



University College Dublin  
Ireland's Global University

## MSc Urban Design and Planning (One Year Full Time)

Urban design lies at the interface of architecture and urban planning, with both disciplines contributing complementary but contrasting approaches to urban design theory and practice. This Masters programme is focused on the role of urban design in the context of urban planning, and is delivered with an emphasis on the distinct methodologies, professional perspectives and pedagogies of that discipline. It provides specialist knowledge and skills in: urban design theory; urban conservation; risk, resilience and sustainability; as well as social science research methods applied to the built environment. The programme will enable graduates to work as part of a multidisciplinary team to create better places through urban design. Students will also

have the opportunity to draw upon the School's research expertise to place urban design centre-stage in tackling a range of pressing environmental and other issues. While the programme will be of interest primarily to students from a planning background, it will also appeal to graduates from a variety of other disciplinary backgrounds wishing to specialise in urban design and planning, including those with qualifications in architecture, geography, anthropology, sociology, environmental studies, engineering, property economics, surveying, politics, social science, and law. This programme is accredited as a specialist qualification by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

### Leading research centre in Spatial Planning

UCD School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy has an established international track record as a leading research centre in spatial planning and is in the Top 100 QS World University Rankings by subject area. The School is a member of the Association of European Schools of Planning.

## Why study at UCD?



### Tradition

Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence



### Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Global community

Over 6,000 international students from over 130 countries study at UCD



### Global careers

Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; 2 year stay-back visa (for non-EU students)



### Safety

Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre

## Course Content and Structure

90 credits  
taught masters

All students undertake modules worth 90 credits. These establish the context and theory for urban design, provide the opportunity for engagement with core themes within a studio-based context, introduce key research skills, and allow students to pursue their own specialist interest through completion of a thesis. Please note that some modules listed may not be available in a given year.

\*Students must select from the indicated elective modules to attain a total of 30 credits in semester 1.

Theme	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3/Summer
Urban Design Context & Theory	Placemaking • 5 credits  Conservation History Theory & Policy • 5 credits  Economics and Property Markets (option)* • 5 credits  Research and Innovation in the Designed Environment (option)* • 5 credits	The Urban Environment: Risk, Resilience and Sustainability • 5 credits	Thesis/Design Thesis  In semester 3, students must select either Thesis or Design Thesis.
Urban Design Labs	Postgraduate Studio • 15 credits	Urban Design Studio • 15 credits  Nature-based solutions • 5 credits	
Research skills	GIS (option)* • 5 credits	Research Design and Methods • 5 credits	
<b>Total credits</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>

## Career Opportunities

The MSc Urban Design and Planning is aimed at graduates from a variety of disciplinary and professional backgrounds wishing to specialise in urban design and planning. The programme is therefore designed to train, mentor and support graduates in developing their specialist knowledge and understanding, along with transferable skills and tools, for careers related to the field. These include roles in the public, private and community sectors, including planning and urban design consultancies, local authorities, development firms, regeneration companies, environmental and other NGOs, as well as research and teaching.



## Facilities and Resources

The School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy offers dedicated studio space for its students, a dedicated architecture library and map room, access to fully equipped computer facilities, a building laboratory space with a wide range of equipment including laser cutters and CNC router, and access to monitoring and simulation equipment in the Earth Institute.

## Apply Now

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at [www.ucd.ie/apply](http://www.ucd.ie/apply)

## Entry Requirements

- A primary degree with minimum lower second class honours award (NFQ level 8) or international equivalent in planning or cognate discipline, including geography, anthropology, sociology, environmental studies, engineering, property economics, surveying, politics, social science, and law.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

## International Students

- Stay in Ireland after graduating for 24 months to seek employment
- Approved by US Dept. of Education for federally supported loans
- Apply for Non-EU Scholarships: [www.ucd.ie/international/scholarships](http://www.ucd.ie/international/scholarships)

## Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- Masters in Regional & Urban Planning
- MSc Environmental Policy
- MArchSc Sustainable Building Design & Development
- MArchSc Landscape Studies

## Fees

Fee information is available [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees)



## Contact Us

**EU Students** – Katie O'Neill E: [eamarketing@ucd.ie](mailto:eamarketing@ucd.ie) T: +353 1 716 1781 W: [www.ucd.ie/eacollege](http://www.ucd.ie/eacollege)

**International Students** – E: [michelle.mathews@ucd.ie/internationaladmissions@ucd.ie](mailto:michelle.mathews@ucd.ie/internationaladmissions@ucd.ie) T: +353 1 716 8500 W: [www.ucd.ie/international](http://www.ucd.ie/international)