



University of
Leicester

Centre for Urban History

MA/MSc Urban Conservation



www.le.ac.uk/ur

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MA/MSc Urban Conservation

The Department

The course brings together the complementary expertise of the following departments:

- **Centre for Urban History;** Europe’s leading institute for the study of the urban past;
- **School of Museum Studies** which has the highest proportion of world-class research of any department in any University in the UK;
- **Department of Geology** which has been rated the best department in the subject in the UK;
- **Department of Chemistry** which provides the course with unique skills in green chemistry.

You will be based within the Centre for Urban History in the School of Historical Studies, enabling you to benefit from the School’s dedicated postgraduate buildings in Salisbury Road, including IT facilities, library and seminars.

The other departments will provide you with key skills and knowledge throughout the course. Parts of the course will also be delivered by professionals engaged in conservation practice, ensuring the skills and knowledge you develop are those utilised by professionals in the field.

How can I find out more?

To find out more please contact
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Why study Urban Conservation at Leicester?

- The University of Leicester is uniquely placed to deliver the course, bringing together specialists from urban history, museum studies, geology and chemistry.
- The course combines deep historical knowledge of cities with project management and scientific practice, ensuring you develop the skills and knowledge to further develop your career in urban conservation or to undertake PhD study.
- You will benefit from the expertise of practitioners who are brought together through Leicester's connections to leading national bodies including English Heritage. Working closely with such employers, ensures the course is professionally relevant and cutting-edge.
- You can choose to undertake the MSc Urban Conservation, which provides a more-science based route, or the MA version which is more arts-based. This enables you to tailor the course to your needs, ensuring you gain the most from the course.

Duration and mode of study

You can study the course full-time over one calendar year or part-time over two years.

The course runs from October each year.

Aims and objectives of the course

In recent years the conservation of towns and cities has moved from a minority concern to a matter of global importance. How cities can be preserved and sustained into the future given the challenges of climate change, population expansion and mass tourism is a question that has moved centre stage.

This course prepares you to meet those challenges by providing you with knowledge of urban conservation and the skills for professional practice within it. Combining understanding of the history of cities with awareness of materials science, cultural policy and conservation practice, you undertake advanced training in an area of growing

significance for planning, tourism and the economy.

The course contains inputs from professional practitioners and employers, which build on the expertise of your lecturers, who include staff from Leicester specialisms such as urban history and museum studies. You will have the opportunity to engage in practical field work as well as academic research.

By the end of the course you will have an in-depth knowledge of the urban past; be conversant with current conservation policy and priorities; developed specialist knowledge of techniques in materials science and historic preservation; and have direct experience of research and project management.

This is a course that is international and forward-looking. The knowledge and skills you acquire will be flexible enough to meet the challenges of urban conservation in different contexts, from uptown New York to historic Istanbul.





Modules

You will study six 30-credit modules, totalling 180 credits at Masters level. You will choose four from the following six modules:

UC1 The City in History

Led by the Centre for Urban History, this module will provide you with a guide to understanding the historiography of cities, from the medieval period to the present

UC2 New Approaches to Landscapes, Buildings and Objects

Led by the School of Museum Studies, this module provides a guide to conservation policy within the UK and beyond

UC3 The Science of Material Conservation

Led by Chemistry, this module will examine 'Green Chemistry' and the applications of chemical analysis to conservation practice. It is compulsory for those taking the MSc route.

UC4 Conservation, Heritage and Planning

Led by the Centre for Urban History with input from urban conservation practitioners, this module allows you to examine historical and critical perspectives on conservation and heritage, its relationship to town planning and its engagement with present-day heritage specialists and urban designers.

UC5 Project Management

Convened by the Centre for Urban History, you will undertake site specific studies delivered by conservation practitioners such as Leicester City Council and English Heritage

UC6 Urban Sustainability and Renewal

Led by the Centre for Urban History with Geology, this module evaluates the place of conservation in urban regeneration schemes and the key ideas in the creation of sustainable cities internationally.

UC7 Dissertation

In addition, you will undertake UC7 Dissertation, a 60-credit module which includes 15 credits of research training. The Dissertation allows you to research a topic of your choice with an allocated supervisor. If you are taking the MSc route, you will need to do a Dissertation in either Chemistry or Geology.

Your learning experience

How will I be taught?

The course involves a mixture of classroom and field-based work alongside independent study. You will make extensive use of the University's online learning resource, Blackboard to support your studies. Some modules will be taught through a series of day schools and field-trips, enabling students in full-time employment to benefit from the course.

How will I be supported?

You will be based within the Centre for Urban History and will be able to utilise all of the support facilities within the Department including IT, specialist libraries and access to research seminars.

