PART-TIME MSC IN

Sustainable Urban Development

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



A transformative part-time master's with Oxford University

DISCOVER URBAN SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND JUST FUTURE

Welcome

Join a knowledgeable global community tackling world-scale problems with local impacts.

Address the critical, urgent challenges we face to make our cities more liveable, just and sustainable in a challenging global environment, through an interactive and transformative part-time programme for working professionals.



Dr Patricia Canelas
Course Director

'Our state-of-the-art programme is designed for professionals seeking to enhance their expertise in sustainable urban development while balancing work commitments. Through research-led teaching and collaborative learning, students gain valuable insights to address real-world challenges in urban development.'



www.lifelong-learning/msud

At a glance

The **MSc in Sustainable Urban Development** is a transformative part-time programme for working professionals across the globe.

Master's level

Postgraduate MSc

Study part-time

While working full-time

2 years

Starts October 2027

Locations

Oxford and London

7

Residential teaching weeks

£59,625

Total course fees*

*subject to annual increase

1

Online unit

300+

Alumni members globally

Who is this course for?

The MSc is designed for those working in a range of urban contexts worldwide, whether in public, private or third-sector organisations. Students are able to combine postgraduate study with their professional lives.

The course attracts a lively and engaged group of students, who come from a wide range of countries and share a variety of work experiences in urban development and the built environment. The course fosters collaboration, creativity, perspective-sharing and networking skills.

Associated organisations

The programme runs in partnership with The King's Foundation.

THE KING'S FOUNDATION



Frank Trevino
2021-23
Advisor, Space sector

'The most rewarding part of the course was the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded peers and industry experts who were equally committed to the goal of sustainable development. Working alongside individuals who were not only knowledgeable but also passionate about making an impact in the field of sustainability was incredibly inspiring.'

What you'll gain

GAIN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Exploring a wide range of interdisciplinary subjects, you will examine global challenges and urban development in both the global North and global South, with a critical eye on the origins of problems and possibilities for their resolution.

DRIVE INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN SOLUTIONS

Innovation is at the forefront of education at Oxford. Our world-renowned research has created impact globally. Access to the latest research and insights during the programme will enable you to lead innovation and ensure sustainable cities are part of the solution rather than a global environmental problem.

BUILD YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Exchange ideas and build your network of experienced professionals working in a range of urban contexts globally. Benefit from peer learning and discuss solutions to your organisational challenges with fellow students, our experienced faculty and industry experts.

LEADING AND NAVIGATING CHANGE

Become a strong leader equipped to address the challenges of a globally disrupted economic environment, learning from faculty professors offering research-led knowledge on sustainability and urban issues.



How you'll study

TEACHING WEEKS

You will attend seven intensive in-person teaching weeks and one online unit during the two years of study. One of these seven in-person teaching weeks held at the offices of The King's Foundation in London. The remaining six are held in central Oxford at Oxford Lifelong Learning.

Each week addresses a core theme of the course.

Year 1:

- Introducing Sustainable Urban Development (Oxford)
- Climate Change (Oxford)
- Researching the Urban (Online)
- Financing Sustainability (Oxford)
- Sustainable Mobilities (Oxford)

Year 2:

- Place, Community and Urban Design (London)
- Southern Urbanisms (Oxford)
- Governance, Leadership and Future Cities (Oxford)

ASSESSMENT

This course has a diverse assessment method, including essays, theoretically informed critical personal reflections, a funding proposal and critical policy analysis, where you can gain practical skills that are highly valued in the workplace. These include effective communication, problem-solving, and the ability to convey complex ideas to different audiences. The first assignment is formative and will provide you with valuable feedback at the start of your studies. The remaining seven assignments are summative.

You will spend the latter half of the second year working on a 10,000-word dissertation. You will choose the topic with the guidance of your supervisor. Research methods are taught from the start, particularly in the 'Researching the Urban' unit, and build your ability to design, conduct, and report a small-scale research study for the dissertation.

Your Oxford experience



June 2024, Annual Dinner, Somerville College

GLOBAL REPUTATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The University of Oxford welcomes students from around the world who bring their own insights and experience to enable inspiring conversations. Embedded in a 800-year-old world-class university, this programme allows students to create solutions, innovate, and gain new perspectives within a diverse, vibrant community of adult learners.

LEARN FROM LEADERS

The programme is delivered by experienced tutors from institutes and departments across the University of Oxford, and in collaboration with a comprehensive range of commercial, governmental and non-governmental organisations specialising in sustainable urban development.

