



UCL

Spatial Planning MSc/Postgraduate Diploma





Spatial Planning MSc/Postgraduate Diploma

The Spatial Planning MSc is a professionally accredited planning programme which can be completed in either 1 year of full-time study or in 2 to 5 years of modular/flexible study.

It is accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) as a 'fast-track' conversion course so that students can enter a career in planning regardless of the subject focus of their first degree.

The programme provides:

- An opportunity to acquire a broad range of skills and knowledge, whilst setting foot on the path towards specialisation;
- A programme of study which draws on University College London's position as a leading research-led university;
- An integrated programme, with all modules linked by common principles and a broad, critical view of the subject matter;
- A principle and theory driven programme, which gives students both conceptual understanding, and the skills needed to tackle practical problems;
- A spatially focused programme dealing with real places and the role of planning in place-making;
- A spatial perspective on planning systems and cultures.

The Spatial Planning programme includes lecture and seminar modules, project work, site visits, field trips and the preparation of a dissertation. All students have a choice of specialist modules – in urban regeneration, urban design, European planning and institutions, sustainable development, housing, or mega-infrastructure projects.

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. The School benefits from its location in the heart of one of the world's most exciting and dynamic cities, and being part of UCL, 'London's Global University', internationally recognised as a centre for excellence in research, teaching and learning.

Programme Objectives

The University of London's MPhil Degree in Town Planning was established in 1966. The 180 credit Spatial Planning MSc builds on and develops this heritage. This accredited postgraduate programme has been carefully designed for graduates of any discipline who wish to make a career in planning (in central and local government, private consultancy, voluntary bodies, etc.), or in related fields (housing, urban regeneration, transport planning, urban design, public policy etc.), or in teaching or research.

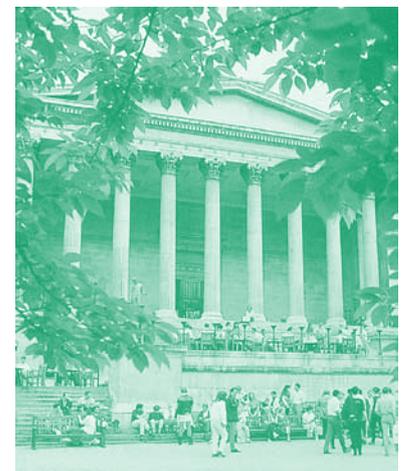
The Spatial Planning MSc/PGDip aims to broaden students' appreciation of planning and urban theory whilst providing them with the necessary skills to engage in critical and creative problem solving. The programme delivers an initial planning education that enables people entering the profession to think critically about space and place as the basis for action or intervention. By offering this suite of programmes, the Bartlett School of Planning (BSP) aims to provide a platform for critical thinking that extends beyond regulatory considerations, and instead embraces wider social, economic, environmental and political concerns: the basic ingredients of space and place.

The focus is placed on interrelationships and how these affect community cohesion, the environment and cultural identity. Place is seen as an arena for a range of physical, social and economic outcomes affecting the experiences of people and communities. Although situated as appropriate in their global and European contexts, the focus for the study of these outcomes is primarily the UK context, and particularly London. London is a complex setting that provides the natural and most accessible laboratory for BSP students.

An emphasis on understanding the social and physical world will lead onto a greater appreciation of how action or intervention shapes place and the experience of place. But at the same time, students will concern themselves with ethical issues as a framework for planned intervention.

The Bartlett School of Planning

The Bartlett School of Planning, at University College London (UCL), is part of a large multi-disciplinary built environment faculty and has a strong history of teaching and research at all levels. The School has been at the forefront of planning research and teaching for one hundred years and is one of the foremost planning schools in the United Kingdom, with an international reputation. The School's academic focus is on teaching and research in governance, spatial planning, town planning, urban and rural policy-making, strategic and regional planning, European spatial planning, sustainable development and transportation policy/planning, all of which are defined broadly and are international in scope. The School is research-led, where students are taught by staff from a diverse range of academic backgrounds who are actively engaged in shaping the theories and debates covered in their teaching.



180 Credit MSc: Spatial Planning

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Summer
The Pillars of Planning (PT1 or PT2)			
Urban Design: Place-making (PT1)	From Strategic Vision to Urban Plan (PT1)	Planning Research Support Module (PT2)	Spatial Planning MSc Dissertation (PT2)
Spatial Planning (PT1)	Critical Debates in Planning (PT2)		
Specialism Part 1 (PT2)	Specialism Part 2 (PT2)		

This shows the course structure for full-time study. If studying part-time, modules are either taken in the first (PT1) or second (PT2) year.

Programme Length and Relationships

The Spatial Planning MSc (180 credits) can be completed in a minimum of 12 months of full-time study. The MSc can be completed on a modular/flexible basis in between 24 and 60 months. Students wishing to take the Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits) take all the taught modules, but not the dissertation.

