught full-time master's degree.

The degree offers home and international students who are graduates of any undergraduate discipline an in-depth, academically informed introduction to the professional practice of planning, with modules responding to the key themes of planning systems and cultures, the pillars of planning, space, place and design, independent research, and the opportunity to further specialise through elective modules.

The MPlan City Planning:

- Provides students with an academically based vocational education in City Planning;
- Equips students with the knowledge, theory, skills and values required to become effective professional planners both in the UK and internationally;
- Offers specialist courses based on the research expertise of the staff in the department;
- Offers a principle and theory driven programme, which gives students both conceptual understanding, and the skills needed to tackle practical problems; and
- Emphasises the importance of a spatial and comparative perspective to City Planning, the need for integrated solutions to planning problems for planning cities and regions, and the need for creative and research based solutions to the management of our built and natural environments.

The degree includes both core modules, providing an introduction to key knowledge, and specialist modules, allowing you to tailor your studies to your interests.

In the second term of the second year of the MPlan, you will have the opportunity to study outside of the UK in one of our partner universities, in which you will take a number of modules in planning and urban studies to the amount of 45 UCL credits. Alternatively, you can take a work placement in the UK. We have signed a number of reciprocal student exchange agreements with high-quality planning departments and schools in a range of universities around the world (all offering modules in English), including, the Ecole Urbaine de Sciences-Po Paris (France), the Politecnico di Milano (Italy), the Czech Technical University (Prague), the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands), KTH Stockholm (Sweden), the University of Melbourne (Australia), the University of New South Wales, Sydney (Australia), and the University of Hong Kong, among others. New student exchange agreements are currently under negotiation with partner universities in the USA and Canada.

Graduates who wish to make a career in planning, related fields (such as housing, urban regeneration, transport planning or urban design), or teaching and/or research.

Structure/Content

The diagram overleaf shows the structure of the two year full-time MPlan programme. Independent study - student research skills will be enhanced through methods workshops and an in-depth dissertation or major project of 15,000 words.

The MPlan City Planning comprises 300 credits and has a modular structure comprising seven compulsory core modules, two optional modules (modules which must be chosen from a prescribed list of four modules), and two elective modules (an open choice from modules offered by the School of Planning, or Centre for Applied Spatial Analysis, both within the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment).

Further details of these modules can be found on our postgraduate modules page.

The programme is designed around a number of key themes which run through the modular structure:

- Planning systems and cultures – students will gain an understanding of the history, culture and practice of city and regional planning in both the UK and in international comparative context;
- The pillars of planning – students will gain an understanding of the key social science pillars of planning knowledge, namely environment, society, economy and politics, and an appreciation of law and legal regulation and rights in relation to the environment and sustainability;
- Space, place and design – students will understand planning's role in place making, the importance of good urban design and the practicalities of spatial plan making;
- Independent study – student research skills will be enhanced through methods workshops and an in-depth dissertation or major project of 15,000 words; and,
- Specialisation – the programme allows students to pick two 15 credit modules whilst at UCL from a wide choice of modules offered by both the School of Planning and the Centre for Applied Spatial Analysis (CASA) relating to various planning specialisms or urban analytics.

A core principle of the programme is that term two of the second year will either be spent undertaking scholarly study on a Masters level planning programme at an international partner institution (thus developing and embedding the theoretical and contextual planning knowledge learnt through the period of prior study at UCL

via international comparison, whilst living in a foreign city for a three month or four month period) or undertaking applied research as part of an industry work placement with appropriate planning organisations from the private, public and voluntary sectors in and around Greater London (thus developing and embedding the theoretical and contextual planning knowledge learnt through the period of prior study at UCL via reflective practice experience).

Field Courses

Students will undertake two field trips. The first will be a short, two-day trip to a UK city outside London in the Reading Week of the first term of year one. This will allow students to explore issues in regional planning and the UK traditions of planning practice as well as providing an opportunity for students to network within the course cohort.

The second trip will be a longer five-day trip to a European country outside the UK in the Reading Week of the second term of year one. This trip will enable students to explore the way that different contexts - including cultural, political and institutional - frame urban development and planning practice.

Entry Qualifications

A minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor's degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard is required.

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 7 with a minimum of 6.5 in each of the sub-tests is required.

Careers

Graduate students from the Bartlett have been very successful in gaining subsequent employment.

At present there is a growing demand for our Masters' graduates from a wide range of both public and private employers, in the UK and internationally.

This programme offers students a unique ability to appeal to a wide range of employment opportunities.

Year 1, Term 1 <i>Oct-Dec</i>	Year 1, Term 2 <i>Jan-Mar</i>	Year 1, Term 3 <i>Apr-May</i>	Year 2, Term 1 <i>Oct-Dec</i>	Year 2, Term 2 <i>Jan-Mar</i>	Year 2, Term 3 <i>Apr-May</i>
BPLN0037 Spatial Planning: Concepts and Context	BPLN0055 Planning Practice	Exam Period	BPLN0038 Comparative Planning Systems and Cultures	Code TBC Study Abroad in City Planning	BPLN0005 Plan Making Studio 1 (Final Workshop)
BPLN0042 Urban Design: Place Making	BPLN0005 Plan Making Studio 1		BPLN0006 Plan Making Studio 2	OR BPLN0007 Work Placement in City Planning	and Exam Period
Elective A <i>(free choice of BSP or CASA PGT modules)</i>	Elective B <i>(free choice of BSP or CASA PGT modules)</i>		LAWS0042 Land Use, Sustainability and Environmental Justice (UCL Laws)*		
BPLN0002 Pillars of Planning			BPLN0008 Dissertation in City Planning <i>(including research methods workshop in yr 1, term 3)</i>		

* - LAWS0042 may occasionally run in term two of year one instead of term one of year two due to lecturer availability. The second elective module will be adjusted accordingly.