



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Critically challenging the directions and delivery of sustainable cities

The Bartlett School of Planning’s unique MSc in Sustainable Urbanism merges the disciplines of social science and design, to produce the theoretical and technical knowledge needed to deliver sustainable cities. It tackles the key debates, theories and ideas structuring sustainable urbanism, and introduces the instruments for implementation (including planning, design and investment).

“We train students from across the globe to become practitioners able to deliver sustainable cities, in a variety of contexts,” explains Professor Jo Williams (UCL Bartlett School of Planning). “We address sustainability in an interdisciplinary, comparative and applied way to deliver SDGs in cities globally.”

Through inputs from leading research-led academics and sustainability practitioners, students are exposed to complex, real-life sustainability challenges. The knowledge developed from the more theoretical modules is then applied to develop strategic visions, policy documents, and technical masterplans for cities at a variety of scales, from neighbourhood to city-wide.

“We address sustainability in an interdisciplinary, comparative and applied way to deliver SDGs in cities globally.”

Professor Jo Williams (UCL Bartlett School of Planning)

Helping to achieve Target 11.2

Helping to achieve Target 11.3

Helping to achieve Target 11.6

Helping to achieve Target 11.7

Supporting a new vision for Iraq’s heritage and culture

A collaborative network including UCL historians is supporting a sustainable approach to heritage in post-conflict Iraq through locally led research and advocacy that retells the story.

Led by Professor Eleanor Robson (UCL History), the Nahrein Network has pioneered a new approach to research on heritage, history and the humanities in Iraq and its neighbours. ▶



Photo: Rashad Salim, Safina Projects



◀ It has enabled people across the area to use their ideas and expertise to reinterpret the region's past as local history.

To date, the network has supported 19 projects across Iraq, Turkey and Lebanon and run successful workshops on research skills across the region. It has also funded 15 scholarship placements in the UK.

One project, led by an Iraqi artist, examines the links between traditional boat building and ancient forms. The Thesiger's Tarada project compares details of Iraq's marsh canoes (pictured opposite), gathered from oral histories and archive research, with archaeological data on similar boats from ancient times.

Helping to achieve Target 11.4

Developing sustainable and healthy cities

A UCL-led research partnership spanning four continents and drawing on expertise from multiple disciplines is helping cities to develop sustainably and to improve the health of their residents.

More than half the world's population now live in cities, and the number of people living in urban areas continues to grow, with many of the people who live in them unable to access basic necessities, from clean water to employment.

A consortium of 13 research organisations based in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States is working to help change the way cities are designed and developed to ensure they meet the needs of their residents.

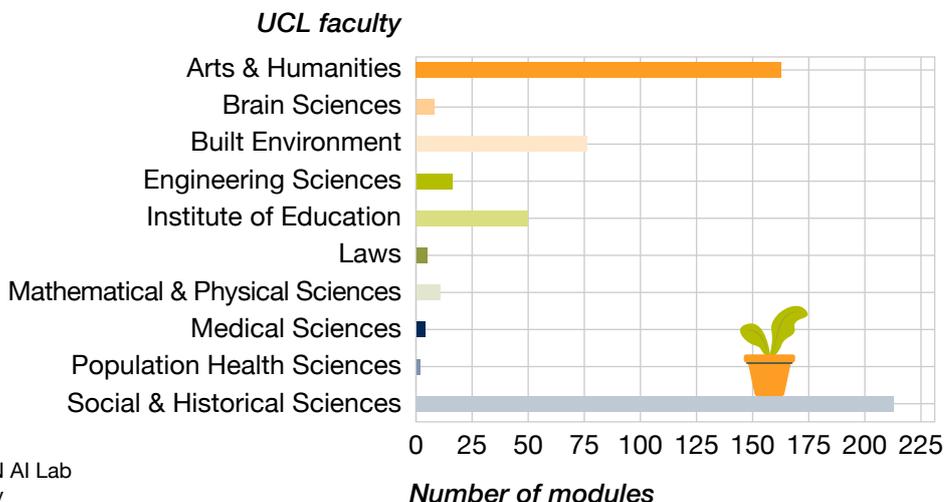
The Complex Urban Systems for Sustainability and Health consortium works in close partnership with local organisations to understand how policy decisions that will help to achieve health and sustainability goals can be improved and accelerated.

Its research is focused in six cities: London (UK), Rennes (France), Kisumu and Nairobi (Kenya), and Beijing and Ningbo (China).

Evidence gathered from research reviews, data analysis and modelling will develop specific solutions and help inform local policy and practices based on principles of sustainable development.

Helping to achieve Target 11.1

Taught modules at UCL supporting SDG11 in 2021–22



Source: PPMI, a partner in the UN AI Lab – more details in the [methodology](#)

1,881

SDG11-related policy citations
in 2016–20

Source: Overton – see [methodology](#)



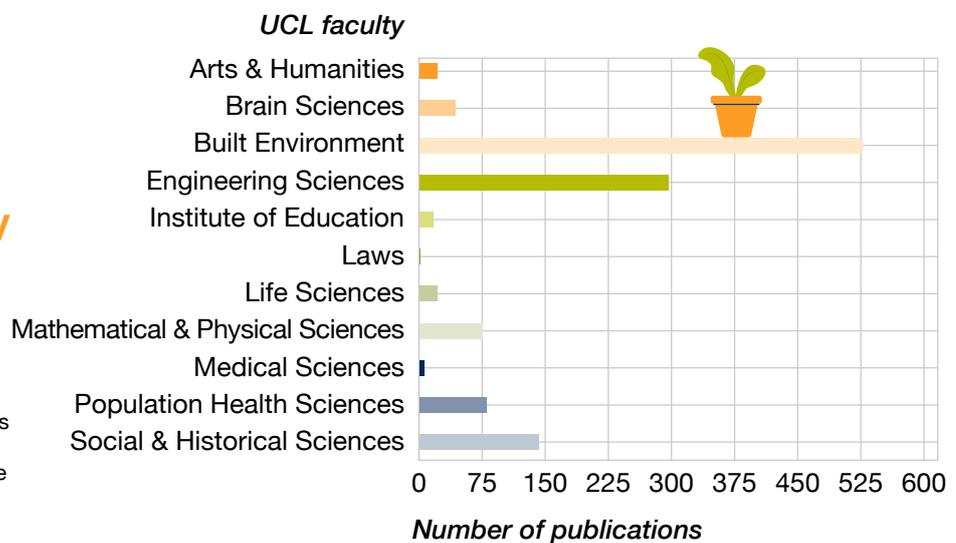
Making crisis communications available for all

An online citizen translation tool developed in partnership with the New Zealand Red Cross is helping people at risk in an emergency access the information they need.

Helping to achieve
Target 11.B

Number of UCL's research publications supporting SDG11 by faculty in 2016–20

Graph based on keywords searches of publication databases using a set of SDG keywords developed by Elsevier. Read more about the methodology used on the [SDGs Initiative website](#)



23.4%

of UCL's SDG11-related publications are in the top 10% most cited for all research of similar papers in 2016–20

Source: Scopus and Clarivate – see [methodology](#)

53.3%

of UCL's SDG11-related research publications are international collaborations, 2016–20

Source: Scopus and Clarivate – see [methodology](#)

DISCOVER MORE

Read more on these activities and other examples of how UCL is helping to achieve SDG11 are on the [UCL SDGs Initiative website](#).