MRes
Inter-disciplinary Urban Design

The MRes Inter-disciplinary Urban Design (IdUD) is a Faculty-wide one-year (or two-year part-time) research degree through which students are able to tap into perhaps the largest concentration of urban design related researchers and professional expertise found anywhere in the world. The programme is designed to allow students to tailor their own learning to their background and future aspirations through an unrivalled choice of ‘feeder’ courses combined with a major piece of individual research.
Overview
The MRes Inter-disciplinary Urban Design (IdUD) is a cross-Faculty programme that cuts across the existing post-graduate urban design, urbanism and related programmes from all parts of The Bartlett, and beyond, including from the Bartlett Schools of Architecture, Planning, Development Planning Unit, the Department of Geography (Urban Studies) and from the UCL Centre for Transport Studies. It allows students to construct their study in an inter-disciplinary manner and in so doing to explore urban design as a critical arena for advanced research and practice.

This globally unique programme aims to:
1. Provide an inter-disciplinary space in which students can examine the challenges of urban design from comparative disciplinary perspectives;
2. Expose students to the diversity of urban design teaching and the latest cutting edge research from across the Bartlett and beyond;
3. Provide the opportunity for students to conduct a substantial piece of individual urban design research that draws on diverse inter-disciplinary knowledge; and
4. Train students in the use of research methodologies appropriate to the conduct of urban scale research and critically informed urban design practice.

This module draws from a range of named feeder courses, each of which explores the broad territory of urban design from a different perspective. This 'black box' of elements is given shape by students themselves who select components according to their own academic backgrounds and professional experiences so as to further develop their knowledge, skills and aptitudes. Feeder courses include (although are not limited to):

- BENVD1: History and Theory of Urban Design
- BENVD2: Strategic Urban Design
- BENVD3: Detailed Urban Design
- BENVDU1: Transforming Local Areas: Urban Design for Development
- BENVDU2: Participatory Process: Building for Development
- BENVDUB4/9: Critical Urbanism Studios
- BENVGAAD: Design as a Knowledge-based Process
- BENVGAAF: Principles of Analytical Design
- BENVGAAG: Spatial Cultures
- BENVGAH: Spatial Justice
- BENVGAII: Architectural Phenomena
- BENVGAJ: Adaptable Cities
- BENVGAA: Space Syntax Methodology & Analytical Design
- BENVGAAP: E-merging Design Research

Structure/Content
The programme has a simple and highly flexible structure. The MRes IdUD consists of three modules amounting to 180 credits.

BPLN0021: Inter-disciplinary Urban Design – This module draws from a range of named feeder courses, each of which explores the broad territory of urban design from a different perspective. This ‘black box’ of elements is given shape by students themselves who select components according to their own academic backgrounds and professional experiences so as to further develop their knowledge, skills and aptitudes. Feeder courses include (although are not limited to):

- BENVD1: History and Theory of Urban Design
- BENVD2: Strategic Urban Design
- BENVD3: Detailed Urban Design
- BENVDU1: Transforming Local Areas: Urban Design for Development
- BENVDU2: Participatory Process: Building for Development
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- BENVGAII: Architectural Phenomena
- BENVGAJ: Adaptable Cities
- BENVGAA: Space Syntax Methodology & Analytical Design
- BENVGAAP: E-merging Design Research

BPLN0023: Urban Design Research Project (75 credits)

A minimum of 75 credits of feeder modules should be chosen from the pre-approved list (or any other module approved by the Programme Director and Module Tutor). Ideally these should be selected from at least three different parts of The Bartlett / UCL.

BPLN0022: Urban Investigations (30 credits)

BPLN0023: Urban Design Research Project (75 credits)

- BENVGAAP: E-merging Design Research

This module exposes students to the series of urban scale research projects being conducted at UCL (and elsewhere) and offers the opportunity to discuss and experiment with the latest urban research methodologies. Students are able to interact with the full range of UCL's urban design active staff and interested staff and to develop the range of transferable skills expected of MRes students.

BPLN0023: Urban Design Research Project – A final module provides students with the opportunity to conduct a major individual research project that explores the nature of urban design as an inter-disciplinary research subject, and as a key dimension of understanding and unlocking complex urban problems. The work takes the form of a 15,000 word thesis or a 10,000 research report and major research-based design proposal.
Please note that as these modules are drawn from across The Bartlett and UCL, descriptions of many are not available at the end of this brochure. Instead they can be found here: www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/planning/programmes/postgraduate/mresInter-disciplinary-urban-design

Field Trip

The programme includes a weekend retreat (currently in Lisbon) and the option to join a further international field trip.

Entry Qualifications

Applicants to the programme will be expected to have a good 2:1 Bachelor’s degree (or other qualification of equivalent standard) in a cognate discipline or a relevant Master’s degree. 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.

Careers

With its emphasis on the power of urban design, its belief in inter-disciplinarity, and its use of questioning research methodologies, the programme opens up a range of future opportunities for participants along two primary paths:

• It provides an opportunity for students seeking to further their professional careers, to specialise in urban design, and, even within that broad arena, to engage deeply within a particular research agenda of direct relevance to their future professional practice. In this regard the programme emphasises and imparts an analytical and questioning approach to the professional discipline and to its urban problems that will allow participants to become more incisive and penetrating in their own professional work.

• Second, for students seeking a research or academic career, the MRes provides the ideal training for a PhD and eventually for a move to an academic or other research position. In this regard the MRes can help to both define an appropriate study at PhD level whilst also streamlining the conduct of a PhD itself, through imparting advanced research methods training and, through the preparation of the Urban Design Research Project, providing a direct feed into a future PhD.

The programme is founded on the belief that in urban design a research perspective provides a critical dimension of advanced professional practice whilst better practice is the worthy ultimate goal of good urban research.