

CREATIVE
ARTS
BUSINESS
TECHNOLOGY

Course Information

Urban Design MSc

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MSc Urban Design


Our MSc Urban Design, based in the Canterbury School of Architecture and Design, is a course that will allow you to develop deep specialisms in your knowledge of urban design. During the course you will be exposed to rich variations of planning contexts and climates, and become expert in researching and intervening into complex urban contexts and design challenges.

The Urban Design course, within its stimulating, creative and supportive environment, will see you formulate an individualised approach to urban design. Through research-led practice and experimental design, you will be able to develop and demonstrate specialist expertise and knowledge, and showcase your designed outcomes in a refined final portfolio.

Our degree can be a launchpad to potential higher level urban design and planning careers. You will have access to advanced forms of fabrication and testing, the latest scanning and VR technology, and a suite of traditional craft based workshops, all of which will allow you to bring your design proposals to life. You will have the freedom to establish your own unique specialisms, and you will develop your own highly individualised design identity and style. Specialist areas you might choose to focus on in your projects could include climactic design, urban revitalisation and renewal, advanced retrofit, localism, transport infrastructures, urban or rural landscapes, or specialist urban analysis. You can work with interesting heritage and sustainability questions, engaging with both contemporary technology and traditional crafts, as well as exploring both digital and 'real' space.

You will be taught through one-to-one tuition, seminars and self-directed study in our designated studio spaces and workshops, engaging with practitioners and academics who offer expert industry and research intelligence. The course includes regular reviews with visiting critics from across relevant industry sectors and international study visits.


On this challenging journey, you'll develop your research, conceptual, self-management, technical and communication skills, and graduate well-equipped to enter the global market.


 **Awarded by**
UCA


 **Taught by**
UCA

 **Location**
Canterbury

 **Language**
English

 **Duration**
Full time – over 1 year
Face to Face

 **Recognition/Accreditation**
This information will be provided once the course is validated.

 **Regulation**
The University for the Creative Arts and its courses are regulated by the Office for Students.

This course has been designed in line with national standards and reference points, including the [Master's Degree Characteristics Statement](#)

For further information about how the course is quality assured see UCA's Quality Assurance Handbook

Term 1:

You'll be introduced to the Canterbury School of Architecture and Design and the technical workshops and facilities available to you. The first term includes a range of lectures and seminars and you'll start to explore your creative practice.

Contexts and Methods: We will challenge you to address core thinking and practices within contemporary and historical architecture, fine art and design. We will cover key thematic debates related to the city; historic movements, concepts of cultural production, spatial perception and cognition, material tactility and embodied relations. These form a critical intellectual context for you to contemplate your particular research agendas.

Exploratory Practice: Immerse yourself in creative studio practice in this unit, and maybe even begin formulating your ideas for the latter stages of your MSc. You'll also be introduced to the complexities, demands and moments of failure inherent in self-managing and delivering ambitious spatial proposals including landscape design and fabrication.

Term 2:

During term two you begin developing your MSc project, evaluating and testing out the aims of your proposal over a sustained period of self-directed study.

Project Development: Work that you undertake during this unit builds upon what you learned in the first term - you'll be expected to integrate strands of theoretical and applied or practical research into a considerably more resolved and advanced line of enquiry that can sustain the remainder of your MA project.

Term 3:

In the third term of the course, you'll apply the knowledge gained through your research to create a final body of work.

Final Realisation: This unit is the culmination of the MSc programme of study and so forms an exposition and practical manifestation of ideas, concepts, and degrees of sophisticated practice achieved. It should achieve a resolution to investigations initiated in all previous units and deliver a single body of work that demonstrates advanced conceptual, technological and practical capability.

Student Support

We aim to ensure, where possible, personal tutors remain with a student throughout their degree studies to discuss all matters relating to student well-being and academic support. Personal tutors and the Careers & Employability Team will also support students in discussions around their potential or preferred career direction.

Students are further supported by:

- Unit leader for each unit
- School support staff
- Personal academic tutors
- Careers and Employability Services
- Technical support with IT and software
- My UCA - a versatile online learning environment
- Induction and ongoing re-induction sessions
- Student Staff Course Boards
- Library and Learning Resources
- Gateway Services including support for finance, regulations, disability, well-being, accommodation, and international students
- UCA Students' Union

International students receive additional support from our International Office and specialist administrative staff not only when they first arrive but also throughout their programme of study.

Our Commitment

University for the Creative Arts (UCA) is committed to sustainable development and reducing the environmental impact of activities through our teaching, research and day to day operations. Our courses align to Education for Sustainable Development as defined by UNESCO (2019): 'Education for Sustainable Development empowers learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity. It is about lifelong learning, and is an integral part of quality education. ESD is holistic and transformational education which addresses learning content and outcomes, pedagogy and the learning environment. It achieves its purpose by transforming society.' Equality, diversity and inclusion are fundamental to our commitment to the extraordinary creativity of our staff and students. In the UK the standards we are required to adhere to are embodied in the 2010 Equality Act. Equally importantly is how these standards are evidenced through the values and behaviours of the University and the individuals of which it is comprised. As well as compliance with these standards we should in my opinion all be exemplars and role models. In terms of everyday actions, this means we should treat others with respect and dignity, and value their contributions because of, and not despite, our differences. The Vice-Chancellor is personally committed to diversity and in this regard the University has the highest expectations of every employee and student alike.