OXFORD COLLEGE AFFILIATION

As a matriculated postgraduate degree student, you will become a member of one of the University's multidisciplinary colleges, enabling you to encounter new perspectives in your field or learn more about many other different subjects from fellow college members.

The collegiate system makes studying at Oxford a truly special experience. Oxford colleges are friendly and diverse communities, where you could find yourself absorbed in fascinating conversations with students and academics from a variety of disciplines at college seminars, dinners, and informal occasions. Read more about Oxford college affiliation **here**.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

Students will have access to the electronic online resources of Oxford University's Library Services, including the Bodleian Library, and all other University libraries. Students, using their University card, can also use the in-person facilities of the Bodleian Libraries.





Oliver Connew
2023-25
MRICS Chartered Building Surveyor

'The diversity of the cohort who are accepted onto the MSc is staggering – quite literally from all corners of the world. I have benefited from a renewed global perspective, which is critical for international challenges such as sustainability in the built environment. To anyone who is considering applying to the MSc, I would say don't hesitate! The MSc in Sustainable Urban Development will guide a critical interrogation of the world views you hold in more ways than you could ever imagine.'

Read Oliver's story: www.lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/student-spotlights/oliver-connew



Zeynep Iqbal
2023-25
Architect

'I would strongly recommend the course to anyone looking for a critical and interdisciplinary understanding of urban challenges. The MSc provides a way to situate professional work within wider sustainability and urban development debates, while also opening doors to new ideas and collaborations.'

Read Zeynep's story: www.lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/student-spotlights/zeynep-iqbal

How to apply

APPLICATION DETAILS

For information about entry requirements and how to apply, please visit: www.lifelong-learning/msud

Deadlines

12:00 midday UK time on:

- Stage 1: Friday 13 November 2026 (Applications more likely to receive earlier decisions)
- Stage 2: Wednesday 27 January 2027 (Latest deadline for most Oxford scholarships)
- Stage 3: Tuesday 2 March 2027

If you have any questions about the progress of your application, please contact the Course Administrators.

FEE RATES FOR 2027-28

Illustration for the full programme (completing in two years, with eight teaching weeks and a dissertation):

Annual Award Fee: £13,505

Module Fee: £2,965

2 annual award fees: £27,010

plus 8 module fees: £23,720

plus dissertation fee: £8,895

Total: £59,625

An Annual Award Fee is due for every academic year (or part-year) attended, and there is a minimum of two Annual Award Fees payable. Module or Dissertation Fees are payable in advance as invoiced. A Module Fee is payable in respect of each teaching week. The Dissertation Fee is comprised of three Module Fees.

Fees must be paid in accordance with the Terms and Conditions for the programme.

***Notes:**

1. The fee rates listed are for the academic year shown, and you should be aware that these rates will increase annually.
2. The Illustration is based on the fee rates for the academic year shown; however, fee rates for attendance in future years will increase, so students attending for more than one year should expect the total to be higher than is shown in the Illustration. The exact amount will depend on the fee rates set annually, and upon the years you are in attendance; these are normally published well before the start of each academic year, but for your own budgetary purposes you may wish to estimate a 7% annual increase on fee rates.
3. These rates (in pounds sterling) are for students joining in the 2027-28 academic year.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SOURCES OF FUNDING

The MSc Sustainable Urban Development Programme Scholarship is open to anyone applying. You can find out more here: www.lifelong-learning/msud-programme-scholarship

For details of college scholarships for part-time postgraduate students, please visit the University's Graduate Admissions funding guide: www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/oxford-funding

Further details can also be found on the University's Fees and Funding page: www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding

GET IN TOUCH

To learn more, please visit: www.lifelong-learning/msud

To speak to our Course Administrators:

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+44(0)1865 286952

JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY

@urban-studies-oxford-university

http://eepurl.com/dLq0cw

April 2026



Join a global community


June 2026




April 2026






June 2026



January 2025

Oxford Lifelong Learning

Oxford Lifelong Learning brings the quality of an Oxford University education within reach of everyone. We inspire people across the world to fulfil their potential – whether by studying for a qualification to change direction, enhancing their career with new skills, or learning simply to satisfy intellectual curiosity.

Our courses, provided in Oxford and online, are led by tutors selected for their expertise and dedication to the exceptional teaching you expect from a world-class university.

Offering a transformational learning experience, we encourage and empower our vibrant community to achieve their goals and make a difference by sharing their knowledge.

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All information is correct at the time of publication (September 2026). Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.