

LONDON'S GLOBAL UNIVERSITY



UCL

Urban Studies MSc

Interdisciplinary urbanism

www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanstudies



URBAN STUDIES AT UCL

Cities are now a critical focus for research, policy-making and public debate. More than half the global population now lives in cities and according to the United Nations this number is set to rise to three-quarters by the year 2050.

The scale and complexity of these developments necessitate the development of innovative and interdisciplinary modes of analysis that can address critical challenges and influence debates both within and outside the academy. These issues range from emerging conceptions of urban design to large-scale challenges such as slums, poverty and access to basic services. Cities are now at the centre of a maelstrom of social change reflected in new conceptions of identity, collective memory and the technological transformation of everyday life.

UCL encompasses the full academic spectrum across the physical and environmental sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. We can offer research and expertise in every aspect of the urban field from civil engineering to the latest developments in architectural design. Urban research at UCL draws on a rich heritage of ideas including the ground-breaking insights of figures such as Patrick Abercrombie, Peter Hall, Ruth Glass and Reyner Banham. UCL's engagement in wider public debates over the future design and planning of cities is a distinctive feature of our research. Work on cities at UCL also has a strong international dimension with extensive networks across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas.



Market scene, Mumbai (2002)

This MSc programme brings together the best opportunities for urban teaching and learning across UCL. The range of expertise at UCL makes this programme unparalleled in scope. The MSc is the result of a unique collaboration between four faculties (Arts and Humanities, the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, Engineering, and Social and Historical Sciences) through the **UCL Urban Laboratory** research and teaching centre.

Programme structure

Students take the following three core courses plus a further five from a wide range of optional courses. In addition, students write an original dissertation (up to 15,000 words) on a topic of their choice in consultation with their dissertation supervisor.

Core course 1: Urban imaginations

This course provides an introduction to the different ways urban space is perceived, represented and experienced across a variety of contexts from architecture, engineering and digital technology to developments in literature, cinema, music and the visual arts. The course's multi-disciplinary scope and imaginative emphasis is used to encourage and develop reflection on the potential problems and critical possibilities for interdisciplinary learning and engagement in urban studies.

Core course 2: Cities, space and power

This course explores a series of themes on the exercise of power in the conception, design, use and governance of urban space. It focuses on the multiple ways in which power operates through discursive and non-discursive everyday practices, as well as formal state apparatuses and informal social networks. It explores issues including urban citizenship, the right to the city, urban social movements, fortress cities and the privatisation of public spaces, sexuality and the city, multi-culturalism and the politics of identity across the global North and South.

Core course 3: Urban practices

This course explores multiple ways in which urban problems are identified and addressed in practice, with contributions from a range of fields including architecture, planning, literature,

Term one (60 credits)

Core courses:

Urban imaginations; Cities, space and power

Further options:

Disaster risk reduction in cities; International planning; Learning from informality; Mega infrastructures; Pillars of planning; Planning for housing; Planning practices in Europe; Public and private modernities; Social science methodologies; Thinking space; Transforming local areas; Urban design

Term two (60 credits)

Core course: Urban practices

Further options:

Adapting cities to climate change in the South; Anthropology of the built environment; Asian cities in a globalising South; Cities in eastern Europe; Community participation in city strategies; Creative cities; Landscape and power; Modern cities 1850-1920; Post-colonial theory and the multicultural city; Public space and the city; Representations of cities; Theorising practices: architecture, art and urbanism

Term three (60 credits)

Dissertation (15,000 words)

journalism, art and urban activism. Often using London, but also other locations as a laboratory, a series of case studies or examples are presented and explored to highlight working interfaces and potential disjunctures between theory and practice.

Programme information

The programme can be taken full-time over one year, part-time over two years or flexibly over three to five years.

Entry requirements

Potential applicants are expected to have a first or upper second-class Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.

Funding

For funding details please visit www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

How to apply

To apply online visit www.ucl.ac.uk/study/graduate-study

Further information

Academic enquiries:

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Admissions enquiries:

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www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanstudies

Disclaimer: The information in this leaflet is correct at the time of going to press, but no guarantee can be given that it will not be amended before, or during, the graduate programme to which it refers.

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Teaching staff include:

Adriana Allen (Development Planning Unit (DPU)); Pushpa Arabindoo (Urban Laboratory); Matthew Beaumont (English); Sarah Bell (Engineering); Iain Borden (Architecture); Camillo Boano (DPU); Victor Buchli (Anthropology); Ben Campkin (Architecture); Matthew Carmona (Planning); Claire Colomb (Planning); Julio Davila (DPU); Richard Dennis (Geography); Ger Duijzings (SSEES); Claire Dwyer (Geography); Michael Edwards (Planning); John Foot (Italian); Adrian Forty (Architecture); Murray Fraser (Architecture); Matthew Gandy (Geography); Lee Greiveson (Film Studies); Andrew Harris (Urban Laboratory); James Kneale (Geography); Alan Latham (Geography); Charlotte Lemanski (Geography); Caren Levy (DPU); Nick Phelps (Planning); Mike Raco (Planning); Jane Rendell (Architecture); Jennifer Robinson (Geography); Mark Tewdwr-Jones (Planning); Claire Thomson (Scandinavian Studies) Ann Varley (Geography)



Street scene, Lagos (2003). Cover image: Battersea Power Station, London (2006). All photos by Matthew Gandy