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MA CITIES



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APPROVED

MA Cities

Awarding Body	University of the Arts London
College	Central Saint Martins
Programme	CSM Spatial Practices(L033)
Course AOS Code	CSMMACITP01/T01
FHEQ Level	Level 7 Masters
Course Credits	180
Mode	Part Time, Flexible Learning
Duration of Course	2 years
Teaching Weeks	83 weeks
Valid From	2022/23
QAA Subject Benchmark	Architecture
Collaboration	N/A
UAL Subject Classification	Architecture and spatial and interior design
HECoS Code	100594 – Urban Studies
UCAS Code	N/A
PSRB	N/A
Work placement offered	No
Course Entry Requirements	<p>The standard entry requirements for students for this course are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An upper second-class honours degree OR• An equivalent EU / international qualification

	<p>The course aims to recruit post-experience candidates who have graduate-level qualifications and a minimum of one year work experience. The course will not normally recruit from end-on students (i.e. those progressing directly from undergraduate degrees);</p> <p>Applicants are likely to come from disciplines such as art and design, architecture, urban studies, the humanities, social sciences, politics or economics, or from other areas of creative practice such as performance.</p> <p>AP(E)L - Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning</p> <p>Exceptionally applicants who do not meet these course entry requirements may still be considered. The course team will consider each application that demonstrates additional strengths and alternative evidence. This might, for example, be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related academic or work experience • The quality of the personal statement • A strong academic or other professional reference • Or a combination of these factors. <p>Each application will be considered on its own merit but cannot guarantee an offer in each case.</p> <p>English Language Requirements</p> <p>IELTS level 7 or above, with at least 6.5 in reading, writing, listening and speaking (please check our main English Language requirements webpage).</p>
Selection Criteria	<p>Applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a clear personal agenda, related to the aims of the course (Personal Statement/Interview) • Demonstrate that your personal and professional aspirations are compatible with the aims and objectives of MA Cities (Personal Statement/Interview) • Have excellent communication skills and appropriate ability in visual, as well as written and verbal presentation. (Project Portfolio /Personal Statement/ CV/ Interview)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the ability to think in abstract, conceptual and strategic terms; (CV/ Personal Statement / Interview) • Demonstrate a collaborative mindset and an ability to negotiate roles within multidisciplinary and cross-cultural teams; (Project Portfolio / CV)
<p>Scheduled Learning and Teaching</p>	<p>Following two years of disruption due to Covid 19 we are glad to be returning to normal delivery in 2022/23. This means on campus face-to-face activities such as course projects, lectures, seminars, and studio work, except for courses designed to be delivered online.</p> <p>Scheduled learning and teaching activity may include lectures, seminars, studio and workshop briefings, tutorials, external visits and project briefings.</p>

Awards and Percentage of Scheduled Learning

Year 1

Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Only)	60

Year 2

Awards	Credits
Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Only)	120
Master of Arts	180

Scheduled Learning Split by Level

Level 7	13%
Total Scheduled Learning Split	13%

Course Aims and Outcomes

The Aims and Outcomes of this Course are as follows:

Aim/Outcome	Description
Aim	Enable students to apply sophisticated urban thinking, strategic and conceptual skills to understand the needs of communities in complex and changing urban situations and be able to contribute to the creation of diverse, sustainable and equitable urban environments.
Aim	Enable students to respond to and innovate contemporary forms of multidisciplinary city-making and through experimentation, collaboration and interaction, develop alternative creative approaches that transcend traditional paradigms.
Aim	Enable students to utilise and contribute to the vibrant, diverse and critical art-school culture of Central Saint Martins to inform and construct new forms of creative civic practice.
Outcome	Develop a deep and systematic understanding of a broad range of social, political, economic, financial and bureaucratic processes involved in innovative approaches to city making and demonstrate the ability to critically reflect upon ones own practice.
Outcome	Develop critical responses to theoretical discourses, methodologies and practices, and suggest new concepts or methodologies, incorporating a critical and ethical dimension to your own practice.
Outcome	Develop conceptual, intellectual and practical skills to support and advance your own creative practice.
Outcome	Drawing on multidisciplinary practices and creative mediums from across architecture, art, design and performance, develop innovative and sustainable urban strategies and propositions, that engage with the social, economic, financial and physical infrastructures of built environments.
Outcome	Establish new communities of practice and engage in collaborative working practices, with both professionals and non-professionals, in the development of innovative and transformative practices and projects.
Outcome	Demonstrate initiative, self-direction, confidence and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks as a creative, resilient and professional practitioner.