Highlights

- Located in a small specialist institution, and as part of a School devoted to design, you will develop your skills in conversation with the widest possible community of future architects, industrial, product, and furniture designers and makers.
- Studying with access to London and the South-East as the hub of the UK's creative industries, but with the distance and separation to concentrate on your creative development, UCA Canterbury is the perfect location to explore your passion for model making.
- Our focus on industry-led live projects, and optional professional practice year, equips you to be the adaptable, resilient, globally minded, confident, entrepreneurial, and digitally savvy professional so in demand in the contemporary workplace.
- Instructed by a mixture of cutting-edge academic staff and experienced industry professionals, you will have the opportunity to learn real-world skills beyond the classroom through visits, networking and placements.
- Opportunities to enter prestigious international competitions and networking opportunities such as New Designers, the course is focused on building your network and position within a fast-paced and competitive industry.

Who teaches this course?

All permanent members of the academic team hold a postgraduate qualification in a related discipline, as well as a teaching qualification or fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. Two members have completed PhD's and are active within the research community, and three further members of staff are in the process of developing or completing their PhD's.

Working alongside the permanent staff are a team of Associate Lecturers, who you will encounter on a regular basis delivering design studio tutorials, workshops, and live projects. Our Associate Lecturer colleagues are active design practitioners and bring with them a wealth of knowledge, experience, and industry connections.

You will also be supported in your learning by an extensive technical team with vast technical and practical knowledge to share with you.

What will learning look like?

The MSc units generally move from periods of more structured teaching and explicit exploration in the early stages of the year, towards increasingly self-directed independent project work. Course staff carefully observe and support a learner's progress towards such capabilities. The following structured teaching techniques are generally utilised during the MSc year:

- Weekly one to one studio based design tutorials in which the 'tutor' aim is to act as a conversational guide and creative facilitator; explicitly stepping back from the literal dictation of ideas to require a student to find their own way to determining and agreeing future courses of action.
- Regular constructive critical reviews and public debate; at key design stages and concerning personal research avenues, to refine communication and aid a culture of interdisciplinary exchange at post graduate level and beyond.
- Lectures and student led seminars for the presentation of theoretical issues and their extended discussion relative to studio research and practice.
- Repeated emphasis on the importance of physical fabrication and practical testing to encourage haptic discoveries, material techniques and real delivery as an inherent part of the generation of design research thinking.
- An encoding of degrees of iterative failure and the recognition of how these have resulted in learning as a recognised deliverable within each unit.

Formal unit teaching on the course is supplemented by a planned series of seminars and group conversations, run weekly by UCA Learning Enhancement and Support staff, within the MSc space and reflecting upon studio preoccupations. Engagement with such opportunities can be extended to meet particular individual student needs as and where appropriate.

By the end of the course you will be able to:

This information will be provided once the course is validated.

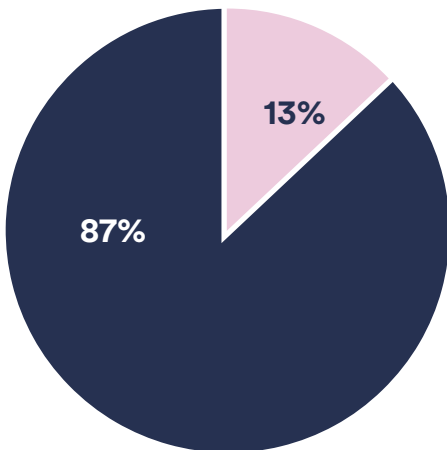
Our approach to employability is to:

Due to the course length and intensity, a defined period of work placement or specific work placement unit is not offered. The course does have a high degree of engagement with industry; from visits to practitioners' studios; to a wide range of guest critics and lecturers engaging with the course at review and presentation moments; and finally by virtue of its location within Canterbury School of Architecture and exposure to the 'Multistory' annual guest lecture series.

ENROLMENT AND INDUCTION WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
	Contexts and Methods 30 credits] [15 weeks]															Project Development [60 credits] [15 weeks]															Final Realisation [60 credits] [15 weeks]														
Exploratory Practice [30 credits] [15 weeks]																																													

Overall methods of assessment	Written exams	Practical exams	Coursework
Level 7	0%	0%	100%

Study hours



Structured
 Independent
 Placement or Live Professional Activity

Additional Course Costs

This information will be provided once the course is validated.

Equipment/materials recommended

This information will be provided once the course is validated.

Visits

This information will be provided once the course is validated.

This course has been designed in line with national standards and reference points, including the [Higher Education Credit Framework for England](#) and the [Master's Degree Characteristics Statement](#)

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