Our postgraduate courses in housing, planning, sustainable development and urban design will equip you with the skills and knowledge to help shape the future of cities and urban life around the world.

Highly regarded by students and employers alike, both within the UK and internationally, the courses are relevant to industry and accredited by professional bodies. The University of Westminster was the UK’s first Habitat Partner University.

The Faculty enjoys an international reputation in research and consultancy, and our staff have close links with practice. As a result, our courses are theoretically based but are also informed by the latest developments in practice. They will provide you with the expertise and experience needed to develop your career in planning, urban design, housing management or regeneration. We also offer single modules in these disciplines, which enable established professionals to broaden or update their knowledge and skills.

As a postgraduate student you will have the opportunity to develop your own specialist expertise while working collaboratively with students from different disciplines and from across the globe.

100% of Urban Design students say as a result of the course they are more confident about independent learning

Source: Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) 2016
This course allows you to fulfil the professional requirements for membership of the Chartered Institute of Housing. The Housing Practice course is a professionally-oriented programme that examines both theoretical and practical issues relevant to housing policy.

Based at our central London Marylebone Campus, it offers you a challenging and reflective course of study which considers the context and background to key debates surrounding housing, regeneration and sustainability.

Course content
The MA core modules examine issues relating to development, finance, law, management, policy and strategy, and offer the opportunity for in-depth research in the Dissertation module.

The overall aim of the course is to enable you to think strategically and operate as a reflective practitioner.

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/housing-practice-ma

Please note: The Housing Practice MA is not running in 2017/18 and will be offered again in 2018/19 with a new and completely renewed structure, which was not available when this Prospectus went to print. Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date information.

HOUSING PRACTICE MA

INTERNATIONAL PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MA

This course is aimed at built environment professionals and others with a relevant background who wish to gain an in-depth understanding of planning and sustainable development, whether to improve career prospects in their country or enter international practice. Through the course you will examine the growing problems of sustainable development facing cities, regions and urban and rural communities in a rapidly urbanising world, subject to growing climate change and other environmental, economic and social pressures and risks.

Based in London, you will have access to internationally recognised experience of spatial planning for sustainable development, and explore contemporary theories, public policy thinking and good practice in planning in both the developed and developing worlds. The University of Westminster is the UK’s first Habitat Partner University. We work with UN-HABITAT and like-minded institutions to promote the socially and environmentally sustainable development of towns, cities and regions, in accordance with the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The MA course is fully accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) as a “combined planning programme”. Those offered a place are eligible for postgraduate scholarships offered by the University.

Course content
This course addresses the growing problems of sustainable development facing cities, regions and urban and rural communities in a rapidly urbanising world. It explores contemporary theories, public policy thinking and good practice in planning that spans both developed and developing world contexts, and offers you the opportunity to explore one area of specialism in a related field in some depth.

There are two RTPI-accredited pathways through the course. The Spatial Planning Pathway has a strong urban design component and an emphasis on the development planning process. The Urban Resilience Pathway provides a sustainable development-focused route with a core emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation planning.

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/international-planning-and-sustainable-development-ma

Core modules for both pathways
- Dissertation or Major Project
- International Spatial Planning Practice
- Planning in a Globalising World
- Research Methods and the Built Environment
- Skills for Planning Practice
- Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods
- Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management

Core module for Spatial Planning Pathway
- Urban Design and Planning Skills

Core module for Urban Resilience Pathway
- Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience

Option modules
- Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change
- Housing and Regeneration
- Public Participation and Engaging Communities
- Public Realm: Significance, Design, Experience

Professional accreditation
The MA course is fully accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) as a ‘combined planning programme’.

Associated careers
Graduates from the course may secure promotion within their existing or a new related area of work. Graduates from this course can expect to find employment as planners or urban designers, urban regeneration or environmental management specialists in private consultancy, local and national government, and non-governmental sectors in their own country or internationally, including international development agencies.
The MA course will give you the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to practise professionally as a spatial planner. It is designed to meet the growing employer needs for staff who can investigate changes in the natural and built environments, manage the challenges of climate change through sustainable development, and debate and critically reflect upon the knowledge and values underpinning current approaches to land use development. Completion of the MA course is the first step to become a full member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

The course will support your personal and professional development. You will be able to work in the interdisciplinary and cross-sector environment of urban and regional development, in a variety of private, public and community contexts, and apply your knowledge to practice in specialist areas of planning. The course builds on the University’s experience of delivering postgraduate courses in town planning for more than 60 years.

If you want to gain a greater understanding of spatial planning, but do not want to study for a full Masters course, we also offer an Urban and Regional Planning Postgraduate Diploma and an Urban and Regional Planning Postgraduate Certificate. Visit our website to find out more about these courses. Alternatively you can study a single module(s) from the Urban and Regional Planning MA course as stand-alone short courses.

Course content
The course explores the current context and content of spatial planning. It does so from a UK and European perspective, and also investigates underlying theoretical debates.

For the award of the MA students need to pass modules totalling 180 credits. Part-time Masters students usually take the equivalent of four 20 credit modules (80 credits) plus the field trip in their first year, and the equivalent of five 20 credit modules (100 credits) in their second year. MA students take all core modules and choose one specialist option module.

Core modules
- Dissertation/Policy Implementation Project
- Making and Managing Places
- Planning Field Trip (non-credit bearing module)
- Planning Theory and Practice One
- Planning Theory and Practice Two
- Research Methods and the Built Environment
- Skills for Planning Practice
- Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods

Option modules
- Housing and Regeneration
- Land Use, Planning and Transport
- Public Realm: Significance, Design, Experience

Professional accreditation
On successful completion of the MA course students can become licentiates of the RTPI. After two years’ experience in practice, they may make a submission for their Assessment of Professional Competence and, if successful, are then entitled to full RTPI membership.

Associated careers
There is demand from government and the private sector for qualified planners. Recent graduates from the full-time course have gone on to work in local government, urban regeneration agencies and into consultancy.

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/urban-and-regional-planning-ma