

MSc Architecture, Urbanism & Climate Action

One Year Full-Time (September Start)



Introduction

Urban environments and their buildings are placing unprecedented stress on earth system processes, while simultaneously being critical sites for climate action. The MSc in Architecture, Urbanism and Climate Action (MAUCA) programme equips graduates and returning professionals with specialist skills to respond to the challenge of planning, designing, and realising a resilient and sustainable built environment. The School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy (APEP) brings together four key disciplines to provide a unique graduate learning experience.

Core modules are specifically designed to enhance knowledge of climate science and policy, GIS, systems thinking, and environmental ethics, as well as to develop skills for low carbon, sustainable and inclusive building and urban design. Optional modules have been selected from a wide range of schools across UCD, including Architecture, Planning, Environmental Policy, Geography, Biosystems Engineering, Economics and Law. Students undertake a Linked Research Project in the summer trimester that offers 3 options: developing individual research studies through a thesis; a placement on a prestigious EU or nationally funded collaborative research project within UCD on a relevant topic; or a placement with a company leading the agenda on low-carbon, sustainable building and urban design. Many students have continued to work for their placement research projects or companies after graduating.

Course Highlights

The UCD School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy has an established international track record as a leading research centre in sustainable building and city research with large national and international funded projects.

It is in the Top 150 QS World University Rankings by subject area, and has long led the way in architectural and urban design study and practice in Ireland.

Course Content and Structure

90 credit taught masters

Core Modules include:

- Climate, Carbon, Cities and Change
- Architecture in a Climate Emergency
- Geodesign for Urban Futures
- Urban Resilience and Ethics
- Research for Environmental Policy

Linked Research Project / Internship

This can take the following 3 forms:

- individual research studies through a thesis;
- a placement on a research project within UCD; or
- a placement with a company leading the agenda on low-carbon, sustainable building and urban design.

Option Modules include:

- Realising Built Projects
- Street Life: Urban Design, an Introduction
- Postgraduate Studio
- Retrofit Existing Buildings
- Energy Systems & Sustainable Environments
- Environmental Economics & Climate Policy
- Practical Environmental Assessment
- Planning Society and Diversity
- Urban and Regional Development
- GIS for Policy and Planning
- Behavioural Economics: Policy Applications
- Carbon & Sustainability
- Urban Design Theory (UDT)
- Urban Design Studio
- Agency: Design / Build
- Concrete Research
- Air Pollution
- Tools for Sustainable Development
- Reimagining Dublin
- Remote Sensing
- Coastal Risks
- Climate Change Law and Policy
- Rural & Landscape Planning
- Housing, Planning & Sustainability

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



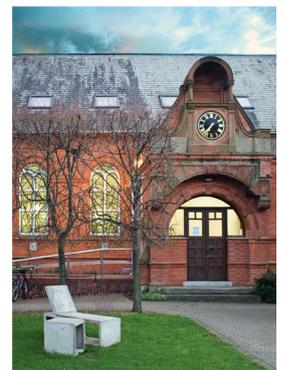
Global community

Over 6,000 international students from over 120 countries study at UCD



Global careers

Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; 1 year stay-back visa





Career Opportunities

This MSc gives students a unique set of skills to allow them stay ahead of the curve and apply for exciting and fulfilling job opportunities in rapidly expanding sectors in which there is a growing demand. Potential careers include in low carbon and sustainable architecture, landscape architecture and urban design; strategic design and change management; policy and governance; and environmental, building or energy engineering. The MSc can also be a springboard into exciting careers in research and academia. It allows students to pursue further research opportunities into topics covered by the modules, and to contribute to a better understanding of how the building and urban design professions can best respond to the climate and biodiversity emergencies in an uncertain future. High achieving graduates of the course have gone on to doctoral studies in UCD, either via in-house opportunities on EU funded projects or through national funding schemes from the Irish Research Council.

Applicant Profile

- Applicants must hold a primary undergraduate degree with a minimum upper second class honours (NFQ level 8; minimum GPA 3.08) or international equivalent in subjects related to the built environment including architecture, urban design, engineering, environmental sciences, or humanity degrees involving social or natural sciences.
- 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.
- Students who do not meet the IELTS requirement may wish to consider taking the Pre-Sessional or Pre-Masters Pathway. Full details <https://www.ucd.ie/alc/programmes/pathways>

International Fees & Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see www.ucd.ie/international/scholarships for further information.

Related Masters Programmes

- ME Energy Systems
- Master of Architecture
- MSc Environmental Technology
- MSc Urban Design & Planning
- MSc Sustainable Energy & Green Technologies

Graduate Profile

Khiusha Uaila

Founder Xi Bassile & CoFounder ASSAMBA



After years of practising architecture in a business-as-usual format, I craved a more purpose-driven career, so I decided to pursue a master's. I chose UCD because of its unique program on Architecture, Urbanism, and Climate Action and its location in vibrant and beautiful Dublin.

During this time, I explored Ireland's stunning landscapes, formed lifelong friendships, collaborated on the award winning Ripple Project, and embarked on a profound learning journey. I fell in love with green infrastructure and nature-based solutions, concepts I now apply at Xi Bassile and at ASSAMBA, ventures I cofounded to implement and promote sustainable practices in Mozambique.

I'm grateful to UCD's lecturers, staff, and colleagues, who made this experience not just about education but a life-changing adventure. To future students considering this program, my advice is: embrace the opportunity, soak in the knowledge, and let UCD be your catalyst for change.

CONTACT US

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APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at www.ucd.ie/apply