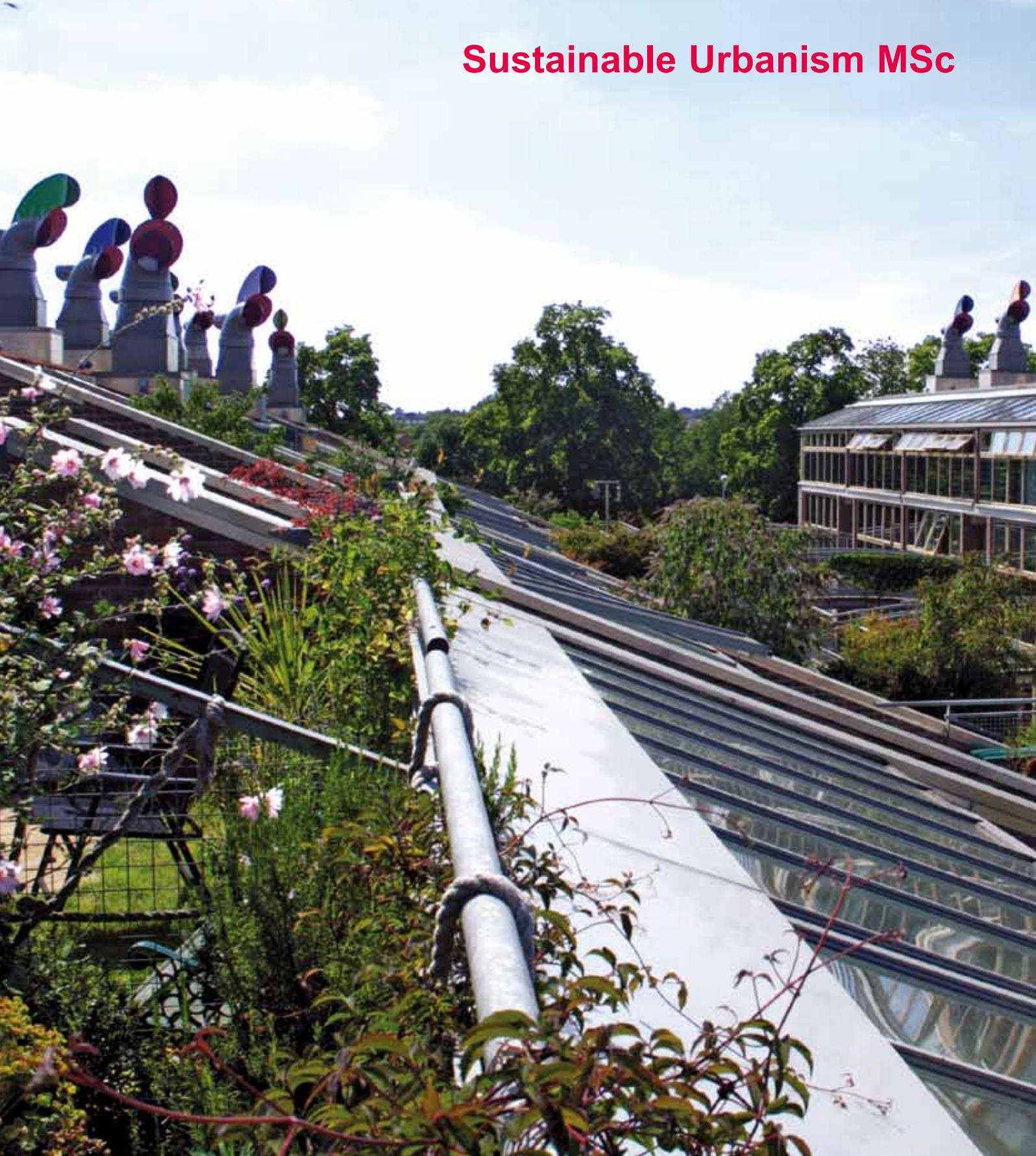


UCL BARTLETT SCHOOL OF PLANNING
Faculty of the Built Environment



UCL

Sustainable Urbanism MSc





The Grand Challenge

Rapid urbanisation and its impact on the environment and society is one of the biggest challenges facing us today. By 2030 nearly 5 billion people will live in urban areas. Much of the growth is now occurring in developing countries (particularly China and India), although there are also more moderate growth programmes planned elsewhere (e.g. the eco-towns programme in the UK).

Cities are also increasingly being built in environmentally marginal regions (e.g. deserts, floodplains, etc) which has serious environmental, social and economic implications. Cities themselves impact on global sustainability and can play a very influential role in tackling global environmental, social and economic problems. Equally implementing sustainability principles in cities is essential for the well-being of the local population and improvement of the local environment. Thus creating sustainable cities will be central to the future of society and the planet.

