

UCD  
ARCHITECTURE,  
PLANNING &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY

**GRADUATE TAUGHT  
COURSES ENTRY 2026**

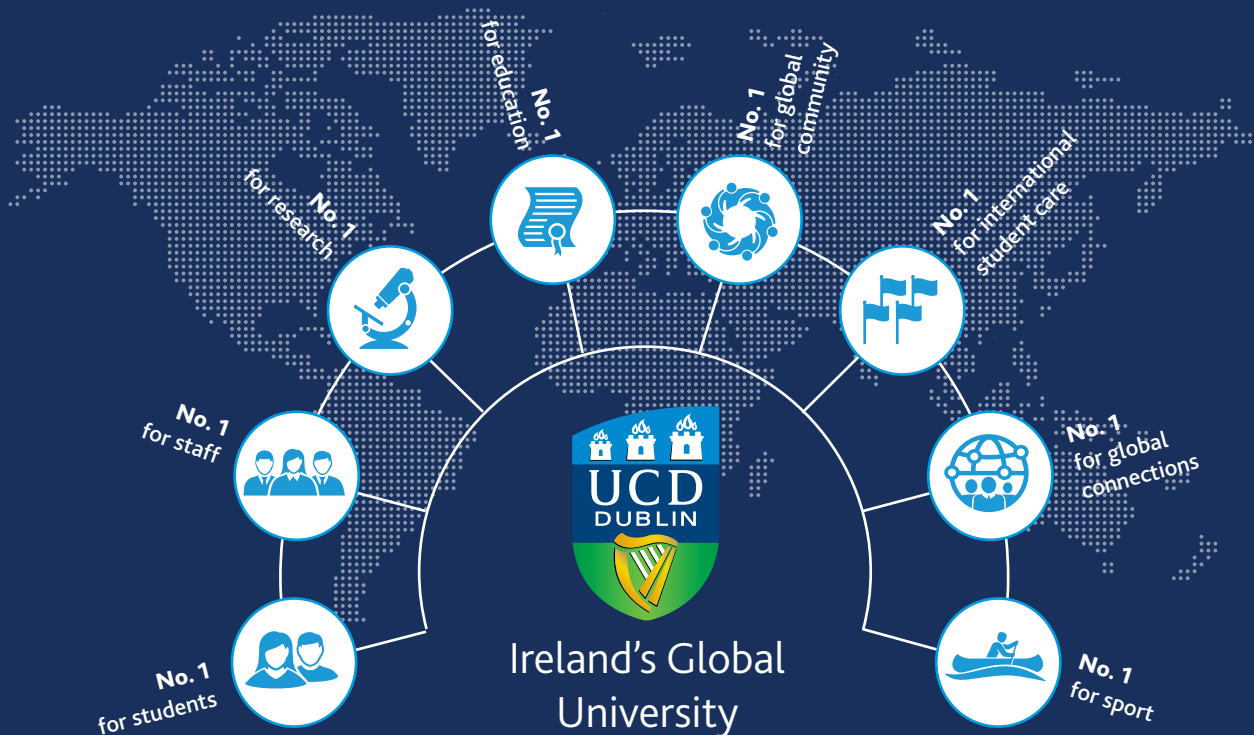












# WELCOME TO UCD IRELAND'S GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

University College Dublin effortlessly combines its distinctively Irish outlook with its powerful global impact and is the most connected and networked university with government, industry and society in Ireland.

UCD is **ranked 118th in the world** according to the QS World University Rankings 2026 and is the **largest english speaking university** in the EU.

As the number one university of destination for international students coming to Ireland to study, **international students make up 32% of the student body.**

UCD is Ireland's **leader in graduate education** with 19% of Ireland's Taught Master's students 64% higher than the next-placed institution.

The UCD alumni network is also an active, influential and truly international body with **over 300,000 alumni living in 184 countries** across the globe.

UCD is the most **connected and networked university** with government, industry and society in Ireland. UCD is an **active member of many international education networks** such as Una Europa, Universitas 21 (U21), UNICA.





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## FULL FORMS OF ACADEMIC DEGREES

MSc stands for Master of Science Degree

ProfDip stands for Professional Diploma



# WELCOME TO UCD ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The School's graduate programmes offer a uniquely rich and varied range of approaches to the design and development of our built and natural environment, from policy formulation to the detailed design. Our programmes will prepare you for professional careers, will help you build specialised knowledge and skills, and will equip you to deal with complex challenges in a changing, globalised world. In our programmes, the depth of specialised knowledge combines with the breadth of interdisciplinary exploration to produce new ways of understanding and creatively shaping the world.



Members of our academic staff have achieved international renown for their creative work, their research and for their professional achievements. Our programmes are recognised and accredited internationally, and our graduates are held in high esteem around the world. Our School has extensive international networks and a diverse staff and student cohort. At the same time there is a strong sense of community. Our Richview campus allows students from all over the world to feel at home, even as they extend the horizons of their knowledge and their capacities.

Associate Professor Oliver Kinnane, Head Of School  
UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy



# WHY CHOOSE THE UCD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY?

The School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy graduate taught programmes cover all aspects of the practice of architecture as well as advanced areas of conservation design, sustainability, history, urbanism, planning and environmental policy.



UCD's Architecture degree is accredited by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI), and by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). It also has International Certification status with the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) in the USA.



Unique facilities in an historical building on Belfield campus with dedicated design studios, workshop, building laboratory, computer labs and exhibition space available for students



The RIBA Gold Medal, the world's most prestigious architecture award, has been won by 2 UCD Architecture adjunct professors (2015) and 2 UCD Architecture alumni (2020)



Home to Ireland's best Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Planning library



International study opportunities



Member of the Association of European Schools of Planning



Exposed to instruction from world renowned architectural practices and international leading experts on policy design



Ireland's Leading Research Centre in Spatial Planning and Environmental Policy



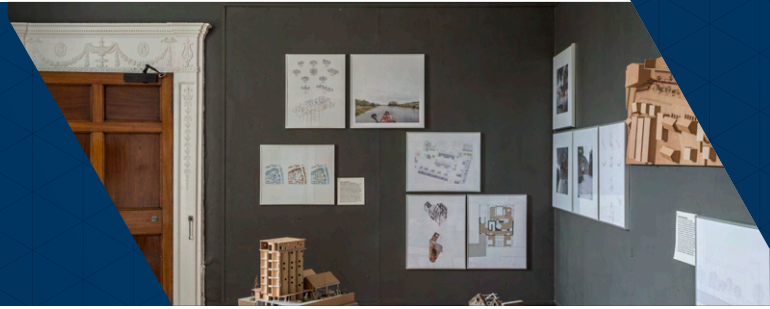
Planning programmes accredited by the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)



UCD is ranked number one in Ireland and 49th in the world for sustainability according to the QS World University Rankings.