Distinctive Features	
1	Flexible learning: MA Cities' distinctive approach offers a pioneering new form of postgraduate education. It is aimed at contemporary practitioners and professionals who are interested in experimenting with new forms of creative city-making, civic and spatial practice while maintaining employment, independent practice or caring responsibilities.
2	Global Challenges: MA Cities will address the challenges facing contemporary practitioners around the world, and will establish shared and independent ethical frameworks for new forms of creative spatial practice.
3	Innovating in Practice: The course will enable students to learn new conceptual, intellectual and practical skills; extend their professional networks; and develop new communities of practice, making use of the technical resources, cultures and peer networks of the college.
4	Interdisciplinary, wide-ranging appeal: The course will appeal to architects who are keen to up-skill and approach the complexities of the city creatively; planners who seek a more creative and multi-disciplinary approach; artists and other creatives who want to critically reflect upon and advance their urban practice; and practitioners from urban design, urban policy and research backgrounds who want to broaden their discourse and networks.
5	Critical spatial practices in a leading art and design institution: The course structure reflects the distinctive ethos of Spatial Practices at Central Saint Martins. The programme emphasises critical engagement with the realities of spatial production. It embraces the creative, disruptive and experimental culture of the College while ensuring rigorous academic content delivers innovative, relevant and transferable skills.
6	Engaging with industry: Elements of the course are delivered by industry practitioners as part of your professional development. You will have direct involvement in urban sites and situations as part of your study.
7	Course structure: MA Cities is delivered through a combination of intensive learning sprints, online digital learning, and self-directed study. Each sprint will provide core knowledge and research into histories and theories of spatial practice; urban policy and governance; cultural infrastructure and creative citizenship; and the urban economy. Course units may be taken individually as Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Course Detail

MA Cities explores creative approaches to city-making. As an art and design college, Central Saint Martins is a place of intense cultural production, generating critical creative practices in complex and conflicting urban settings. Through an enquiry-led approach, MA Cities will challenge the conventions of urban development, regeneration, and place-making and provide a platform for generating and implementing new forms of civic practice.

MA Cities will confront the pressing social, ethical and environmental concerns of the city and explore the value and agency of alternative practices from around the world. In doing so, it will ask you to navigate complex and dynamic scenarios using creativity and originality to address city-making challenges. MA Cities understands cities, towns and other dense urban settlements as collaborative and contested spaces – created through interactions between various participants and stakeholders. The course engages in collaboration and knowledge exchange with a wide range of art, design, and architectural practices, external partners and organisations, using London as a test bed. You will be immersed in professional contexts of public sector and urban practice through direct engagement with local governments, regeneration agencies, creative and spatial practitioners. The course also works in collaboration with world-wide partners, to ensure that your studies are informed by leading international perspectives and expertise in creative city-making.

On this course, you will engage with theoretical and practice-orientated approaches, political and ethical positions and a range of scales and methods of city-making. You will critically reflect upon your own forms of urban practice, and develop new modes of research into critical practices, urban policy, governance and the urban economy –through creative collaboration and experimentation. The course will encourage you to develop an individual position, agenda and methodology, to inform your own future urban practice.

Course Units

Each course unit is approximately nine weeks long and begins with two to three weeks of self-directed study, supported by collaborative online activities. During this time, you will prepare for an intensive teaching and learning sprint which usually takes place over a weekend. The sprint is followed by six to seven weeks of self-directed project work, culminating in a submission. Online tutorial support is provided throughout the duration of each unit, as well as facilitated collaborative peer-to-peer learning via a learning technologist.

