

Cities Design and Urban Cultures

MA



Aims of the course

The MA Cities Design and Urban Cultures is to provide foundations in understanding space-making as a political act bearing social and cultural implications. In particular it seeks to identify and study situations of urban conflict created in the wake of radical political and cultural transformation and to develop a contemporary critique of planning practices. The course aims to propose alternative planning strategies, and thus addresses architects, artists and other urban practitioners who are interested in exploring and testing design methods and creative strategies for spatial interventions against theoretical reflections on the history of the city.

The course builds on the established strengths of the department and offers the opportunity for a high-level education within a studio-based and cooperative academic research environment and offers opportunities for inter-disciplinary studies.

Location: London North campus, Spring House

Starts September	Yes
Starts February	No
Full-time	Yes
Part-time day	Yes
Part-time evening	No
Part-time day and evening	No

Duration and attendance

Full-time: 1 year, two days a week

Part-time: 2 years, one day a week

Dates/timetable

Autumn semester: September – January

Spring semester: February – May

Summer dissertation period: June – September

Course structure

Modules include:

- **Critical Transformations** specialist taught module Semester A
- **Research Methods for Design** taught research methods module Semester A + B
- **Design Research and Techniques** double research and design studio based module Semester A + B
- **Design Project** double research and design studio based module Semester A + B
- **MA Architecture Thesis** Thesis Document: Semester A + B + Summer

Critical Transformations (Specialist Knowledge)

This module emphasises the social and political perspective of space making at the scale of the city. It is an introduction to key concepts in urban history and theory from the 19th century until the present. It addresses historical and contemporary processes of migration, issues of politics, mapping, architecture and urban regeneration. Episodes of architectural and urban theory are placed in the context of political and cultural transformations, and in particular in the context of the changing geopolitical conditions by which the contemporary city is shaped.

Research Methods for Design

This module presents methods of research relevant to a wide range of design agendas. It discusses the relationship of research to the process of design and explores the issues and possibilities inherent in the conception of research as an action, becoming propositional. The module investigates the tools and methods, which will allow to operate effectively as a design researcher. Finally, students will develop an abstract for the Design Thesis, building upon the work in the co-requisite modules, through a series of seminars and individual tutorials.

Design Research & Techniques

This module asks students to establish a critical position within a project-based investigation. Working within an MA design unit, students will develop techniques which will allow them to engage pro-actively with the area of study and to establish a particular field of research.

Design Project

Within this module, students will develop a design proposition, which allows them to test and refine their design research, established within the context of Cities Design and Urban Cultures.

MA Architecture Thesis

This module synthesizes the knowledge, skills and techniques acquired in the research modules and requires students to extend the critical position developed and tested within the Design Project Module.

Assessment

Teaching and learning is undertaken through lectures, seminars, discussions, workshops, projects, tutorials, site visits and self-managed study.

Course work is assessed via essays, seminars, presentations and design portfolios. The work will culminate in a dissertation project that is both based on creative practices and is highly research-oriented.

Career opportunities

The MA Cities Design and Urban Cultures aims to further the education of design professionals who will find employment principally in the architectural profession, but also in areas of design, and in applied arts relating to urban design and criticism. The course will enhance knowledge and understanding of situations of urban conflict created in periods of radical political and cultural transformation, theories of urban planning and the ability to critically assess strategies in developing urban design proposals. It will lead to the integration of this knowledge and enable the student to operate in both the private, the public and NGO sector of urban design as well as in centres of contemporary cultural and art production. The course also offers students transferable skills, which will enhance their employability within key sectors of urban planning such as project management, policy development and planning roles in urban and community renewal, working for organisations such as local authorities, government and architects.

Furthermore, the aim of the course is to support students to continue their research through design in further studies for MPhil/PhD research degrees.

Fees

See our website, www.londonmet.ac.uk/tuition-fees, or call the Admissions Office (see further Information below).

Entry requirements

Places on the MA Cities Design and Urban Cultures are open to graduates from a range of disciplines related to architecture, urban design and criticism. Applicants should have a minimum of an Honours degree in architecture or related discipline. You should have a good portfolio of practical and/or scholarly work. Experiences in design and/or design research and a demonstrable interest in critical spatial practices are essential. Students may also be admitted solely on the basis of extensive professional experience in a relevant field.

Accommodation

The University prioritises applications from first year students who; have accepted an offer of a place on a course and live further than 25 miles from the University. We allocate in date order and the process begins in April each year so students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Full details of all available accommodation can be found in our booklet 'A Guide to Halls of Residence' and on our web page www.londonmet.ac.uk/accommodation

How to apply

Please apply directly to the University. A Postgraduate Prospectus and application form are available from the Admissions Office (see further information) or the University website: www.londonmet.ac.uk

Admissions Office
London Metropolitan University
166-220 Holloway Road
London N7 8DB
Tel: 020 7133 4202
Email: admissions@londonmet.ac.uk
Web: www.londonmet.ac.uk

Further information

Course Leader
Dr Ines Weizman
Email: i.weizman@londonmet.ac.uk
Postgraduate Academic Leader
Daniel Rosbottom
Tel: 020 7133 2222
Email: d.rosbottom@londonmet.ac.uk

Open Days/Evenings

You can also come to one of our open days and evenings, held throughout the year. See our website www.londonmet.ac.uk, or call the Admissions Office, for up-to-date details.

We do everything we can to ensure that information in this leaflet is correct, however details may change and we cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions.