MSc

Global Urbanism and Heritage

Entry requirements

A 2:2 degree in a relevant subject.

Study mode

Full-time
Part-time

Duration

12 months
24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**
Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

This programme addresses the growing demand for qualified professionals who can harness the opportunities presented by rapid urban development, whilst safeguarding heritage assets and preserving the individual identities of expanding cities.

Introduction

The fastest growing cities are in the Global South. Both tangible and intangible heritage assets are at risk in cities globally, as they're often the first casualties of urban transformation projects, particularly in coastal cities where land values are high. Consequently, there's an urgent need for academic and technical expertise to address the issues associated with urban development and heritage management in a more integrated manner, benefitting both society and planet.

This multi-disciplinary programme integrates architecture, urban planning, urban policy and practice, history, sustainability and social sciences, and considers the impact of globalisation and the climate crisis. You'll explore the fundamentals of global urbanisation and heritage, and

examine patterns of heritage development, conservation, policy and practice. Through a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical skills, you'll come to understand the role, influence and impact of historic and contemporary heritage (and heritage at risk) on urban trajectories.

Heritage is a core research pillar of the University of Liverpool, and the Liverpool School of Architecture is at the forefront of research in architecture, planning and heritage. The International Urbanism and Coastal Heritage Lab (UCH Lab), Architecture Heritage and Urbanism of West Africa Research Centre, The Heritage Institute and other research centres affiliated to the School contribute to this research field in UK, European contexts and further afield. Collectively, their contributions have produced documents and designs, technological and policy initiatives.

What you'll learn

- Knowledge of the concepts, theories, and principles guiding urbanisation, sustainable development and urban governance
- Understanding of the historical, cultural and socio-political factors that influence urban development and transformation
- Insight into the complexities of cultural heritage in an increasingly globalised world, including challenges in heritage preservation and conservation
- Understanding of the relationship between heritage and sustainability issues
- Research and writing skills that will enable you to undertake an independent project (i.e. dissertation or design thesis)
- Presentation, teamwork and time management skills.

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Course content

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

Semester one

You'll take two compulsory modules and choose optional modules amounting to **30 credits**.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
INTRODUCTION TO URBANISM AND DEVELOPMENT (ARCH763)	15
HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (ARCH762)	15

Optional modules	Credits
HERITAGE PERSPECTIVES AND POLICIES (ARCH735)	15
HOUSING HISTORY AND THEORIES FROM 1900 TO THE PRESENT (ARCH753)	15
MAKING PLACES (ENVS439)	15
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (ENVS529)	15
APPLIED GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE (ENVS609)	15
STUDYING SLAVERY: THEMES AND CONCEPTS (HLAC520)	30

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

Semester two

You'll take two compulsory modules and choose optional modules amounting to **30 credits**.

Students wishing to take HIST530 must have completed the pre-requisite module HLAC520 in semester one.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (ARCH707)	15
LOCAL HERITAGE IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT (ARCH764)	15

Optional modules	Credits
HERITAGE DOCUMENTATION, DIGITISATION AND PRESENTATION (ARCH739)	15
TRANSATLANTIC SLAVERY: HISTORIES AND AFTERLIVES (HIST530)	30
INTERNATIONAL RECORD KEEPING (HIST561)	15

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

Final project

Over the summer period, you'll complete a dissertation worth **60 credits**.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
THESIS: DISSERTATION (ARCH721)	60

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching takes place primarily on campus and occasionally online, via Teams or other software platforms. The online teaching will be primarily undertaken as part of our collaboration with the University of Lagos, which will entail staff involvement from the Institute of African and Diaspora Studies at the University of Lagos contributing as guest lecturers. It'll be further enriched through the contributions of other invited guest lecturers and stakeholders from industry, institutions and relevant organisations.

Lectures will be supplemented by tutorials and seminars (taking place on a weekly basis), workshops and studio work. Students are required to continuously engage in group work, and there will be opportunities for fieldwork.

How you're assessed

The assessment strategy is focused on authentic assessment, designed to help you develop creative problem-solving skills, teamwork skills and advanced research skills.

This programme addresses the global need for interdisciplinary expertise in urban planning, cultural heritage management, and sustainable development. Graduates will be equipped with the skillset necessary for contributing to policy and practice initiatives related to urban transformation, cultural heritage preservation and sustainability.

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.

Careers and employability

This programme addresses the global need for interdisciplinary expertise in urban planning, cultural heritage management, and sustainable development. Graduates will be equipped with the skillset necessary for contributing to policy and practice initiatives related to urban transformation, cultural heritage preservation and sustainability.

Graduates may find employment in local and national governments, NGOs, cultural institutions, and urban development firms. The programme also provides a solid foundation for individuals wishing to pursue further research in urban regeneration, heritage conservation, sustainable development or global urban policy.

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

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year - £12,500
Part-time place, per year - £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £28,000
Part-time place, per year - £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

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

Optional field trips within the UK: up to £300
Drawing and model-making materials: up to £300.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

Entry requirements

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

Postgraduate entry requirements

We require a 2:2 (or equivalent from an overseas institution) in Urban and Regional Planning, Architecture, Urban Studies, Area Studies, Demography and Population studies, Development Studies, Sociology, History, Geography, Archaeology or another closely related discipline.

A minimum of one year's work experience in a relevant field is desirable, but not essential.

All candidates are required to submit a CV and a personal statement highlighting experience and motivation in applying for the programme. Applicants with non-traditional qualifications, but requisite experience, may be invited to interview.

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

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

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

WAEC

C6 or above

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 writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 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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