# Master of Architecture

## Two Years Full Time (September start)



### Introduction

In 2011, the UCD School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy celebrated its centenary. The School has long led the way in architectural study and practice in Ireland. Its undergraduate, graduate and research programmes cover all aspects of the practice of architecture and landscape architecture, as well as advanced areas of conservation, sustainability, urbanism and history and theory. The MArch programme equips students to deal with complex design problems in a challenging context. Through studio projects, academic

writing and practical experiments, it develops professional capacities while placing equal emphasis on research and critical enquiry. Its faculty includes many leading figures in architectural practice as well as internationally-recognised researchers.

The programme equips graduates to work in the field of architecture anywhere across the world in architectural practice and in other forms of creative practice as well as in the areas of policy, consultancy and academia.

### Course Highlight

UCD's Architecture degree is accredited by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI), and by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). It also has International Certification status with the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) in the USA.

### Course Content and Structure

- **30 credits**  
taught modules
- **35 credits**  
architectural design
- **40 credits**  
design thesis
- **10 credits**  
major research essay
- **5 credits**  
reflective portfolio module

In Year One, it may be possible for students to spend the Spring Trimester studying in one of our partner architectural schools in Europe, Asia, America or Australia. This is subject to limited availability and with approval from the Erasmus/Exchange Co-ordinator. Students may inquire about this option on registration to the Programme.

#### Core modules include:

- Architectural Design VII - Comprehensive Design Studio
- Architectural Design VIII
- Design Technologies I
- Research and Innovation in the Designed Environment I
- Research and Innovation in the Designed Environment II
- Professional Studies - II
- Design Thesis I
- Design Thesis II
- Major Research Essay
- Reflective Portfolio Module

### Why study at UCD?



#### Tradition

Established 1854, with over 170 years of teaching & research excellence



#### Employability

UCD is ranked in the top 100 worldwide at 88th globally for employability outcomes for graduating students.



#### Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



#### Global careers

Dedicated careers support; 2-year stayback visa to work in Ireland



University College Dublin

NAAB International Certification 2018–2029

National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc.  
NAAB





## Career Opportunities

The MArch qualification is RIAI (and European Union) and RIBA accredited. It will equip graduates to work in architecture anywhere across the world, whether in major global centres or in particular regional contexts. This Master's course offers unrivalled opportunities to graduates. Graduates are involved in architectural practice and in other forms of professional creative practice, as well as in areas of policy and consultancy. Many graduates also go on to further postgraduate study, in UCD and elsewhere. Past students in the course's connected programmes have gone on to become international or national experts in their selected fields.

## Graduate Profile



Chloe Loh  
Wellcome Trust

After completing my three year undergraduate in the UK I spent three years working for different architectural practices in London before deciding to do my master's. An important element distinguishing UCD from other universities is its research-based approach to most modules. These modules allow students to investigate their own interests and develop them into written arguments or effective design proposals; students at UCD are thus encouraged to be self-directed. This is something that has allowed me to project my personal interests into every project and to develop my own style and design method – an important characteristic distinguishing UCD from many other schools. It is a small course quietly producing talented and careful architects, where staff are open to nurturing the ideas of students, both in and outside of the studio environment.

## Applicant Profile

- Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree in architecture or another approved equivalent degree with a minimum of upper second class honours (NFQ Level 8) or international equivalent.
- Portfolio Submission is essential.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.
- Students who do not meet the IELTS requirement may wish to consider taking the Pre-Sessional or Pre-Masters Pathway. Full details <https://www.ucd.ie/alc/programmes/pathways/>

### International Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees). Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see [www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/](http://www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/) for further information.

### Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- Master of Regional & Urban Planning
- MSc Urban Design & Planning
- MSc Global Change Landscape Design
- MSc Smart & Climate Neutral Cities
- MSc Architecture, Urbanism & Climate Action

### CONTACT US

**Website:** [www.ucd.ie/eacollege/contact/](http://www.ucd.ie/eacollege/contact/) or [www.ucd.ie/global/enquire/](http://www.ucd.ie/global/enquire/)  
**Irish/EU Students** – Katie O'Neill **E:** [katie.oneill@ucd.ie](mailto:katie.oneill@ucd.ie) **T:** +353 1 7161781  
**International Students** – E: [eamarketing@ucd.ie](mailto:eamarketing@ucd.ie) **T:** +353 1 7161802

### APPLY NOW

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# MSc Architecture, Urbanism & Climate Action

## One Year Full Time (September start)



## Introduction

Urban environments and their buildings are placing unprecedented stress on earth system processes, while simultaneously being critical sites for climate action. The MSc in Architecture, Urbanism and Climate Action (MAUCA) programme equips graduates and returning professionals with specialist skills to respond to the challenge of planning, designing, and realising a resilient and sustainable built environment. The School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy (APEP) brings together four key disciplines to provide a unique graduate learning experience. Core modules are specifically designed to enhance knowledge of climate science and policy, GIS, systems thinking, and environmental ethics, as well as to develop skills for low carbon,

sustainable and inclusive building and urban design. Optional modules have been selected from a wide range of schools across UCD, including Architecture, Planning, Environmental Policy, Geography, Biosystems Engineering, Economics and Law. Students undertake a Linked Research Project in the summer trimester that offers 3 options: developing individual research studies through a thesis; a placement on a prestigious EU or nationally funded collaborative research project within UCD on a relevant topic; or a placement with a company leading the agenda on low-carbon, sustainable building and urban design. Many students have continued to work for their placement research projects or companies after graduating.

## Course Highlight

The UCD School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy has an established international track record as a leading research centre in sustainable building and city research with large national and international funded projects.

UCD is ranked number one in Ireland and 49th in the world for sustainability according to the QS World University Rankings.

