

MA Urban Planning and Resilience 2020-21

YOUR UNIVERSITY

The University of Kent is looking forward to welcoming its new intake of PGT (Postgraduate-Taught) students to its campus this September. 'Welcome Week' (Freshers' Week, more traditionally) begins on Monday 21st September, with your academic programmes starting one week later, on Monday 28th September.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

As a leading centre of research both nationally and internationally, the Kent School of Architecture and Planning offers a rich portfolio of postgraduate programmes with six masters courses, directed and taught by our dedicated members of staff and conceived around expertise related to our three research centres: CREAtE (Centre for Research in European Architecture), CASE (Centre for Architecture and Sustainable Environment), and DARC (Digital Architecture Research Centre).

Designed to provide students from a variety of backgrounds with both cultural and practical tools for their chosen careers, as well as a series of interchangeable skills, our Masters cover the following areas: 1) **MAUD** (Masters in Architecture and Urban Design); 2) **MAAV** (Masters in Architectural Visualisation); 3) **MARCON** (Masters in Architectural Conservation); 4) **MASE** (Masters in Architecture and Sustainable Environment); 5) **BIODIG** (Masters in Bio Digital Architecture); 6) **MUPR** (Master in Urban Planning and Resilience); and 7) **PGDipAP** (Postgraduate Diploma in Architectural Practice)

ACADEMIC DELIVERY

How do we teach the programme, especially in these uncertain times of great public health concern?

As you can read in our FAQs below, the majority of our teaching and services will be delivered in a blended way – both online and on campus. What parts of your studies will be online and what will be in-person will vary according to the course you are on, government requirements and our health and safety assessments. Online lectures will be complemented with face-to-face and/or online interactive sessions. Lecture theatres will be used for smaller in-person group-based activities. Lab classes, and other activities where you physically need to be there, will take place in strict compliance with health and safety requirements. Some modules, or parts of modules, may need to be rescheduled to later in the academic year when social distancing restrictions are eased.

In short, we are planning to return to campus in September with careful arrangements put in place to ensure that everyone is protected as much as possible. We plan to continue with small group teaching, such as our Masters courses, with larger format teaching, such as lectures, etc., being placed online. All teaching events will be recorded via Moodle, the university intranet, and made available to the students. In addition, all teaching material will be made available to the students in advance of every teaching event. In respect of all advice, this makes for a sustainable way forward where the quality of our courses, and everyone's safety, are safeguarded.

Further details regarding how teaching will take place for MA Urban Planning and Resilience are outlined below:

The MA in Urban Planning and Resilience provides students with the academic and professional core knowledge, understanding, skills and experience that are necessary to practice professionally as urban planners and help cities address and find solutions for 21st century challenges including the COVID response and the green recovery after the pandemic.

The programme is divided into two stages. Stage 1 comprises modules to a total of 120 credits and Stage 2 comprises a 60-credit dissertation module. The modules can be completed over two terms, if full time, or two years, if part time, and the Dissertation module is normally completed in the summer term and over the summer months.

In term 1, the students complete a module on planning & resilience theories and an option. In term 2, the student complete modules in planning policy and practice, and in global resilience and planning practice. Together, the three core modules cover the theory, policy and practice of the discipline area, planning and the specialism, resilience. After completing these modules, the students will demonstrate a critical understanding of the relevance of planning and resilience theory, country & city policy context, the role of industry, crisis response and the importance of applying a systems & scenarios approach to urban trends crises response. Students will explore through a projects, readings and the study trip how the global interest in resilience extends beyond cities to include ecology, international development, health, urban forestry, food security, community planning, and global humanitarian crises. We are talking to other planning schools about how accredited schools can support each other with study visits should one not be possible.

Each module is based on a two-hour teaching event once a week, plus relevant field visits and a study trip. Whether or not you are on campus, we will be teaching you either face-to-face or online, or in a hybrid manner.

All talks and lectures will be recorded and made available on Moodle, the university's virtual learning platform. Teaching material will also be made available on Moodle in advance of every teaching event. We expect no particular changes to either module content or to assignments. The latter include a mixture of written work, essays or reports, which can safely be conducted with social distancing, or indeed remotely, with no detriment.

As we have done in the academic year 2019-2020, the nature of our modules is such that we can adapt the way in which we deliver them to any scenario, using on-line tools to ensure that the learning outcomes are achieved to the satisfaction of relevant professional bodies and that students' learning experience is not compromised come what may.

Professor Samer Bagaeen
Programme Director: MA Urban Planning and Resilience
Kent School of Architecture and Planning
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SITE VISITS

Most of our site visits can be done by respecting social distancing or indeed via online tools if you are unable to attend in person. Arrangements and/or adjustments can be agreed with the programme director.

ASSIGNMENTS

Most of our assignments can be adapted to all circumstances. The nature of adjustments will depend on the particular module you are taking. See above for details.

SOCIAL LIFE

The University and the Students Union are developing plans for a safe social life, on and off campus. Clearly, the mass gatherings that have been the hallmark of student social life cannot take place in their former formats. However, Kent is blessed with a large, airy and low-density campus, and the onus will be on the myriad student clubs and societies to provide safely distanced events. Our own KASA – the Kent Architecture Student Association – is organising its term-time events, including the weekly guest lectures (all online this year, for obvious reasons), but also a series of small-scale social and communal meetings.

FAQs

The University has produced answers to these frequently asked questions. Do please follow the link! <https://www.kent.ac.uk/student/coronavirus/returning-to-campus>.

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