

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Arts - Urban Design <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
Name and level of intermediate awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - Urban Design • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Urban Design
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Professional statutory or regulatory body	<p>RTPI accreditation as a specialist planning degree. https://www.rtpi.org.uk/become-a-planner</p> <p>Urban Design Group: Approved for recognised practitioner</p>
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Urban Design FT, Full-time, September start - 1 year standard length • MA Urban Design PT, Part-time day, September start - 2 years standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2020/1

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply>.

Aims of the programme

The MA Urban Design has been designed in response to an increasingly urbanised world, where there is growing international demand for urban design graduates. This course will equip students with the knowledge and skills needed 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 provides a coherent approach to issues that face our cities, combining structured academic study with live design projects, allowing students to develop practical skills, a theoretical understanding and an informed approach to sustainable urban development.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

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The course has a strong vocational focus and enjoys a good reputation within the industry. Employment prospects are excellent for full-time students graduating from this course. Part-time students are usually already employed and for them promotion and career enhancement follow soon after completion. While it is more common for graduates in urban design to pursue careers in design practice, some do move on to higher study, and this course provides a good grounding for those students who have taken up research degrees. For those who do not, the Specialist accreditation from the RTPI (Royal Town Planning Institute), which, alongside the PG Certificate in Urban & Regional Planning (only available to MA Urban Design graduates of Westminster), allows for full professional membership of the RTPI following the sitting of the APC (Assessment of Professional Competence). Such graduates would be able to work as licensed planners, or for example as urban design officers in a local authority.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements of what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Level 7 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 7 you will be able to:

- KTS.01 Framing of problems in complex situations based on research and judgement. (KTS)
- KTS.02 Generation of design-based propositions involving creativity, innovation and critical evaluation based on reasoned application of theories and precedents. (KTS)
- KTS.03 Inter-disciplinary team working, negotiation and collaborative working. (KTS)
- KTS.04 A critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through structured enquiry. (KTS)
- KTS.05 Demonstration of resilience and judgement through independent enquiry and critical reflection. (KTS)
- KTS.06 Faming and advancing of a coherent original argument structured by enquiry and critical evaluation of evidence. (KTS)
- KTS.07 Managing complex work flows, setting of targets, managing time and resources, working to deadlines and balancing conflicting demands. (KTS)
- KU.01 Systematic understanding of and critical approach to current practice in urban design and sustainable development. (KU)
- KU.02 Key theoretical approaches to urban design and their impact. (KU)

- KU.03 Identification of the various cultural practices that shape and use the urban setting logically and at a global scale. (KU)
- KU.04 Analysis of the components of the city, the networks that connect them, the activities they support and how these relate to the design and regulatory process. (KU)
- KU.05 The role of urban design practice within the multi-disciplinary nature of planning, development and management of sustainable cities. (KU)
- SS.01 Informed research and analysis of contemporary urban issues in specific complex locations. (SS)
- SS.02 Identification and application of appropriate theories and precedents of urban design practice. (SS)
- SS.03 Creative strategic responses balancing conflicting development pressures within a range of urban contexts. (SS)
- SS.04 Imaginative design solutions manipulating urban space and built elements to meet stated aims. (SS)
- SS.05 Generation of appropriate urban design products including site appraisal, contextual analysis, capacity studies, frameworks, briefs, design strategies, design statements, master plans, design guides and feasibility reports. (SS)
- SS.06 Assessment of the financial feasibility, environmental performance, ecological impact and social benefit of design propositions within the relevant legislative frameworks. (SS)
- SS.07 Demonstration of the ability to communicate spatial design principles and propositions across a variety of media. (SS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

The course delivery encourages reflective and critical thinking, helping students to extend existing skills and competencies. Projects are supported by individual tutorials and group seminars. Lecture series give background information together with structured reading. The dissertation/major project gives students the space to study a topic in depth and develop research skills.

Teaching methods

Teaching combines lectures, seminars and workshops with individual and group tutorials. Assessment is 100% course work. Students are set a range of design problems common in practice and have experience of producing typical products such as site appraisal, context analysis, capacity studies, design frameworks, site briefs, design statements, master plans, design guides and reports. Design tasks are balanced by a range of investigations into the physical, cultural, social, and financial and sustainability issues influencing urban design practice allowing students to develop skills in research, analysis, communication, information, and interdisciplinary working.

Assessment methods

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules

Level 7

Students studying for the Postgraduate Certificate in Urban Design will take the following modules:

7PLAN037W Urban Design and Development Process

7PLAN039W Urban Design Project

AND one option module from the list below OR 7PLAN034W Urban Form and Growth OR 7PLAN036W The Dynamic City: Urban Design and Planning in Context.

Students studying for the Postgraduate Diploma in Urban Design choose from the same modules as MA students, except do not register for the Dissertation/Major Project

Semester 1	Semester 2
Urban Form	Design and development
Dynamic Cities	Urban Design Project
Field Trip	
Sustainable Cities	Option
Place Project	Dissertation

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7PLAN036W	The Dynamic City: Urban Design and Planning in Context	Core	1	20	10
7PLAN037W	Urban Design and Development Process	Core	1	20	10
7PLAN024W	Urban Design Field Trip	Core	1	0	0
7PLAN039W	Urban Design Project	Core	1	20	10
7PLAN034W	Urban Form and Growth	Core	1	20	10
7PLAN002W	Dissertation/Major Project (Urban Design)	Core	2	40	20
7PLAN038W	Place and Experience in Design of Urban Spaces	Core	2	20	10
7PLAN019W	Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods	Core	2	20	10
7PLAN040W	Communities Towards Sustainability: Public Engagement	Option	2	20	10
7PLAN041W	Conservation and Heritage	Option	2	20	10
7TOUR008W	Destination Development – Case Study Perspectives	Option	2	20	10
7PLAN033W	Emerging Landscapes and Urban Ecologies	Option	2	20	10
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Option	2	20	10
7HOUS002W	Housing and Regeneration	Option	2	20	10
7TRAN036W	Information Management Applications for Urban Planning	Option	2	20	10
7PLAN006W	International Spatial Planning Practice	Option	2	20	10
7TRAN013W	Land Use Planning and Transport	Option	2	20	10
7PLAN010W	Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience	Option	2	20	10
7TRAN027W	Streets, Places and Active Transport	Option	2	20	10
7PLAN020W	Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management	Option	2	20	10
7PLAN043W	Extended Essay Option for Planning, Transport and Urban Design	Option	Various	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

The programme is accredited by the RTPI as a Specialist course. This is effectively half of the accreditation required for eligibility to take the APC (Assessment of Professional Competency) for full membership of the RTPI. The University offers a Postgraduate Certificate Urban and Regional Planning of 60 UK credits as a top-up course for MA Urban Design graduates to achieve full eligibility for the APC and subsequent full professional membership of the RTPI. See the MA Urban and Regional Planning course for details.

Course management

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard>

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice>.

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union>

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university, a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the

course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2021©

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