

MSc Cities and Sustainable Futures

First intake 2026-27

Engage with the challenges facing cities around the world, from climate change to crises of urban migration, conflict, and livelihoods, and learn about different solutions that aim to create sustainable urban futures.

Introduction

The urban world is transforming. Cities are being reshaped by a series of instabilities and crises. Climate change, intensifying inequalities and vulnerabilities, global migration, war and conflict, technological transformation, new patterns of work and living, and geographical sprawl are generating a sustained period of turbulence. How in the face of overlapping crises, insecurity and uncertainty, can human and non-human life survive and thrive in the city?

The MSc in Cities and Sustainable Futures addresses these urgent questions by focusing on how global cities are being made and remade in relation to climate change, different experiences of city life amid crisis, and a range of urban alternatives and experiments. You'll learn about how cities around the world are adapting to a range of challenges, in the context of wider efforts to generate sustainable futures.

The course will equip students for a wide range of jobs at the intersection of cities and sustainability. Students will exit the programme understanding the forces that are shaping and remaking cities, learning from how urban residents are living with crises across different global cities, and equipped with the skills to research, evaluate, propose, communicate, and lead solutions and alternatives that help create sustainable urban futures.



Course Timetable

Term 1 October to December	Term 2 January to March	Term 3 April to June	Summer June to August
Sustainable Futures (30 credits)	Cities and Climate Change (15 credits)	Knowledge for Action and Leadership (15 credits)	Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits)
Global Cities and Urban Life (15 credits)	Sustainable Transitions and Transformations (30 credits)	Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits)	
Research Methods for Global Challenges (15 credits)	Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits)		

List of Modules

You will take the following modules which, together, add up to 180 credits:

Sustainable Futures (30 credits) (Term 1)

This module introduces the causes of a range of complex global crises, and explores emerging solutions around the promise of 'sustainable futures', building from the Sustainable Development Goals.

Global Cities and Urban Life (15 credits) (Term 1)

Drawing on case studies from global cities, this module explores how urban life is changing amidst a range of intersecting contemporary crises.

Research Methods for Global Challenges (15 credits) (Term 1)

This module provides advanced training in research skills and techniques, with the aim of developing a range of transferable skills relevant to researching sustainable futures amid global challenges.

Cities and Climate Change (15 credits) (Term 2)

This module explores how the very nature of urbanization is profoundly connected to the challenges of sustainability and responding to climate change.

Sustainable Transitions and Transformations (30 credits) (Terms 2/3)

This inquiry led module explores practical urban experiments that attempt to generate sustainable transitions and transformations in cities around the world. It involves visits to local sites and a fieldtrip to a UK city.

Knowledge for Action and Leadership (15 credits) (Term 3)

This module develops practical skills of leadership, public engagement and dissemination relevant to creating sustainable futures.

Dissertation or Vocational Dissertation (60 credits) (Terms 2 and 3)

The Dissertation allows students to design and execute an extended piece of research on a particular urban problem, challenge, or issue. The Vocational Dissertation option is based on working with a non-academic urban partner.

Contact

For more information please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/57me4j7t>

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