## Course Content and Structure

### 90 credit taught masters

#### Core modules include:

- Climate, Carbon, Cities and Change
- Architecture in a Climate Emergency
- Geodesign for Urban Futures
- Urban Resilience and Ethics
- Research for Environmental Policy

#### Optional modules include:

- Realising Built Projects
- Street Life: Urban Design, an Introduction
- Postgraduate Studio
- Retrofit Existing Buildings
- Energy Systems & Sustainable Environments
- Environmental Economics & Climate Policy
- Practical Environmental Assessment
- Behavioural Economics: Policy Applications
- Carbon & Sustainability
- Urban Design Studio
- Agency: Design / Build
- Air Pollution
- Tools for Sustainable Development
- Reimagining Dublin
- Remote Sensing
- Coastal Risks
- Climate Change Law and Policy
- GIS Principles and Applications
- Planning Institutions and Governance
- Geostatistics and Programming for GIS
- Advanced GIS Applications
- Environment and Sustainability
- Planning, Design and Development
- Rural and Landscape Planning
- Placemaking and Conservation
- Rural Placemaking

## Why study at UCD?



### Tradition

Established 1854, with over 170 years of teaching & research excellence



### Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Employability

UCD is ranked in the top 100 worldwide at 88th globally for employability outcomes for graduating students.



### Global careers

Dedicated careers support; 2-year stayback visa to work in Ireland







UCD.TG.T339.2026.A

## Career Opportunities

This MSc gives students a unique set of skills to allow them stay ahead of the curve and apply for exciting and fulfilling job opportunities in rapidly expanding sectors in which there is a growing demand. Potential careers include in low carbon and sustainable architecture, landscape architecture and urban design; strategic design and change management; policy and governance; and environmental, building or energy engineering. The MSc can also be a springboard into exciting careers in research and academia. It allows students to pursue further research opportunities into topics covered by the modules, and to contribute to a better understanding of how the building and urban design professions can best respond to the climate and biodiversity emergencies in an uncertain future. High achieving graduates of the course have gone on to doctoral studies in UCD, either via in-house opportunities on EU funded projects or through national funding schemes from the Irish Research Council.

## Graduate Profile



**Sawsan Bassalat**  
Research Assistant,  
University College Dublin

## Applicant Profile

- Applicants must hold a primary undergraduate degree with a minimum upper second class honours (NFQ level 8; minimum GPA 3.08) or international equivalent in subjects related to the built environment including architecture, urban design, engineering, environmental sciences, or humanity degrees involving social or natural sciences.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.
- Students who do not meet the IELTS requirement may wish to consider taking the Pre-Sessional or Pre-Masters Pathway. Full details <https://www.ucd.ie/alc/programmes/pathway>.

### International Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees). Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see [www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/](http://www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/) for further information.

### Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- ME Energy Systems
- Master of Architecture
- MSc Environmental Technology
- MSc Urban Design & Planning
- MSc Sustainable Energy & Green Technologies

I chose MAUCA because it promised a comprehensive perspective on the built environment with a focus on sustainability, and it truly delivered. The programme brought together individuals from around the world, enriching discussions with diverse viewpoints and fostering creativity through fresh perspectives.

MAUCA provided new insights into the built environment, covering sustainable design, environmental justice, and climate emergency through a wide range of modules from different faculties. The core modules offered specialised knowledge in carbon quantification, research, and environmental ethics, while electives allowed me to explore software tools in parametric modelling, urban planning, and environmental mapping.

MAUCA not only deepened my architectural knowledge but also opened new career paths I had not previously considered. I highly recommend it to anyone seeking specialised skills in these areas.

## CONTACT US

**Website:** [www.ucd.ie/eacollege/contact/](http://www.ucd.ie/eacollege/contact/) or [www.ucd.ie/global/enquire/](http://www.ucd.ie/global/enquire/)  
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**International Students** – E: [eamarketing@ucd.ie](mailto:eamarketing@ucd.ie) **T:** +353 1 7161802

## APPLY NOW

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# Master of Regional & Urban Planning

One Year Full-Time / Two Years Part-Time (September start)



## Introduction

In today's complex and rapidly changing world, with the threats posed by climate change, economic crisis, energy security and rapid urban growth, planners face the challenge of creating places that combine environmental quality with a vibrant economy, quality of life and distributive justice.

This one-year professional planning degree develops the requisite conceptual knowledge and practical skills required by planners in this increasingly complex environment. Students will develop an understanding of the administrative, legal and policy frameworks

in which spatial planning operates and the social, political, economic and environmental challenges facing planning. In addition, students develop practical skills for plan and policy making, including environmental assessment, retail assessment, public participation methods, development and project management, and GIS. Students will also engage with understanding the role of planning in public policy and sustainability and can avail of independent research or internship opportunities which are assigned on a competitive basis.

## Course Highlight

The UCD School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy has an established international track record as a leading research centre in spatial planning and is in the Top 150 QS World University Rankings by subject area. The School is a member of the Association of European Schools of Planning.

## Course Content and Structure

• **90 credits**  
taught masters

• **60 credits**  
taught modules

• **30 credits**  
research project

or

• **30 credits**  
planning practice internship  
& practice project

The MRUP actively engages students in their own learning utilising a mix of lectures, workshops, group projects in a studio setting, field trips, regular student presentations, and independent research.

### Internship or Research Project

Students may choose to undertake an independent research project or an internship during the summer trimester (subject to availability).

## Modules include:

### Autumn and Spring Trimester

- Planning Institutions and Governance
- Planning Methods, Skills & Techniques
- Planning, Design and Development
- Environment and Sustainability
- Planning Studio: Plan Making

### One elective which may include:

- Healthy and Sustainable Communities
- Sustainable Cities
- Rural and Landscape Planning
- Placemaking and Conservation
- Advanced GIS
- Planning for Nature

### Summer Trimester

- Thesis OR Internship & practice project

Please note that internships are assigned on a competitive basis and the number of internships available in any given year may vary. Students who are not offered an internship will be required to undertake the Thesis module as an alternative.

\* Please note that modules may be subject to change.

## Why study at UCD?



### Tradition

Established 1854, with over 170 years of teaching & research excellence



### Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Employability

UCD is ranked in the top 100 worldwide at 88th globally for employability outcomes for graduating students.



### Global careers

Dedicated careers support; 2-year stayback visa to work in Ireland



**RTPI**

Accredited Planning Programme





## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the MRUP are to be found working as professional planners in the public and private sector, as GIS consultants, as policy advisors, property development consultants, and as community & rural development coordinators. Our graduates have found employment with: national and international planning agencies, government departments, local authorities including urban and rural authorities in Ireland, the UK, Australia and New Zealand; transportation agencies including the National Transport Authority; planning consultancy firms including Tom Philips and Associates, Brock McClure Associates, KPMG Future Analytics; urban regeneration companies, large house builders including Glenveagh Properties; wind and solar energy companies including Eirgrid and ABO Wind, and environmental NGOs including An Taisce.

