University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

Course code: T339

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 Highlight

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.

UCD is ranked number one in Ireland and 49th in the world for sustainability according to the QS World University Rankings.

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

Optional 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
- Behavioural Economics: Policy Applications
- Carbon & Sustainability
- Urban Design Studio
- Agency: Design / Build
- Air Pollution
- Tools for Sustainable Development
- Reimagining Dublin
- Remote Sensing
- Coastal Risks
- Climate Change Law and Policy
- GIS Principles and Applications
- Planning Institutions and Governance
- Geostatistics and Programming for GIS
- Advanced GIS Applications
- Environment and Sustainability
- Planning, Design and Development
- Rural and Landscape Planning
- Placemaking and Conservation
- Rural Placemaking

Why study at UCD?

Tradition

ESTABLISHED 1854

Established 1854, with over 170 years of teaching & research excellence

Employability

UCD is ranked in the top 100 worldwide at 88th globally for employability outcomes for graduating students.

Global profile

TOP 1%

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

Global careers

Dedicated careers support; 2-year stayback visa to work in Ireland

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/pathway.

International Fees and 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/global/scholarships/ for further information.

Related Masters Programmes of Interest

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

Graduate Profile

Sawsan Bassalat
Research Assistant,
University College Dublin

I chose MAUCA because it promised a comprehensive perspective on the built environment with a focus on sustainability, and it truly delivered. The programme brought together individuals from around the world, enriching discussions with diverse viewpoints and fostering creativity through fresh perspectives.

MAUCA provided new insights into the built environment, covering sustainable design, environmental justice, and climate emergency through a wide range of modules from different faculties. The core modules offered specialised knowledge in carbon quantification, research, and environmental ethics, while electives allowed me to explore software tools in parametric modelling, urban planning, and environmental mapping.

MAUCA not only deepened my architectural knowledge but also opened new career paths I had not previously considered. I highly recommend it to anyone seeking specialised skills in these areas.

CONTACT US

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APPLY NOW

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