



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 Master's 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 and practice, urban conservation; nature-based solutions, and the role of research in design. 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. The programme will appeal to graduates from closely related disciplinary backgrounds wishing to specialise in urban design, including those with qualifications in architecture, landscape architecture, and planning. Applications will also be considered from graduates with other related disciplinary backgrounds (e.g. geography, engineering, property economics, surveying) where the applicant has a particular interest the specialist area of urban design (as opposed to planning more broadly). This programme is accredited as a specialist qualification by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

### LEADING RESEARCH CENTRE IN SPATIAL PLANNING

The UCD School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy has an established international track record as a leading research centre in spatial planning. 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 and research excellence



### Global profile

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



### Global community

Over 8,400 international students from over 140 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

**60 credits**  
taught modules

**30 credits**  
thesis/design thesis

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 the completion of a thesis. Please note that some modules listed may not be available in a given year.

The programme includes modules from the following indicative list:

- Conservation History and Theory Policy
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Postgraduate Studio
- Urban Design Studio
- Research Design & Methods
- Placemaking
- Planning, Environment & Public Policy
- Thesis or Design Thesis
- Housing Policy & Planning
- Planning Law APEP
- Rural & Landscape Planning
- Urban Design Theory



## 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 a 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 upper second class honours award (NFQ level 8) or international equivalent in planning or cognate discipline, including architecture and landscape architecture. Applications from graduates with a degree in another related subject area will also be considered, including geography, engineering, property economics, and surveying.
- 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/>

## SCHOLARSHIPS

- Dedicated scholarships for non-EU students
  - Apply for University Scholarship [www.ucd.ie/global/study-at-ucdscholarshipsfinances/scholarships/](http://www.ucd.ie/global/study-at-ucdscholarshipsfinances/scholarships/)
  - Apply for College scholarship [www.ucd.ie/eacollege/study/nonescholarships](http://www.ucd.ie/eacollege/study/nonescholarships)
- Approved by US Dept of Education for federally supported loans

## WORK IN IRELAND

Option to stay in Ireland to seek employment and/or work for 2 years after graduating.

## RELATED MASTER'S PROGRAMMES OF INTEREST

- Master of Regional & Urban Planning
- MSc Environmental Policy
- MSc Planning, Development & Urban Design

## FEES

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



## GRADUATE PROFILE

Christophe Teevan  
Cairn PLC

I found the greatest strength of this master's was that it provided a good balance between theoretical and practical learning. The studio modules are a great way of learning how to apply theory to the design process. The course was further enhanced by studio input and guest lectures from practicing planners and architects. UCD is a great learning environment as many of the classes are multi-disciplinary and allow for peer to peer learning between planners, architects and landscape architects. There are also a variety of specialties amongst the faculty which is a great asset to the university. I felt this gave me wide range of opportunities when it came to choosing my thesis topic in the final term.

Since graduating I have been working on the planning and design team at a housing development company in Dublin. I would highly recommend this programme to anyone looking to expand their knowledge of urban design and planning while gaining the skills necessary to contribute effectively to a professional design team.



## CONTACT US

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