

# PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN

Our postgraduate courses in planning, sustainable development and urban design will equip you with the skills and knowledge to help shape the future of cities and urban life around the world.

Highly regarded by students and employers alike, both within the UK and internationally, our courses are relevant to industry and accredited by professional bodies. The University of Westminster was the UK's first UN-HABITAT Partner University.

The School of Architecture and Cities enjoys an international reputation for these subjects in research and consultancy, and our staff have close links with industry. As a result, our courses are theoretically based but are also informed by the latest developments in practice. They will provide you with the expertise and experience needed to develop your career in planning, urban design, regeneration and international development. We also offer single modules in these disciplines, which enable established professionals to broaden or update their knowledge and skills.

As a postgraduate student you will have the opportunity to develop your own specialist expertise while working collaboratively with students from different disciplines who have gained a wide variety of planning, design and development experiences from across the globe.



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# INTERNATIONAL PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MA

**Length of course:** one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September  
**Location:** Central London (see map p196)  
**Fees and funding:** see course web page and [westminster.ac.uk/fees](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/fees)  
**Entry requirements:** see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: [westminster.ac.uk/international-planning-and-sustainable-development-ma](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/international-planning-and-sustainable-development-ma)

This course is aimed at those with a relevant background who wish to gain an in-depth understanding of planning and sustainable development, whether to improve career prospects in their country or enter international practice. Through the course you will examine the growing problems of sustainable development facing cities, regions and urban and rural communities in a rapidly urbanising world, subject to growing climate change and other environmental, economic and social pressures and risks.

Based in London, you will have access to internationally recognised experience of spatial planning for sustainable development, and explore contemporary theories, public policy thinking and good practice in planning in both the developed and developing worlds. We work with UN-HABITAT and like-minded institutions to promote the socially and environmentally sustainable development of towns, cities and regions, in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda. The University of Westminster was the UK's first UN-HABITAT Partner University.

The MA course is fully accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) as a 'combined planning programme'. Those offered a place are eligible for postgraduate scholarships offered by the University.

## Course content

This course addresses the growing problems of sustainable development facing cities, regions and urban and rural communities in a rapidly urbanising world. It explores contemporary theories, public policy thinking and good practice in planning that spans both developed and developing world contexts, and offers you the opportunity to explore one area of specialism in a related field in some depth.

There are two RTPI-accredited pathways through the course. The Spatial Planning Pathway has a strong urban design component and an emphasis on the development planning process. The Urban Resilience Pathway provides a sustainable development-focused route with a core emphasis on climate change mitigation, adaptation and natural hazard risk management.

## Core modules

### Both pathways:

- Dissertation or Major Project
- International Spatial Planning Practice
- Planning in a Globalising World
- Research Methods and the Built Environment
- Skills for Planning Practice
- Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods
- Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management

### Spatial Planning Pathway:

- Urban Design and Planning Skills

### Urban Resilience Pathway:

- Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience

## Option modules

- Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change
- Housing and Regeneration
- Public Realm: Significance, Design, Experience

Options from other postgraduate courses that relate to the course objectives may be chosen as agreed with the Course or relevant Module Leader, for example, Land Use, Planning and Transport, offered by the Transport Planning and Management MSc, or Master Planning or Urban Design and Urban Development Process offered by the Urban Design MA.

## Professional accreditation

The MA course is fully accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) as a 'combined planning programme'.

## Associated careers

Graduates from the course may secure promotion within their existing or a new related area of work. Graduates can expect to find employment as planners or urban designers, urban regeneration or environmental management specialists in private consultancy, local and national government, and non-governmental sectors in the UK, in their own country or internationally, including international development agencies.





# URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING MA

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**Entry requirements:** see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page:  
[westminster.ac.uk/urban-and-regional-planning-ma](http://westminster.ac.uk/urban-and-regional-planning-ma)

The MA course will give you the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to practise professionally as a spatial planner. It is designed to meet the growing employer needs for staff who can investigate changes in the natural and built environments, manage the challenges of climate change through sustainable development, and debate and critically reflect upon the knowledge and values underpinning current approaches to land use development. Completion of the MA course is the first step to becoming a full member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

The course will support your personal and professional development. You will be able to work in the interdisciplinary and cross-sector environment of urban and regional development, in a variety of private, public and community contexts, and apply your knowledge to practise in specialist areas of planning. The course builds on the University's experience of delivering postgraduate courses in town planning for more than 60 years.