## Graduate Profile



**Ciara Shevlin**  
South Dublin County Council

I graduated from the Master of Regional and Urban Planning in UCD in 2022. Although I had no previous academic experience of planning, it was something I was always drawn to. During my undergraduate degree I took part in an Erasmus year in Utrecht. During this time, I realised the differences in how cities operate and their different housing and transportation systems. This led me to decide to apply for the Masters in UCD to pursue a future career in planning. The modules on the MRUP were a great way to introduce students who did not come from planning backgrounds to gain a rounded understanding of the planning system in Ireland. This knowledge really helped me to understand national, regional and local policies which were then utilised in modules such as Placemaking and Plan Making. I personally really enjoyed the Plan Making module as it allowed students to utilise their academic knowledge of planning policy to create new policies, objectives and ideas for the chosen case study sites. The MRUP provided students with opportunities to network throughout with guest speakers from the planning institutes and private and public sector planning organisations. These talks and events were really helpful to see the range of career possibilities which are available to you as a planner, of which there are plenty! I partook in a summer internship in a private planning consultancy and accepted a permanent position with the consultancy the following year. I now work as a planner in South Dublin County Council on the Development Management Team, making decisions on planning applications in the county.

## Applicant Profile

- Applicants must hold a minimum upper second class honours or international equivalence in a cognate discipline including Geography, Sociology, Economics, Politics, Social Science, Law, Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Property Economics, Surveying and/or equivalent relevant professional experience. Those with other degree qualifications may apply but will be required to undertake an interview.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.
- Students who do not meet the IELTS requirement may wish to consider taking the Pre-Sessional or Pre-Masters Pathway. Full details <https://www.ucd.ie/alc/programmes/pathways>

### International Fees & Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees). Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see <https://www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/> for further information.

### Part-time Option (T418)

The part-time mode of study involves attendance at approximately 6-9 hours of daytime classes (lectures, studio, etc.) per week in autumn and spring trimesters, generally spread across one and a half working days per week (depending on module selection). Please note that modules are generally delivered face-to-face on UCD's Richview Campus.

### Related Masters Programmes

- MSc Urban Design and Planning
- MSc Environmental Policy
- MSc Applied Environmental Science

## CONTACT US

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**International Students** – **E:** [eamarketing@ucd.ie](mailto:eamarketing@ucd.ie) **T:** +353 1 7161802

## APPLY NOW

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# MSc Urban Design and Planning

One Year Full Time (September start)



## Introduction

Urban design lies at the interface of architecture and urban planning, with both disciplines contributing contrasting but complementary approaches to urban design theory and practice. The delivery of this master's programme draws on the distinct methodologies, professional perspectives and pedagogies of both urban planning and architectural disciplinary areas within the school. It provides specialist knowledge and skills in urban design theory and practice, urban conservation, placemaking, urban resilience, planning methods and techniques, and the role of research in urban design. The programme will enable graduates to work as part of a multidisciplinary team to create better places through urban design. Students will also have the opportunity to draw upon the School's research

expertise to place urban design at the centre stage in tackling a range of pressing environmental and other issues.

The programme will appeal to graduates from closely related disciplinary backgrounds wishing to specialise in urban design, including those with qualifications in architecture, landscape architecture, and planning. Applications will also be considered from graduates with other related disciplinary backgrounds (e.g. geography, engineering, property economics, surveying) where the applicant has a particular interest in the specialist area of urban design (as opposed to planning more broadly). This programme is accredited as a specialist qualification by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

## Course Highlight

The UCD School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy has an established international track record as a leading research centre in spatial planning. The School is a member of the Association of European Schools of Planning.

## Course Content and Structure

### • 90 total credits

### • 60 credits taught modules

### • 30 credits thesis/design thesis/internship

All students undertake modules worth 90 credits. These establish the context and theory for urban design, provide the opportunity for engagement with core themes within a studio-based context, introduce key skills, and allow students to pursue their own specialist interest through the completion of a research thesis. Please note that some modules listed may not be available in a given year.

### Modules include:

- Postgraduate Studio
- Street Life: Urban Design, an Introduction
- Thesis or Design Thesis or Internship
- Urban Design Studio
- Conservation and Placemaking
- Urban Resilience and Ethics
- Planning Methods, Skills & Techniques

## Why study at UCD?



### Tradition

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### Global profile

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### Employability

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### Global careers

Dedicated careers support; 2-year stayback visa to work in Ireland



**RTPI**

Accredited Planning Programme





UCD.TG.W332.2026.A

## Career Opportunities

The MSc Urban Design and Planning is aimed at graduates from related disciplinary and professional backgrounds wishing to specialise in urban design. The programme is therefore designed to train, mentor and support graduates in developing their specialist knowledge and understanding, along with transferable skills and tools, for careers related to the field. These include roles in the public, private and community sectors, including planning and urban design consultancies, local authorities, development firms, regeneration companies, environmental and other NGOs, as well as research and teaching.

## Graduate Profile



Róisín Cahill  
Henry J Lyons; C-NEWTRAL at UNIBO

"The MSc in Urban Design and Planning is well balanced in both structure and content providing a strong foundation for the workplace. I found the masters supportive of developing a range of skills and interests throughout each term. The design studio modules provide a space for testing and investigating the learnings from the theory modules. The final term thesis allows for an in-depth study into an area of interest that you have already explored through theory and studio modules in the previous terms. The mixed disciplinary faculty and students in the programme offer additional perspectives and knowledge while regular in class presentations allow for strengthening graphic communication and presentation skills. Since graduating, the critical analysis and graphic communication skills I developed during my master's in UCD have been a great benefit in my past role as Sustainability Coordinator of an Irish architectural practice, and in my current studies as a C-NEWTRAL Marie Curie Doctoral Candidate in Bologna, Italy."

