



UCL

Urban Studies MSc

A new interdisciplinary degree

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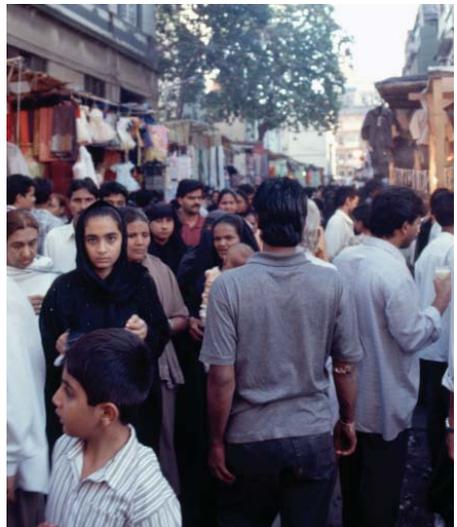
URBAN STUDIES AT UCL

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 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 path breaking insights of figures such as Patrick Abercrombie, Peter Hall, Ruth Glass and Reyner Banham. The engagement between UCL and 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.

This new MSc brings together the best opportunities for urban education and dissertation supervision across UCL. The range of expertise at UCL will make this programme unparalleled in scope within the UK. The MSc is the result of a unique collaboration between four faculties (Arts and Humanities, the Bartlett, Engineering, and Social and Historical Sciences) through the UCL Urban Laboratory.



Market scene, Mumbai (2002).

Programme structure

Students take the following two core courses plus a further six 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 core course will explore a series of themes focused on the way in which urban space has been perceived and represented across a variety of contexts from architecture and planning to developments in literature and the visual arts. Themes to be addressed include: cars, cities and urban mobility; city and collective memory; utopias and dystopias (from science to science fiction); cities in transition (with emphasis on south Asia and eastern Europe); the bacteriological city and its discontents; metropolitan nature and urban metabolism; ecological urbanism and the post-industrial city; urban landscape and the cinematic city; art and the city.

Core course 2: City, space and power

This core course will explore a series of themes focused on the exercise of power in the planning, design, construction, meaning, use and governance of urban space. Themes which will be discussed in the lectures will include: an introduction to the materials, systems and networks involved in the development of modern cities; cosmopolitanism, citizenship and planning discourse; social cohesion, urban infrastructure and the public realm; challenges facing cities of the global South (and the growth of slums); emerging topographies of fear including the development of gated and fortified space; property, power and gentrification debates; global cities, world cities and mega cities (analytical and empirical debates); interior spaces and the theorization of the private realm; changing conceptions of public space from the urban square to the cybercafé; gender, space and the city; city of difference (race, ethnicity, sexuality and post-secular urbanisms); changing patterns and scales of governance.

Term one (60 credits)

Core courses:

Urban imaginations; City, space and power

Further options from:

Sustainable urban development;
Urban design; Urban regeneration;
European planning and institutions;
Pillars of planning; Social theory; Social science methodologies; Public and private modernities; Anthropology of architecture

Term two (60 credits)

Options include:

Representations of cities; Modern cities 1850-1920; Italian cinema and the city; Cities in eastern Europe; Post-colonial theory and the multicultural city; Cyborg urbanization; Landscape and power; Edge cities

Term three (60 credits)

Dissertation (15,000 words)

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 Honours 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, request a Graduate Application Pack or download the application materials, visit www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students.

Further information

Academic enquiries to:

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Admissions enquiries to:

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General information
is available at

www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab



Teaching staff include:

Sarah Bell (Engineering)
Iain Borden (Architecture)
Victor Buchli (Anthropology)
Federico Caprotti (Geography)
Matthew Carmona (Planning)
Claire Colomb (Planning)
Richard Dennis (Geography)
Ger Duijzings (SSEES)
Claire Dwyer (Geography)
Michael Edwards (Planning)
John Foot (Italian)
Adrian Forty (Architecture)
Matthew Gandy (Geography)
Alan Latham (Geography)
Charlotte Lemanski (Geography)
Nick Phelps (Planning)
Jane Rendell (Architecture)
Mark Tewdwr-Jones (Planning)
Ann Varley (Geography)



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