Programme Structure and Content

Students on the full-time Spatial Planning route undertake core and specialist modules in parallel. Those studying on a modular/flexible basis complete specialist modules in their second year. The programme diagram shows the structure of the courses and indicates whether modular students – choosing to complete in two years – take a module in their first (PT1) or second (PT2) year.

Core Modules

The aim of the core modules is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the planning process for city and regional development, the appropriate methods to tackle a variety of planning issues and the opportunity to discuss the policy design problems involved. An orientation towards problem identification, policy formulation and intervention is maintained throughout and students are encouraged to develop a sensitive understanding of the political, social, economic and environmental contexts, which determine issues and policies.

The professional and ethical contexts of the work environment are introduced in this part of the programme and developed further through specialist study.

The following are core modules:

■ **Pillars of Planning:** This module explores the key concepts and theories underlying the study and management of cities and society. This is done through the integrated study of urban economics, sociology, politics and urban governance, and environmental management. The module looks at the use of social science concepts as analytical and conceptual frameworks for the understanding of issues and policy. Rather than learning based on separate disciplines, the focus here is on the integration of social science knowledge to develop confidence in the selection and use of appropriate concepts.

■ **Urban Design: Place-making:** This module provides an introduction to urban design through lectures and a series of projects. The module aims to illustrate the potential of design as a creative, problem-solving process and the potential of planning as a 'positive' discipline able to exert a powerful and valuable influence on the overall shape and character of the built and natural environment.

■ **From Strategic Vision to Urban Plan:** This module attempts to bring together some of the key contextual and specialist material presented in earlier parts of the programme, whilst addressing a strategic planning exercise at the regional level (Thames Gateway) and a particular locality (study area to be disclosed in session 1).

■ **Spatial Planning:** This module examines the evolution of the planning system in the UK with particular reference to spatial planning policy and spatial plan development, from European, to national, to regional, to local and community. This will be contextualized with reference to current statutory rules, regulations and procedures governing plan-making processes and development control decisions.

■ Critical Debates in Planning:

This module takes the form of a series of small group seminars in which students have the opportunity to discuss and reflect upon critical debates in spatial planning framed by a lens of issues and theories relevant to 'planning practice'. This module is designed to support the lecture-based teaching.

■ **Planning Research:** This is a support module for the MSc Dissertation. It exposes students to the research process and to appropriate data collection methods for planning research. Students are also supported through this module in the early stages of planning their individual research, and assisted with the development of appropriate research methods.

The Dissertation

Spatial Planning MSc Dissertation: This is a record of original work (of around 10,000 words) linked to UK spatial planning. Submission of a dissertation is required by the end of year 1 (full-time) or the end of year 2 (modular/flexible). Examples of recent MSc dissertation topics include:

- Car-free development in London
- Social mix and gentrification
- Collaborative planning and the internet
- Sense of community in contemporary neighbourhoods
- Design-led strategies to reducing social exclusion



Specialist Study

Six key specialist areas are offered in the Bartlett School of Planning, with each area taught across 2 modules.

■ Urban Regeneration:

This specialism is concerned with innovation, urban and regional economic development and regeneration.

These are analysed in the context of development economics, the new space economy, the agglomeration of innovative high-technology industries, the concepts of the innovative and creative milieu and emerging forms of urban governance.

These analyses are brought to bear on project work, which allows for the examination of the relationship between those broad trends and specific local contexts and processes. The specialism comprises two modules: the first focuses on the theoretical framework for the understanding of the spatial and socio-economic dynamics of contemporary cities, the second is a structured project in which students are invited to apply the theory and develop their own strategies for the regeneration of a locality.

■ **International Property and Planning:** This specialism comprises a first module, Planning Practices in Europe, which focuses on how planning varies among regions and metropolitan areas in Europe and how the European Union has influenced planning systems, policies and practices across Europe. This is followed by European Urban Projects, which examines a diversity of practices in the conception, planning, financing and implementation of urban development projects in Europe. Both modules are assessed through coursework (oral presentations, reports and essays).

■ **Urban Design:** This specialism considers design across a range of different scales of operation, from those dealing with settlement form, to those dealing with land use mix, to those concerned with detailed design and individual site layout. To that extent planning is undoubtedly a design discipline and planners need to be aware of, and be concerned with, the design consequences of their decisions on the ground. To explore this role, the Urban Design Specialism is divided into two parts, reflecting the two primary means through which planners engage in urban design – first as members of a collaborative design teams, who critique and advise on design proposals, and second as policy and guideline writers. Part 1 examines the design process through analysis, critique and the generation of alternatives for site-specific design projects. Part 2 addresses the process of design guidance writing and implementation.