Unit 1: Voices from the City

Unit 1 considers cities, towns and other dense urban settlements as places where multiple transactions and situations are constantly performed by a variety of

participants. This unit addresses the challenges facing cities through transcultural and cross-cultural social experiences and encounters. This is delivered through weekly reports from different constituencies and sectors of urban practice, including citizens, practitioners, policymakers and governors. The unit establishes a situated position for learning and reflecting. It challenges students to confront their own specific cultural identities in relation to others and to reflect upon the situated nature of civic practices.

Unit 2: Community and Collaboration

Unit 2 provides an opportunity for engagement with different histories, theories and approaches to urban space and city-making. The unit establishes a theoretical background and thematic grounding in histories of social engagement, collaboration and participatory practice, examining: theories and practices around the production of social space; concepts of public space, the public realm, place-making and the commons; and critiquing notions of creative cities, and the rise of arts-led regeneration.

Unit 3: Critical Creative Practices

Unit 3 explores the context of alternative urban and civic practices through the observation of, and participation in, a live project. This is undertaken in collaboration with external agencies, for example local government, regeneration authorities, arts groups and/or third-sector organisations. In this unit, students will develop methods of critical analysis and interpretation, and will speculate on the themes, questions and methods of sustained urban and civic practice. Unit 3 will be brokered with specific arts-led practices and organisations appropriate to the cohort.

Unit 4: Commissioning and Governance

Unit 4 focuses on organisational structures, working relationships and forms of commissioning by local authorities, government and wider agencies, including their associated policy and political contexts. The unit is delivered as a series of case studies with reports and seminars from a range of practitioners, policymakers, arts professionals and local authority representatives. They will cover a range of subjects including the inner workings of local and regional government, the complexities of institutional relationships, providing first-hand accounts of initiating and implementing projects. This unit also includes lectures and case-study presentations on forms and theories of urban governance, urban policy, funding, procurement, regulation, and legislation.

Unit 5: Infrastructures and Transactions

Unit 5 is concerned with the economy of civic and urban practices and explores transactions between the social and the economic, the informal economy and the

-state, money and funding. The unit considers the broader impact of wider political and economic forces such as investment, austerity, and growth as manifested at the intersection of the built environment and cultural production. The unit will introduce you to the complexities of economic models and financial planning related to different project types and contexts, examining ways of evaluating cultural and spatial projects including and beyond the monetary and financial.

Unit 6: Practice Manual (Pre-Thesis)

This unit allows time and focus to develop a thesis question. It also supports you in scoping and testing methods for conducting your thesis. The thesis can be formulated as either an independent written thesis, design thesis or practice-based project. If appropriate, it can be formulated in association with a third party through an embedded practice placement undertaken during Unit 6. Your thesis should involve collaboration with key partners, including engagement with communities, organisations and stakeholders.

Unit 7: Thesis

The course culminates in Unit 7, the final Master's-specific 60-credit unit. You will reflect on the conceptual, intellectual and practical skills encountered in the course through an independent written thesis, design thesis or practice-based project. Unit 7 is intended to rehearse creative attributes that enable you to become a self-sufficient and critical practitioner, with clear aspirations for your future role and the confidence and independence to pursue your goals. The thesis unit will support you to conduct and deliver an enquiry-led proposition which frames a new civic or urban practice, rehearsing skills of proactivity, enterprise and agility.

Mode of Study

MA Cities is offered in both part-time and flexible learning modes.

Part-time mode runs for 83 weeks over two academic years. You will be expected to commit 20 hours per week to study, which includes teaching time and independent study.

Flexible learning mode is a unit by unit approach that allows you up to five years to complete. This mode of learning supports those of you who are already established in your careers, and who may be travelling from afar to join the course. Unit 1 is compulsory and must be undertaken initially. Units 2-5 can then be taken in any order thereafter. Units 6 and 7 need to be undertaken in consecutive order.

Credit and award requirements

The course is credit-rated at 180 credits.