## Applicant Profile

- Applicants must hold a primary degree with minimum upper second class honours award (NFQ level 8) or international equivalent in planning, architecture or landscape architecture. Applications from graduates with a degree in another related subject area will also be considered, including geography, engineering, property economics, and surveying.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.
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### Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- Master of Regional & Urban Planning
- MSc Environmental Policy

## CONTACT US

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**Irish/EU Students** – Katie O'Neill **E:** [katie.oneill@ucd.ie](mailto:katie.oneill@ucd.ie) **T:** +353 1 7161781  
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## APPLY NOW

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# MSc in Global Change Landscape Design

## One Year Full-Time (September start)



## Introduction

Global [climate] change is altering everything—everywhere in the world. We are faced with necessary challenges relating to the design and engineering of our surrounding environments and landscape.

The landscape and its functions, its ecosystem services and its appearance, will inevitably change.

As climate change adaptation accelerates, e.g. through the global energy transition away from fossil fuels and the associated creation of new industries, the urban, peri-urban and rural environment will become a large-scale powerhouse. At the same time, the underlying landscape with its structures, soils, peatlands, wetlands, forests and oceans must

be supported in its function as an important global carbon sink. The landscape as such will become a global infrastructure element that will accommodate new industries, new settlements and decentralized production of renewable energy. Large and massive elements will dominate the landscape, such as wind farms, solar parks, battery parks, power lines, substations, biomass production, transport routes, new industrial zones, new residential areas, etc. All of this must be carefully considered and intelligently designed.

This is the only way to ensure sustainable future development that enables functioning ecosystems and affluent societies to coexist.

## Course Highlight

This programme is offered by UCD, a university ranked in the top 1% of universities worldwide. Ireland is the only country within the European Union (EU) whose first language is English, and the UCD degree in Landscape Architecture is the only one in Ireland that offers access to the title of Landscape Architect. The Master's programme in Global Change Landscape Design offers professional experience as an embedded programme component in the third trimester, providing a unique path to career entry after graduation.

## Course Content and Structure

### • 90 credits

taught masters

### • 60 credits

of taught modules

### • 30 credits

internship

### Core modules include:

- Research-By-Design Studios A and B
- Landscape Research
- Geodesign For Urban Futures
- Water, Soil & Vegetation
- Fieldwork

### Live Learning:

This programme offers students the opportunity to complete a 1-trimester work placement, where students' technical and business knowledge can be applied and developed in a dynamic real-world setting. This creates a seamless transition between masters studies and subsequent professional life, which is very attractive for students and future employers.

### Face-to-Face:

The programme is taught face-to-face and takes place primarily in the inspiring and interactive environment of two design studios. This form of conveying creative content offers the opportunity for transdisciplinary work and network building that can last a lifetime.

## Why study at UCD?



### Tradition

Established 1854, with over 170 years of teaching & research excellence



### Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Employability

UCD is ranked in the top 100 worldwide at 88th globally for employability outcomes for graduating students.

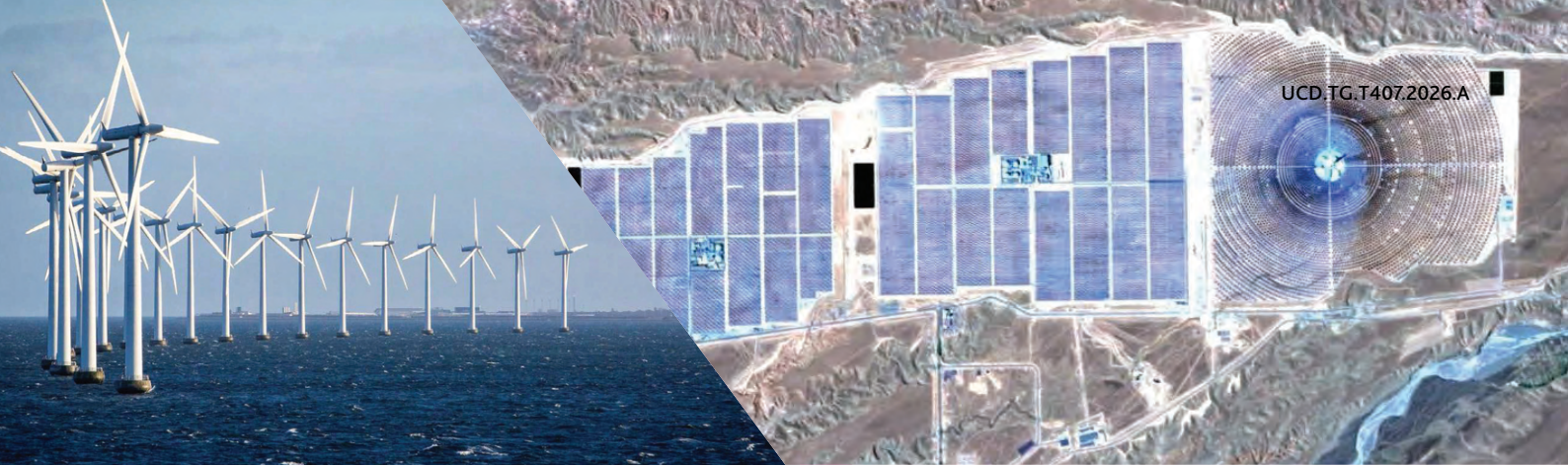


### Global careers

Dedicated careers support; 2-year stayback visa to work in Ireland







## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the program literally have the world at their feet. Global change creates needs and opportunities that are only now fully unfolding. Medium and large offices and global consulting firms are looking for landscape specialists who can understand, assess and design the future landscape. This is not just limited to the world's land masses, but also includes the oceans, where large offshore industries (e.g. wind power) are emerging.

Specifically, graduates will have a skill set affording opportunities to work in a variety of industries and companies, including:

- **Landscape Architecture/Urban Planning firms** - SWA Group, ARUP, AECOM, Hargreaves Associates
- **Environmental Consultancy firms** - MKO, ERM, Tetra Tech, Jacobs
- **Real Estate Development companies** - Remcoll, LDA, Lendlease
- **Government agencies** - European Environment Agency (EEA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- **Non-Profit Organizations** - European Landscape Convention (ELC), Irish Environmental Network, Heritage Council of Ireland

## Programme Director



Joerg Rekittke

"As academics, programme directors, and programme team, we dedicate ourselves with enthusiasm and all our creative strength to the greatest challenge that humanity has ever faced: global climate change and its overwhelming consequences that will change everything in the world. The landscape, the ecosystems, the flora, the fauna, the economy, the cities, the societies – everything. As a landscape architect and designer, I know that we have always stood and worked on the right side, outdoors, where the forces of nature work.