If you want to gain a greater understanding of spatial planning, but do not want to study for a full Masters course, we also offer an Urban and Regional Planning Postgraduate Diploma and an Urban and Regional Planning Postgraduate Certificate. Visit our website to find out more about these courses.

## Course content

The course explores the current context and content of spatial planning. It does so from a UK and European perspective, and also investigates underlying theoretical debates.

For the award of the MA, students need to pass modules totalling 180 credits. Part-time Masters students usually take the equivalent of four 20 credit modules (80 credits) plus the field trip in their first year, and the equivalent of five 20 credit modules (100 credits) in their second year. MA students take all core modules and choose one specialist option module.



## Core modules

- Dissertation/Policy Implementation Project
- Making and Managing Places
- Planning Field Trip (non-credit bearing module)
- Planning Theory and Practice One
- Planning Theory and Practice Two
- Research Methods and the Built Environment
- Skills for Planning Practice
- Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods

## Option modules

- Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change
- Housing and Regeneration
- Land Use, Planning and Transport
- Public Realm: Significance, Design, Experience

## Professional accreditation

On successful completion of the MA course, students can become licentiates of the RTPI. After two years' experience in practice, they may make a submission for their Assessment of Professional Competence and, if successful, are then entitled to full RTPI membership.

## Associated careers

There is demand from government and the private sector for qualified planners. Recent graduates from the course have gone on to work in local government, urban regeneration agencies and into consultancy.



# URBAN DESIGN MA

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[westminster.ac.uk/urban-design-ma](http://westminster.ac.uk/urban-design-ma)

In an increasingly urbanised world, there is growing international demand for urban design graduates. These courses will equip you with the knowledge and skills you need to participate in this rapidly expanding profession. Urban design involves shaping the physical setting for life in cities. The pace of urban change, and the challenge of making cities efficient, sustainable and meaningful demands creative solutions to design and management.

The Urban Design course at Westminster provide a coherent approach to issues that face our cities, combining structured academic study with live design projects, allowing you to develop practical skills, a theoretical understanding and an informed approach to sustainable urban development.

Our Urban Design programme is one of the largest and longest established in the UK. It enjoys an excellent reputation and our graduates are highly respected in the profession. Our students are from a variety of professions and backgrounds, including architecture, landscape architecture and planning and are from the UK, Europe and across the globe. They range from recent graduates seeking to expand their skill base before commencing their career or those considering a shift from an allied profession, to established professionals seeking to specialise or develop a more informed critical approach.

Our central London location allows you to interact with a huge variety of practitioners and organisations, as well as drawing on the city's huge range of resources; you will be at the heart of the debate over the future of cities.

## Course content

The course places a strong emphasis on design, practical outputs and a multidisciplinary approach. While focusing on UK examples, the lessons from the courses are applicable to a wide range of international and economic contexts. This flexible and student-centred approach is highly valued by former graduates and their employers.

The course is delivered by staff with many years' experience in practice, education, training, research, and consultancy in the UK and overseas. Outputs from the course combine into a portfolio demonstrating your ability to deal with the complexities of urban design in a practical and informed manner.



## Core modules

- Dissertation/Major Project
- Research Methods
- Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods
- Urban Design and Planning in Context
- Urban Design and Urban Development Process
- Urban Design Field Trip
- Urbanism and Design: Form, Context and Philosophies

## Option modules

- Master Planning
- Public Realm: Significance, Design and Experience

## Professional accreditation

The course gives full RTPI accreditation when combined with an RTPI-accredited spatial planning course. Graduates of the Urban Design MA can opt to complete the new Postgraduate Certificate in Urban Spatial Planning, which will also give full RTPI accreditation.

## Associated careers

Graduates of this course typically find employment as urban designers in private consultancy or local authorities. Many find the course useful when developing careers in architecture, planning or landscape architecture.