■ **Sustainable Urban Development:** This specialism is structured around two modules. Sustainable Urban Development: Key Themes, explores the concepts behind sustainable urban development and the principles of its implementation, in relation to sustainable urban form, transport, energy, housing and density, environmental planning and the involvement of people in the process. The second module, Sustainable Urban Development: Project, involves a group investigation into a real-life sustainable development initiative in London, for which students have to analyze its strengths and weaknesses in terms of contributing to the goal of urban sustainability.

■ **Planning for Housing:** This specialism examines the context for and process of residential development in the UK and is divided into lecture-based and project-based components. The first module begins by looking at the drivers of residential development including the demographics of growth. It considers who provides housing and the evolution of the UK policy context, then looks at the residential development process from strategic and development planning, land acquisition to development viability. The second, project-based module challenges students to apply their knowledge of development drivers, actors and practices to real-life housing development opportunities in London. Students working in small groups will co-ordinate the completion of a comprehensive feasibility study and housing development brief for a specific site.

■ **Mega Projects:** This specialism consists of two modules addressing the question 'what constitutes a successful mega infrastructure project, programme or plan'. Module 1, 'Mega infrastructures as agents of change' defines the overarching characteristics of mega infrastructure projects, programmes and plans of various kinds and examines their roles as agents of change. It encompasses both the understanding of past perspectives of the roles of mega infrastructure and the investigation of 21st century perspectives. The module pays particular attention to the development context of such infrastructure investments. Module 2, 'Critical Debates in Mega Infrastructures and Investments' defines the overarching special characteristics of mega infrastructure projects, programmes and plans of various kinds in today's globalised world - both in terms of traditional perspectives of the late 20th Century and wider early 21st Century perspectives where the global interdependency of economic growth and environmental impact is stronger than ever before, and where sustainability looms large as a key challenge for future generations.

Field Course

All students joining the Spatial Planning MSc will participate in two field trips. In Term 1, there is a short overnight field trip to a British city outside London. In Term 2, there is a week-long field trip to a European city outside the UK, for example Copenhagen or Delft/Amsterdam. The trips will cover a range of spatial planning themes, linking directly to the Master's programme. Part-time students will need to be available to attend the trips during their first year of study.





Research Seminar Series

The School has an active research seminar series attracting high profile speakers from all over the world. Recent visitors have included:

- Professor John Friedmann, University of British Columbia
- Lord Richard Rogers, architect and town planner
- Professor Susan Owens, Cambridge University
- Professor Ed Soja, UCLA
- Professor Ann Markusen, University of Minnesota
- Professor Klaus Kunzmann, Dortmund Technical University

Application Procedures

Applications are invited from graduates of any discipline. In recent years graduates of anthropology, architecture, development studies, ecology, economics, engineering, environmental studies/sciences, geography, landscape design, modern languages, social sciences, sociology

and music have been accepted from the UK, EU and other parts of the world onto the programme.

Applicants to the Spatial Planning MSc may be eligible for a number of scholarship schemes, including the 'Land Securities' and 'BSP Centenary' scholarships – which are specific to the MSc programmes of the School of Planning and awarded on the basis of academic merit – and the 'Bartlett Faculty' scholarships which are available across all Faculty of the Built Environment postgraduate programmes and are awarded on the basis of financial need. Further details are available on our website:

www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/planning/programmes/applying/funding-and-scholarships

More general information on potential funding sources is available from the UCL website: www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/scholarships

Entry Qualifications

Applicants must normally have obtained a first or second class honours degree or other qualification of equivalent standard. Some practical experience in addition to academic qualifications is welcomed but not required.

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 score of 6.5 for IELTS or 580 in TOEFL is required.

Programme Fees

Programme Fees are fixed annually by University College London and are therefore subject to modification. Fees for the 2013-14 session per annum (unless specified otherwise) are:

MSc	Full-time
EU students	£10,750
Non-EU students	£19,000

Students taking the course part-time or those taking individual modules on a CPD basis are charged fees on a pro-rata scale. UCL's prospectus contains further advice on fees, the cost of living in London and on financial matters including student hardship grants

Spatial Planning MSc Programme
Director: **Dr Ben Clifford**
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Programme Administrator:
Janaki O'Halpin
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More detailed information can be found at: www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/planning

Application forms can be downloaded from www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate-study/application

For general enquiries about UCL, applicants are advised to contact: Admissions and General Enquiries Office, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT
Email: degree-info@ucl.ac.uk

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 and term one an orientation week. A written examination for the Spatial Planning module is held 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 (private sector) planning related consultancy, graduates are also employed in the housing and transport sectors; planning, urban regeneration and environmental agencies; public and private utility companies; think tanks and public policy organisations; environmental campaign groups; and teaching and research.

Destination statistics for 2011 showed that 94% of those graduating from the School that year were in employment or further study within six months of leaving us.

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 programmes to which it refers.