The current accumulation of crises renders clearer than ever what we have to tackle and do. All essential tasks of future landscape design are directly related to the requirements of man-made global change. We can't wait for anything anymore, we have to act now, design now, and implement now."

## Applicant Profile

- An honours undergraduate degree (NQF Level 8) with a minimum upper second class honours or international equivalence in a relevant programme including Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Urban Design, Interior Design or any other Creative Studies in a cognate discipline may apply.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.
- Portfolio submission is essential

### International Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees). Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see [www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/](http://www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/) for further information.

### Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- Masters of Environmental Policy
- MSc Urban Design and Planning
- Masters of Regional and Urban Planning

## CONTACT US

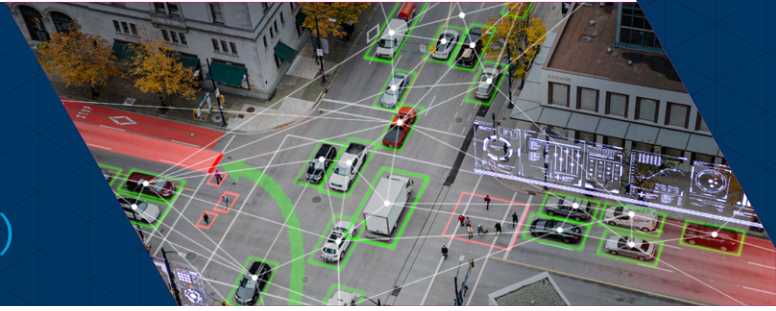
**Website:** [www.ucd.ie/eacollege/contact/](http://www.ucd.ie/eacollege/contact/) or [www.ucd.ie/global/enquire/](http://www.ucd.ie/global/enquire/)  
**Irish/EU Students** – Katie O'Neill **E:** [katie.oneill@ucd.ie](mailto:katie.oneill@ucd.ie) **T:** +353 1 7161781  
**International Students** – E: [eamarketing@ucd.ie](mailto:eamarketing@ucd.ie) **T:** +353 1 7161802

## APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at [www.ucd.ie/apply](http://www.ucd.ie/apply)

# MSc in Smart and Climate-Neutral Cities

## One Year Full-Time (September start)



## Introduction

Cities play a pivotal role in achieving climate neutrality by 2050, the goal of the European Green Deal. They take up only 4% of the EU's land area, but they are home to 75% of EU citizens.

Furthermore, cities consume over 65% of the world's energy and account for more than 70% of global CO2 emissions.

Since climate mitigation is heavily dependent on urban action, we need to support cities in accelerating their green and digital transformation.

In particular, European cities can substantially contribute to the Green Deal target of reducing emissions by 55% by 2030 and, in more practical terms, to offer cleaner air,

safer transport and less congestion and noise to their citizens.

Cities though are currently struggling to develop coherent plans on how to achieve these ambitious but necessary targets because of the lack of relevant inter- and trans- disciplinary skills to tackle wicked long term sustainability challenges.

The MSc in Smart and Climate-Neutral Cities is aiming to provide this inter- and trans-disciplinary knowledge to a new generation of skilled workforce to meet the goals of the smart cities and climate adaptation missions by contributing to a decrease of harmful industrial emissions while favouring renewable energy sources.

## Course Highlight

This programme is delivered by a highly research-intensive school, which is in the top 150 in the QS world subject rankings. An example of this research activity is the coordination of the €13 million EU Horizon Europe REALLOCATE, to transform streets into inclusive, green, safe and future-proof urban spaces, where communities live and thrive. The project enables researchers, mobility experts, urban planners and local citizens to collectively re-imagine our cities and redesign how we move from one place to another.

## Course Content and Structure

### • 90 credit masters:

### • 60 credits of taught modules

and

### • 30 credit thesis

### Modules may include:

- Planning Studio: Plan Making
- Smart climate neutral cities
- Advanced GIS
- Healthy and Sust. Communities
- Street Life: Urban Design, an Introduction
- Climate Carbon Cities Change
- Geodesign for Urban Futures
- Citizen Science
- Planning Methods, Skills & Techniques
- Urban Resilience and Ethics
- Sustainable Cities
- Environment & Sustainability

This programme offers students the opportunity to work on an established research project with experienced researchers in the fields of smart cities, climate neutral cities, spatial data analysis or related areas including: urban planning, climate action, participatory planning, citizen science, environmental studies, climate change impact, circular cities, sustainable mobility.

Modules are delivered in real-time to full-time students and made available online (via online material) to off-site learners.

## Why study at UCD?



### Tradition

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### Employability

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### Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Global careers

Dedicated careers support; 2-year stayback visa to work in Ireland







## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the programme will have a pivotal role in making cities in Europe and worldwide climate neutral. Medium and large organisations and global consulting firms are looking for specialists who can understand how to use technology and engage citizens and stakeholders in making cities more resilient to climate change and reduce their carbon footprint.

Specifically, graduates will have a skill set affording opportunities to work in a variety of industries and companies, including:

- **Urban Planning firms:** ARUP, AECOM, Tom Phillips Associates
- **Sustainability Consultancy firms:** Jacobs, AWN, Deloitte
- **Government agencies** European Environment Agency (EEA), Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- **Non-Profit Organizations** CODEMA, Irish Environmental Network

## Programme Director



Prof. Francesco Pilla

"The MSc in Smart and Climate-Neutral Cities is aiming to provide inter- and trans-disciplinary knowledge to a new generation of skilled workforce to support cities in accelerating their green and digital transformation. Although this degree is new within UCD, Smart and Climate-Neutral Cities is recognised as one of the most critically important technical disciplines supporting cities in their green and digital transition. The MSc programme provides students with an understanding of the tools that digitise data capture relating to the environment and activity (sensor technologies and systems), work with environmental and spatial data to gain insights, share the resulting information with practitioners and local communities and engage actors and stakeholders in the development of greener urban solutions."

## Entry Requirements

- Level 8. GPA 3.08
- Undergraduate degree in subjects related to the built environment including urban design, urban planning, engineering, computer science, environmental and natural sciences, or humanities and social sciences.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

## International Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees). Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see [www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/](http://www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/) for further information.

## Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- Masters of Environmental Policy
- MSc Urban Design and Planning
- Masters of Regional and Urban Planning

### CONTACT US

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### APPLY NOW

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# MSc Environmental Policy

## One Year Full Time / Two Years Part Time



## Introduction

Societies, governments, and businesses across the globe are faced with increasingly complex environmental challenges, in areas such as climate change and adaptation and local environmental quality in our cities and regions. The UCD MSc in Environmental Policy arms graduates with the capacity to develop environmental policy choices, analyse them critically, and to provide guidance in regard to their implementation and evaluation. The programme introduces graduates to research based economic and environmental policy instruments and insights to enable graduates

to be effective change management leaders and environmental and sustainability experts in both the public and private sectors. Also, for professionals who want to balance their passion for the environment while advancing their career this programme is offered as a two-year part-time degree. The part-time program is scheduled to be completed over two years with one or two modules (10 credits per module) per semester. Part-time students join the full-time students for the classes and hence can meet two cohorts of the full-time MSc programme.

## Course Highlight

UCD Environmental Policy has an established international track record as a leading research centre in environmental policy and is in the Top 200 QS World University Rankings by subject area. Students may also chose to undertake either a thesis, an internship, or an academic research project during the Summer trimester.

## Course Content and Structure

- **90 total credits**
- **60 credits** taught modules
- **30 credits** internship, academic research project or thesis

All students undertake 90 credits across a range of modules that help them develop foundational knowledge and skills in policymaking, and equip them to employ these new skills to manage a diverse range of contemporary environmental challenges. In addition to taught modules, students undertake a practice-based studio module, and can also pursue their own specialist interest through completion of a thesis, an internship, or an academic research project.

Part time students have 4 trimesters to complete the 6 taught modules and complete their Thesis/internship/ Research Project in the summer of the second year.

### Core Modules include

- Sustainability Lab
- Strategic Corporate Sustainability
- European Environmental Policy
- Environmental & Behavioural Economics
- Evidence-based Decisions & Communication
- Applications of Environmental Policy & Regulation

Please see [www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies) for full module descriptions.

## Why study at UCD?



### Tradition

Established 1854, with over 170 years of teaching & research excellence



### Employability

UCD is ranked in the top 100 worldwide at 88th globally for employability outcomes for graduating students.



### Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Global careers

Dedicated careers support; 2-year stayback visa to work in Ireland

*\* The accredited version of this programme, MSc Environmental Policy (W271) is a 'Specialist Degree' accredited by the UK's Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and is only available to UCD students progressing from UCD's City Planning & Environmental Policy degree. All other eligible applicants should apply for the non - accredited version, MSc Environmental Policy (W269 FT / W580 PT)*



## Career Opportunities

To date, our graduates have been very successful in gaining employment in environment related fields in a diverse range of public and private organisations and NGOs. Recent graduates are now working nationally and internationally for example at Ernst & Young, KPMG, Arup, EnvEcon, ERM, Environmental Efficiency, MyCarbon, AECOM, Kingspan, ERINN Innovation, Wind Energy Ireland, Irish Water, IDA Ireland, Irish Green Building Council, An Post, An Taisce, daa, CRH, European Climate Foundation, and County Councils. The alumni are working in a range of environmental positions such as Sustainability Analyst, Graduate Sustainability Consultant, Sustainability Project Officer, Agricultural Social Researcher, Senior Energy Consultant, Risk Consulting Associate, Carbon Consultant, Sustainable Construction Officer, and Transport Analytics Executive. Our graduates have also gone on to pursue further study (PhDs).

## Graduate Profile



**Jack Henry**  
Charging and Regulation  
Specialist, EirGrid

I chose the Programme to gain a broader understanding of key environmental challenges, develop a global network and gather skills that would be sector relevant as a sustainability professional in the Irish economy.

In the programme I gained a strong understanding of EU environmental Policy, this exposure and training has provided me with the opportunity bring my policy expertise to help guide strategy in both the transport and renewable energy sectors.

I have worked in the sustainable transportation sector (at both AnPost and Hertz Europe), focusing on EV technology, strategy and planning for over 4 years, and have informed sustainability strategies both nationally and internationally. I am now working on renewable energy policy, on large scale solar, and offshore wind infrastructure projects for EirGrid.

I would highly recommend this programme for anyone who aims to develop a strong network, is passionate about climate change and aims to gather the confidence to make an impact.

## Applicant Profile

- Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree with a minimum upper second class honours (NQF level 8) or international equivalent in a social science or a cognate discipline such as environmental science, law, business or engineering.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.
- Students who do not meet the IELTS requirement may wish to consider taking the Pre-Sessional or Pre-Masters Pathway. Full details <https://www.ucd.ie/alc/programmes/pathways/>

### International Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees). Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see [www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/](http://www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships/) for further information.

### Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- Masters of Regional & Urban Planning
- MSc Environmental Science
- MSc Urban Design & Planning

## CONTACT US

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## APPLY NOW

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# Professional Diploma Architecture

## One Year/ Two Years Part Time (January start)



## Introduction

Architecture is a regulated profession. The Professional Diploma (Architecture) is the final professional examination for architectural graduates, and is required for entry to the statutory Register for Architects in Ireland, and in order to use the title 'architect'.

It is also required for recognition of Irish architects' qualifications in EU member states and in the United Kingdom. The UCD Diploma is part-time, taken over one or

two years (up to four trimesters) during, or after, the time when an architectural graduate completes a minimum 24 months of professional practical experience under supervision.

The programme provides a context and support to architectural graduates as they develop through professional training, and progress into leadership roles. Graduates arrange their own practice placements, in Ireland or abroad.

## Course Highlight

UCD Architecture has a long track record in professional education and training. The Diploma programme is designed to be current, relevant, and useful for an architectural graduate developing a professional career in the construction sector, by enabling them to become fully conversant in industry-specific culture, practices, procedures, and statutory requirements.

## Course Content and Structure

• **30 credit** postgraduate diploma (part time), with five modules.

- In the Spring trimester, the foundation modules of Architectural Practice, Construction Legislation, and Procurement & Contracts take place over 12 full days of the academic teaching term. The lecture course is delivered in-person on the UCD campus. Lecture recordings, learning material and readings will also be available to students. Teaching is by UCD academic staff, practicing architects and other professionals with expertise in critical subject areas.
- The Architectural Practice module is an introduction to practice, the profession, ethics, client relationships, design team leadership, resource and finance management, professional risk and liability, communications, record-keeping, sustainability, and sectoral change. The Construction Legislation and Procurement & Contracts modules include the full body of knowledge necessary for practice

and project delivery, from inception to completion including current policy and standards, markets and economic conditions, law, regulatory requirements and procedures (Planning, Building Control, Health & Safety), Construction Procurement, Project Management, Contracts and Contract Administration, etc.