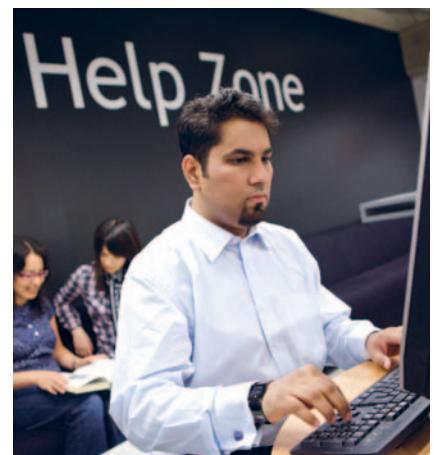
Alongside this, you will also be able to access the University's extensive library, academic and careers support.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will include essays, oral presentations and an individually-supervised research dissertation. Practice-based assessments will also be conducted on activities such as project management, ensuring you to feel confident about your practical knowhow as well as your critical skills.

“ I chose Leicester because I knew that the Centre for Urban History was a first-class research centre. Besides the opportunity of using the university's excellent facilities, what I really appreciated was the experience of being part of such a vibrant academic community.”

Bruno Bonomo, University of Siena
(MA 2006-07)



Frequently asked questions

How much is the course fee?

For the latest course fees, please see www.le.ac.uk/pgfees

How can I find out more?

To find out more please contact Professor Simon Gunn, Director, Centre for Urban History, University of Leicester, LE1 7RH, tel: +44 (0)116 252 5291, email: sg201@le.ac.uk

Entry requirements and how to apply

The standard entry requirement is a 2:1 honours degree in a relevant subject in humanities, social sciences or natural sciences, e.g. Archaeology, History, Geography, Chemistry, Geology.

We welcome applications from non-standard entrants. You will be assessed on the basis of professional or voluntary experience in conservation, heritage and/or planning. Normally, you should have a minimum of 6 months full-time or one year part-time experience. Other types of relevant professional experience will also be considered on the basis of interview and/or portfolio of work.

The English Language requirement for students whose first language is not English is IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.

Careers and graduate opportunities

The departments concerned have outstanding track records for employment of graduates, many of whom have gone on to work in areas such as conservation, town planning, housing, heritage, museums and libraries.

The course allows you to mix with professionals in conservation, heritage and planning so you will pick up tips about career development as well as making useful contacts. The worldwide reputation of the University in these areas will also be valuable.

As well as training in conservation practice, the course also provides grounding in research in conservation-related studies. It can therefore set you on the road towards a research degree such as PhD. Again, you will find tutors pleased to discuss opportunities with you.



Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire



The Curve Theatre

About the City of Leicester

Leicester is a lively and diverse city with all the activities and facilities you would expect from a major city. This is combined with a friendly and safe atmosphere.

Developments in the city have led to the opening of the Curve Theatre with its unique 'inside out' design where the stage is visible from the street. Further developments in the city's cultural quarter will join the existing museums and galleries within the city, and help to cement Leicester's reputation for culture.

Leicester is a city for individuals and this is shown throughout the city; from the individual shops and boutiques of the Lanes area which rub shoulders with the larger stores and designer shops of the Highcross Leicester shopping development; to the festivals held within the city throughout the year, including the Summer Sundae Music Festival.

This diversity is also celebrated through the city's wide range of restaurants, cafes and music venues which provide something for every taste.

We are passionate about our city with many of our students choosing to locate here after graduation.

About the University

Some universities consider their primary purpose to be high quality research, others concentrate on excellent teaching. Here at Leicester we think that the two are not only complementary, they're inseparable. We believe that teaching is more inspirational when delivered by passionate scholars engaged in world-changing research – and that research is stronger when delivered in an academic community that includes students.

We think that a university should be about empowering people to explore what they don't know. We achieve this through passionate, dedicated research and teaching.

When we were named University of the Year for 2008-9 by the Times Higher Education, the judges applauded Leicester's very different approach, calling us "elite without being elitist." Of Britain's top 15 universities only one – Leicester – exceeds its government benchmarks for inclusivity.

Our dedication to providing an excellent student experience can be seen in our consistent performance in the National Student Survey. Since the launch of the

survey in 2005, Leicester has consistently featured amongst the top-10 universities in England for student satisfaction.

With these ideas at heart, Leicester is reframing the values that govern academia and re-defining what a university needs to be in the 21st century; we are constantly finding new ways of being a leading university.



The School of Museum Studies

The David Wilson Library



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All information in this brochure was correct at the time of going to press. However, changes and developments are part of the life of the University, and alterations may occur to the programmes and services described in this brochure.



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