On successfully completing the course, you will gain a Master of Arts (MA degree).

Under the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, an MA is Level 7. All units must be passed in order to achieve the MA but the classification of the award is derived from the mark for the final unit only.

If you are unable to continue on the course, a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) will normally be offered following the successful completion of 60 credits, or a Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip) following the successful completion of 120 credits.

Shared Campus Initiative

The course is strategically aligned to the shared campus initiative, a transcultural network of specialist HEIs who cooperate and collaborate on teaching exchange, content and enquiry. Shared campus offers opportunities for sharing learning and student experience through on-line and intensive workshops that are, by intention, trans- and extra-disciplinary in nature and cover themes relating to critical ecologies; social transformation as creative practice; popular cultures; cultures, histories and identity. Shared campus supports academic and teaching exchange.

Recognition of Learning from Experience

One core assessment strategy and practice relates to the capture of experiential and informal learning that extends beyond the curriculum or is flexibly structured. The College framework for Recognition of Learning from Experience offers options for learning endorsement from peers, experience-givers or staff. This system is designed to facilitate learning capture based on evidence, reflection and student evaluation. Recognition of Learning from Experience enables students to claim credit via the course for learning from partner institutions, thereby facilitating trans-national co-operation. Candidates can also apply for advanced entry through a structured approach to AP(E)L.

Learning and Teaching Methods

The learning and teaching methods devised for this course include:

- Unit briefings and introductions
- Group on-line 'orientation' exercises
- Reading tasks
- Online delivery of lectures and seminars
- Peer-to-peer task-based learning online

- Online tutorial and feedback sessions.

Intensive Sprint* via:

- Skilling workshops
- Team, group and work in pairs
- Student presentations to tutors and peers
- Peer and external feedback
- Tutorial facilitation/evaluation related to team/individual and cohort
- Lectures, seminars and workshops delivered face to face, including intensive 'symposium' mode.

*Intensive 'Sprint' refers to an intensive learning experience typically happening over a weekend. It involves significant periods of face to face contact with tutors, guests and peers, utilising lecture, seminar, symposium, workshop and tutorial formats.

Assessment Methods

- Online assessment
- Personal and group tutorials
- Thesis

Reference Points

QAA guidance has been consulted and the course fully adheres to the FHEQ Code of practice. In evidence the following areas of level 7 study from the QAA code of practice can be identified as being addressed with the specific units as follows:

Link: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Framework-Higher-Education-Qualifications-08.pdf>

Master's degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- A systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice; (Units 1-7)
- A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship; (Units 2-6)
- Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline. Conceptual understanding that enables the student: to evaluate critically current

research and advanced scholarship in the discipline; to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses. (Unit 7: Thesis)

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- Deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences; (Unit 7: Thesis)
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level; (Units 3-7)
- Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level. (Unit 7: Thesis)

And holders will have:

- The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
 - The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
 - Decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
 - The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

The following QAA Subject Benchmark Statements have been consulted during the process of curriculum design:

Town & Country Planning 2014

Course Diagram

MA Cities – PLEASE NOTE DUE TO VACATION DATES, SPECIFIC DELIVERY WEEKS MAY CHANGE.

S=summative assessment

LEVEL 7 – YEAR 1																																									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	
Unit 1: Voices from the City (20 credits)									Unit 2: Community and Collaboration (20 credits)									Unit 3: Critical Creative Practices (20 credits)							Unit 4: Commissioning and Governance (20 credits)							Unit 5: Infrastructure and Transactions (20 credits)									
LEVEL 7 – YEAR 2																																									
42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83
S				Unit 6: Practice Manual (pre-thesis) (20 credits)									Unit 7: Thesis (60 credits)																		S										

The University will use all reasonable endeavours to provide the Course and the services described in this Output. There may be occasions whereby the University needs to add, remove or alter content in relation to your Course as may be appropriate for example the latest requirements of a commissioning or accrediting body, or in response to student feedback, or to comply with applicable law or due to circumstances beyond its control. The University aim to inform you of any changes as soon as is reasonably practicable