- After taking the lecture modules in Spring, graduates take the Case Study and Practical Experience modules together in one of the following three trimesters. The Case Study module is a dissertation with analysis of a completed construction project, in which the graduate has been closely involved. Graduates are also required to provide evidence and personal reflection and assessment of a min 24 months professional experience in architectural practice.

## Why study at UCD?



### Tradition

Established 1854, with over 170 years of teaching & research excellence



### Employability

UCD is ranked in the top 100 worldwide at 88th globally for employability outcomes for graduating students.



### Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Global careers

Dedicated careers support; 2-year stayback visa to work in Ireland



*\*Applications for this programme will open again in the spring of 2026.*





## Career Opportunities

The Professional Diploma (Architecture) is the third and final stage in the training of an architect, leading to entry to the Register for Architects, the legal use of the title 'architect', and mutual recognition of professional qualifications in EU member states (for EU citizens). On completion of the Diploma, graduates progress to an independent professional role.

## Facilities & Resources

- The School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy includes The Richview Library, which is the largest architecture library in Ireland.
- Learning Material is available to students through Brightspace, UCD's virtual learning platform.

## Programme Outcomes:

- Appreciate and understand the historical, social, environmental, legislative and economic context in which the built environment is procured, and show critical awareness of current problems/ new insights.
- Research a broad range of professional, legal, regulatory and contractual topics using a range of research skills and have an ability to acquire and apply the relevant 'body of knowledge' in the profession of architecture.
- Communicate with clients, professionals, industry and community stakeholders, organise projects and lead teams, including an ability to provide disinterested advice and to produce professional reports and surveys.
- Self-evaluate, to identify personal and professional limitations and to take responsibility for continuing academic/ professional development.
- Demonstrate adequate knowledge of the industries, organisations, regulations and procedures involved in translating design concepts into buildings.
- Synthesise information, to formulate professional advice, and to apply knowledge to specific problems often in unpredictable and ill-defined contexts.
- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, competence and professionalism required for independent practice as an architect in Ireland.

## Entry Requirements

- This course is only available to graduates of B.Arch/ M.Arch or equivalent approved 5-year qualification in architecture.
- Graduates will be required to have a minimum of 24 months professional experience in architectural practice at the time that they complete the Practical Experience module.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

## Programme Director



**Orla Hegarty**  
School of Architecture,  
Planning & Environmental Policy  
UCD Richview

Practising as a professional architect requires a broad range of knowledge and skill, in addition to development of personal attributes and competence in problem-solving, management, communication and leadership. Architectural graduates in the final stages of their training, learn to synthesise their design skills, ethical values and prior education into the practical matters of leading clients and teams through the entire design and construction process from inception to completion.

### CONTACT US

**Website:** [www.ucd.ie/eacollege/contact/](http://www.ucd.ie/eacollege/contact/) or [www.ucd.ie/global/enquire/](http://www.ucd.ie/global/enquire/)  
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**Programme Administrator** – **E:** [professionalpractice@ucd.ie](mailto:professionalpractice@ucd.ie)

### APPLY NOW

[www.ucd.ie/apply](http://www.ucd.ie/apply)

# ProfDip Foundations of Sustainable Development

1 trimester (Sept start) or 2 Trimesters (Sept or Jan start)

## Introduction

The stability of the Earth as a system is currently at risk as five of the nine planetary boundaries - describing the environmental limits within which humanity as a species may continue to thrive - have now been exceeded. The practice of sustainability is crucial to our management of life under water, life on land, the environment, and for societal health and wellbeing now and in the future. Utilising the digital resources of the SDG Academy and the sustainability expertise of UCD academic staff, the Professional Diploma in Foundations

of Sustainable Development is taught through the lens of the SDGs and has the unique ability to address the large range of issues covered by the 2030 agenda. Ultimately, it will equip students to solve some of the most pressing issues of our times. Students who complete the programme will emerge with a holistic understanding of the core tenets of sustainable development across the four pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals - economic, social, and environmental, and governance.

## Course Highlight

The programme is flexible and delivered online. It also provides students who complete the programme with a pathway for entry onto UCD's online MSc Sustainable Development programme.

## Course Content and Structure

The Professional Diploma in Foundations of Sustainable Development is a 20-credit programme consisting of two core 10- credit module

The programme is fully online ensuring a flexible learning environment for students.

The programme also utilises the best available online sustainability education resources from global experts and is delivered in partnership with the UNSDSN SDG Academy (<https://sdgacademy.org/>)

### Optional modules include:

- **Global classroom:** a module specifically designed to introduce students to sustainable development issues in developed and developing nations across the globe.
- **Fundamentals of Sustainability:** a module comprised of three SDG Academy MOOCs that will be delivered and delivered as an on-demand educational offering via the edX platform (<https://www.edx.org/>).

## Why study at UCD?



### Tradition

Established 1854, with over 170 years of teaching & research excellence



### Global profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Employability

UCD is ranked in the top 100 worldwide at 88th globally for employability outcomes for graduating students.



### Global careers

Dedicated careers support; 2-year stayback visa to work in Ireland







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## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Professional Diploma in Foundations of Sustainable Development may have the following career opportunities:

- As a sustainability expert in corporate entities
- Almost all NGOs now require expertise in sustainability
- Environmental corporate governance (e.g. ESG)
- Education for sustainable development careers
- Sustainability consultant

## Module Coordinator



Prof Patrick Paul Walsh  
VP of Education at SDSN and  
Director of its SDG Academy

"The global labour force needs to re- and upskill at speed to put the world on a pathway to sustainable development, and professionals need to understand the intersection of science, policy, and practice. That's why University College Dublin and the SDG Academy have created this innovative online Master's pathway for all learners across government, corporates and civil society to earn a Professional Diploma in Foundations of Sustainable Development. You can enter the pathway with or without professional experience in the field of sustainable development, and emerge ready to take part in the transition to a sustainable future."

## Entry Requirements

- A primary degree with at least Second Class Honours Grade II (2H2) or equivalent in a relevant subject such as planning, political science, international relations, social science, sociology, history, geography, economics, global studies, public policy, development studies, EU studies, law.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

### Tuition Fees

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees).

### Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- MSc Sustainable Development
- MSc Environmental Policy

### CONTACT US

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### APPLY NOW

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## UCD ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



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