Increasingly urban professionals are being asked to create sustainable urban environments. This is both conceptually and technically difficult to achieve and requires expertise and skills that are developing fast and that are in critically short supply. Being an expert in sustainable urbanism requires that professionals have a diverse theoretical understanding of a range of disciplines e.g. sociological, environmental, political and economic theory; knowledge of key disciplinary areas e.g. urban design, spatial planning, property development, ecology; and develop a range of skills to enable implementation e.g. creative thinking, negotiation, project management skills, and advocacy. UCL's new Sustainable Urbanism MSc programme is unique in bringing these critical facets together. In particular it provides students with both the skills to conceptualise a sustainable city and those to design one.

Sustainable Urbanism MSc

Programme objectives

The Sustainable Urbanism MSc brings together three critical dimensions of sustainable urbanism:

- **Sustainable thinking:** The latest thinking and debates on urban sustainability, from policy, research and practice perspectives;
- **Sustainable places:** The study of what this actually means on the ground through the creation of real projects and places;
- **Delivering sustainability:** A focus on the skills and knowledge required to actually deliver sustainable development.

The programme seeks to impart the necessary skills and knowledge to enable graduates to engage as team members in the types of large and complex sustainable urban projects that are increasingly being planned across the world. As such it aims to help fill a major and increasingly obvious skills gap. Graduates will also be equipped to engage in research, policy and regulatory activities relating to the field.

This new programme is directed at urban professionals from a range of fields: planning, property, design, landscape, transport, etc. seeking to enhance their understanding of sustainable processes and practices. It will also be valuable to those completing their initial professional training and who wish to specialise in this field.

The Bartlett School of Planning

Students are taught by a range of top theorists and practitioners working in the field of sustainable urbanism, including Bill Dunster (founder of ZEDfactory Ltd and designer of BEDZED), Professor Yvonne Rydin, Dr Jo Williams, Dr Susan Moore, and Professor Matthew Carmona. Teaching is based on a mix of theoretical discussions, focused case study methods and hands-on project work. We offer an intensive learning experience. The teaching methods demand constant active involvement by students who in return will face real-life challenges.

As part of UCL's multi-disciplinary Faculty of the Built Environment, the Bartlett School of Planning maintains a position as one of the premier planning schools in the UK and Europe. Academic staff at the Bartlett School of Planning are all actively engaged in research and advisory work relating to the range of built environment disciplines we teach (for a list of our research projects and more information, please go to: www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/research/planning/themes.htm and click on the relevant themes). Our programmes are all accredited by either or both of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). The Sustainable Urbanism MSc is accredited by RICS and accredited by the RTPI where it is taken as the fourth year of a three + one professional route (further information can be found on the RTPI website).



	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Summer
Sustainable thinking	Sustainable Urban Development: key themes 15 credits (yr 1)	Critical Debates in Sustainable Urbanism 15 credits (yr 2)	S M A X E	Personal Project in Sustainable Urbanism 60 credits
Sustainable places	Space and Place 15 credits (yr 1)	Sustainable Urban Design 15 credits (yr 2)		
Delivering sustainability	Sustainable Property: valuation, investment, development 15 credits (yr 2)	Sustainable Urban Development: project 15 credits (yr 1)		
Free choice	Elective A 15 credits (yr 2)	Elective B 15 credits (yr 1)		

taught by Bill Dunster and colleagues at ZEDfactory Ltd.

■ **Sustainable Property: valuation, investment, development** (15 credits) – this module provides an introduction to theories and techniques used in valuation and analysis of investments in property development, from an economic, social and environmental perspective. It looks at the implications of the sustainability agenda and discusses the role of government policy an action for promoting sustainable urban development.

■ **Sustainable Urban Development: project** (15 credits) – This module has an integrating function as it brings together some of the key contextual and specialist material presented in the earlier module of the Sustainable Urban Development through an applied Project. This will be based in London, where a number of developments and initiatives have sought to showcase sustainable urban development. The aim of the Project is to investigate one such development/initiative and to analyse its strengths and weaknesses in terms of contributing to the goal of urban sustainability. There will be an emphasis on independent and group investigation of the development/initiative.

■ **Personal Project in Sustainable Urbanism** (60 credits) – gives the student an opportunity for supported, independent study. The student (in conjunction with an allocated supervisor) will identify a topic/problem/question that they wish to study in greater depth. Over the designated period the student will pursue this topic through independent study (reading, data collection, site visits, etc.) supported by regular meetings with their tutor. Output from the project may either be a 10,000 word dissertation or project work equivalent.

Programme structure and content

The diagram shows the structure of the one-year full-time programme. The programme can also be taken part-time, usually over two years, and flexibly over two to five years. All modules are compulsory with the exception of the 30 credits of elective free choice. Part-time students would normally complete modules marked (yr 1) in their first year and modules marked (yr 2) in their second year.

