



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MSc

Global Housing Design

Entry requirements	Study mode	Duration
2:2 honours degree	Full-time	1 year

Starts on: **21 September 2026**

About this course

The current urgency of the housing crisis in the UK and around the world reveals an insufficiency in architectural solutions and extant policies that prevent new design initiatives. This multidisciplinary programme considers design, environmental issues and policy making to re-imagine cities and homes for future generations.

Introduction

In the UK, recent topics such as the housing shortage, the climate emergency in relation to the energy performance of homes, and life safety issues (such as those related to the Grenfell disaster) have cast new light on construction practices and housing ownership. Consequently, there is a demand for qualified professionals who can address the issues of housing design in a more holistic manner.

The MSc Global Housing Design integrates architecture, urban planning, design, policy making, engineering and social sciences to enable you to re-envision the city, its housing and its inhabitants. It offers a comprehensive understanding of housing design all over the world – including Europe, China, India, Africa and the Middle East – and teaches various research methods to construct a critical overview of housing issues in different metropolitan contexts.

This is an advanced architectural design graduate programme that aims to negotiate the practical, theoretical, and speculative aspects of housing design, and to

prepare you to engage in ever more diverse and dynamic global landscapes in housing production, culture, and politics.

Who is this course for?

This programme is suitable for architects who want to specialise in housing design or contribute to residential projects across the globe. It will also be of interest to designers and planners who want to play a leading role in transforming housing provision.

What you'll learn

- Practical skills in the use of digital tools such as GIS, BIM, and graphic design software
- Insight into regulatory frameworks such as the RIBA/ARB sustainability guidelines and life safety
- Knowledge of how housing design impacts and is impacted by economy, culture, politics, and socio-economic factors, as well as how innovation can be achieved
- How to evaluate the effect of policies, guidelines and regulations on modes of housing production
- Understanding of the global context of historical and contemporary urban housing design issues
- Knowledge of the role of various stakeholders in both the private and public sectors of housing production
- Skills in independent research.

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester 1

Semester 1 will focus on the housing crisis, and consists of two compulsory modules and one optional module. Each student will be asked to identify a specific phenomenon, identify its causes and urban variables.

Please note: This is a newly launched programme – some modules may therefore be subject to change prior to the course start date.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>HOUSING DESIGN CRISIS (ARCH751)</u>	30
<u>HOUSING HISTORY AND THEORIES FROM 1900 TO THE PRESENT (ARCH753)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>CLIMATIC DESIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE (ARCH716)</u>	15
<u>HERITAGE MANAGEMENT: APPROACHES AND METHODS (ARCH736)</u>	15
<u>HERITAGE PERSPECTIVES AND POLICIES (ARCH735)</u>	15
<u>NET ZERO CARBON DESIGN (ARCH747)</u>	15
<u>PEOPLE AND PLANNING (ENVS636)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>PLANNING FOR HOUSING AND HOME (ENVS635)</u>	15
<u>SPATIAL PLANNING CHALLENGES (ENVS411)</u>	15
<u>URBAN DESIGN (ARCH731)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester 2

Semester 2 will research housing types, understanding the design variables at stake and suitability of certain types in addressing specific urban issues. You will take two compulsory modules and one optional module.

Please note: This is a newly launched programme – some modules may therefore be subject to change prior to the course start date.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>HOUSING TYPES AND CONTEXT (ARCH752)</u>	30
<u>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (ARCH707)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>BIM IMPLEMENTATION IN COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTS (ARCH725)</u>	15
<u>DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND CONSTRUCTION 4.0 (ARCH743)</u>	15
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES (ARCH717)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>HOUSING TYPES – RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (ARCH756)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester 3

The summer semester will be spent completing your thesis, which accounts for one-third of the credits of your programme.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>THESIS: DESIGN (ARCH723)</u>	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching will mostly be in-person, and occasionally supplemented by online teaching via Microsoft Teams or other software platforms. In each semester, you will have one studio-based and one lecture module; the mode of teaching on the remaining module will depend on the option you choose. You will attend weekly tutorials, and there will be opportunities through to participate in group work.

How you're assessed

The programme embraces authentic assessment methods to enable you to develop skills for the workplace. You will be provided with continuous feedback during tutorials, seminars and workshops. Studio-based modules are assessed through a portfolio submission. Assignments on other modules may involve websites, manuals, reports, and/or exhibitions.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

This programme will prepare you for roles in which you will address issues related to housing – be that design, policy, affordability, etc., or influence housing production approaches. It is international in its outlook, and aims to provide you with expertise and transferable skills that can be used in the UK or internationally.

Graduates may seek employment in the following areas:

- Architecture organisations
- Local or national government (e.g. planning or housing departments)
- Research institutions
- Non-government organisations
- The construction or development industry.

Architects who graduate from the programme will expand their employability through exposure to a wide range of housing production stakeholders, and by deepening their knowledge of housing design principles, policies and problems.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

Tuition fees for the academic year 2026/27 will be announced soon.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can [pay your tuition fees in instalments](#).
- All or part of your tuition fees can be [funded by external sponsorship](#).
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to [pay a tuition fee deposit](#).

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. [Learn more about paying for your studies](#).

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

We estimate that students should budget for the following additional study costs:

- Optional field trips related to module content: £300.00
- Purchase of materials for studio-based modules: £300.00

[Find out more about additional study costs.](#)

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

We typically accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in Architecture or a closely related subject, such as Interior/Art Design, Urban Design, Housing or Planning.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We typically accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in Architecture or a closely related subject, such as Interior/Art Design, Urban Design, Housing or Planning.

Candidates with degrees in other disciplines/non-traditional qualifications, but relevant experience, may also be considered for the programme. In this case, it may be necessary to interview you as part of the application process. Please contact the [Admissions Tutor](#) if you wish to discuss the suitability of your qualification or experience before applying.

As the programme has a strong design focus, all applicants are required to submit a portfolio of work demonstrating their design skills and experience or interest in aspects of residential design. This should be in PDF format (max. file size: 10MB) and contain a maximum of 20 spreads in A3, horizontal format.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.0, and no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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