■ **Sustainable Urban Development: key themes** (15 credits) – introduces some of the key sustainability debates and literature. It broadens the students' understanding of the tensions and synergies between environmental, social and economic objectives. It provides a cross-sectoral evaluation of how this manifests in practice, drawing on a range of international case studies. It provides a sound theoretical basis from which the student can conduct the sustainable urban development project.

■ **Critical Debates in Sustainable Urbanism** (15 credits) – This module aims to provide students with an opportunity for in-depth reading, reflection and critical discussion around key concepts, themes and conditions that shape our understanding of what constitutes a 'sustainable city'. This module takes an interdisciplinary and holistic approach to defining 'environment' and challenges assumptions of singular visions, technological pathways and governmental strategies towards sustainability. Through active small-group seminar discussions centred on key readings, students will develop a deeper knowledge of theories, practices and policy responses (across a range of thematic areas, including housing, infrastructure, planning, construction

and design, property development, and urban governance) associated with the challenges of sustainable urbanism.

■ **Space and Place** (15 credits) – provides students with an introductory yet comprehensive overview of urban design theory. It also provides an opportunity to turn urban design theory into practice through the completion of two place-making projects. The first project is concerned with releasing innate creativity. The second is in two parts: a first part concerned with analytical skills and a second part bringing creativity and analysis together as a means to understand and propose creative solutions in a complex urban context. All debates will be set within the context of sustainability.

■ **Sustainable Urban Design** (15 credits) – will explore a number of dimensions of the sustainable urban design agenda including: stewardship; resource efficiency; diversity and choice; human needs; resilience; pollution reduction; concentration; distinctiveness; biotic support; and self-sufficiency. A particular emphasis is placed on designing at the level of the large urban site or urban quarter. The module will be





Students seeking RTPI accreditation do not take elective modules, but have instead to take and pass another two extra core modules:

■ **Planning Practice** (15 credits) – promotes an understanding of planning and development practice of both private and public sector agencies, with extensive contribution from practitioners.

And a choice of one of the following two modules:

■ **Spatial Planning** (15 credits) – examines the evolution of the planning system in the UK with particular reference to spatial planning policy and spatial plan development, regulations and procedures governing plan-making processes and development control decisions.

■ **International Planning** (15 credits) – develops student understanding of their own country's planning system by studying planning in a cross-national comparative context.

Field Trip

The programme includes an integral field trip to give students the opportunity to observe and consider sustainability in practice. Various overseas urban destinations offering examples of good practice will be chosen, for example Stockholm, Freiburg, Malmö, Hannover, etc. Site visits, field exercises and guest lectures from built environment professionals, politicians and academics will form the core activities.

Application Procedures

We invite applications from holders of good honours degrees in any relevant discipline, preferably with some relevant professional experience. The MSc programme has been planned for a mix of graduates from architecture, estate management, planning, pertinent social sciences, policy studies and other relevant fields. Details of our application procedure can be found on the UCL website at: www.ucl.ac.uk/study/graduate-study

There is no fixed deadline for applications but nominations for grants and sponsorship from various sources usually close in the Spring and applicants are advised to apply as early as possible.

Entry Qualifications

We ask for a minimum of a second class Bachelor's degree or equivalent. We also need a high level of competence in both spoken and written English. Overseas students whose first language is not English will be asked to provide evidence of this. A minimum overall score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each of the sub-tests for IELTS or 580 plus 4 for TWE in TOEFL is required.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees are fixed annually by University College London. Current fees can be found on the UCL website at www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/money

Students taking the programme part-time or those taking individual modules on a CPD basis are charged fees on a pro-rata scale.

The UCL Graduate Prospectus contains further advice on fees, the cost of living in London and on financial matters including student hardship grants.

The programme lends itself to sponsorship from employers in public, private and partnership organisations.

Programme Director and Admissions Tutor: **Dr Joanna Williams PhD**
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Programme Administrator:
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Details of our application procedure can be found on our website at: www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study

Further details about the Bartlett School of Planning can be found at: www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/planning

For general enquiries about UCL, applicants are advised to contact: Study Information Centre, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT
email: study@ucl.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)20 7670 3000

Term Dates

A thirty-week academic year is followed. Although term dates vary from year to year, academic years commence towards the end of September with three terms of twelve, eleven and seven weeks respectively. Terms One and Two each contain a reading week. Written examinations are held early in Term Three.

Career Opportunities

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. While the main source of employment remains in local government and central government planning and in planning related consultancy, graduates are also employed in the housing and transport sectors; planning, urban regeneration and environmental agencies; public and private utility companies and teaching and research.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this leaflet is correct at the time of its publication, but no guarantee can be given that it will not be amended before the commencement of, or during, the programme to which it refers.