

LIFELONG LEARNING MASTER'S DEGREE IN

Urban Design for Healthy Cities

5th Edition





Healthy Cities and Sustainable Cities are two sides of the same coin: both place citizens' well-being and sustainability at the heart of urban transformation. There is currently a lack of programmes that address this need for urban planners and designers who are trained to achieve some of the sustainable development goals in a comprehensive manner through urban design.

This master's degree was set up in response to this situation, to provide a conceptual and methodological basis for planning and designing the city based on well-being and sustainability principles, and addresses both the professional and research dimensions. Regarding the former, experts trained to promote well-being and good health for citizens through sustainable urban design and planning are needed. In relation to the latter, new research approaches to study the links between complex urban systems and health are also necessary.

Prospective students

This program is aimed at university graduates from the following areas:

Architects, urban designers, urban planners, landscape designers, and students from disciplines involved in the design and planning of cities.

It might also be interesting for environmental scientists, urban geographers, civil engineers, and students from disciplines involved in city management who are capable of generating urban cartographies.

Admission criteria

University graduates (with or without work experience) with preferably completed university studies in Architecture, Urban Planning and Design, Built Environment (with at least one year of urban design components), Environmental Design and Engineering, or Landscape Design, who wish to expand their knowledge related to the new shift towards sustainable urbanism and well-being. Additionally, professionals and researchers interested in enhancing their skills across the four dimensions involved (environmental, social, cultural, and economic) are encouraged to apply. Professional experience in the field of urban design will be positively valued.

Prior qualifications:

- Demonstration of background knowledge about urbanism in motivation letter
- Other postgraduate studies
- Description of relevant work experience
- Familiarity with graphic skills and relevant design software

ACADEMIC TEACHING STAFF

Steering Committee

Dr Pere Vall Casas

Dr Marta Benages Albert

Dr Álvaro Cuéllar Jaramillo

University

**UIC Barcelona
School of Architecture**

Dates and times

- October 2025 - September 2026
- Monday to Friday from 10am to 14pm and 15pm to 18pm
- Optional internship period: June, July and August
- Final project presentation: Wednesday 8th June 2026

Language

English

Get in touch with your advisor



CURRICULUM - 60 ECTS

The master program consists of 23 theoretico-practical seminars on specialized topics and a design-based synthesis workshop.

Conceptual Framework

1. Planetary Health and Environmental Epidemiology
2. City Layers

Research Tools

3. Citizen Science and Urban Sustainability
4. Urban Statistics: Sociodemographic Characterizations and Urban Health Indicators
5. Community Diagnosis & Socio-spatial Analysis
6. Computational Urbanism: Advancing Walkability and Environmental Design with Parametric Tools

Environmental Dimension

7. Mobility and City Planning
8. Livability and Energy Planning & Waste management
9. Food and Water
10. Nature-Based Solutions
11. Health Evaluation and Assessment of Urban Planning Interventions

Cultural Dimension

12. Landscape Values & Well-being
13. Active Design based on Urban Sense of Place
14. City and Landscape Identities: Civic Network and Micro-projects
15. Heritage in Urban Intervention: Heritage-based Networks (I)
16. Heritage in Urban Intervention: Heritage-based Micro-projects (II)

Social Dimension

17. Cooperative Urban Transformation Processes
18. Empowerment & Social Networks
19. Safety Perception
20. Physical Activity in the city
21. Environmental Justice

Economic Dimension

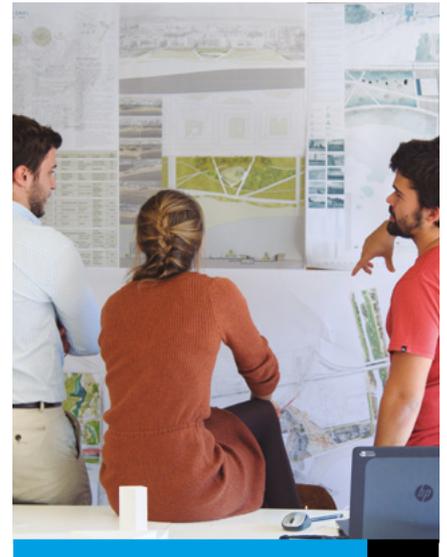
22. Sustainable Economy
23. Economic Evaluation

Synthesis Workshop

Transversal workshop. Learning Synthesis and Application Dissemination of Urban Planning Projects

OBJECTIVES

- To provide a conceptual and methodological basis for planning and designing urban systems based on the principles of well-being and sustainability.
- To provide knowledge on metrics, tools and methods from areas such as ecology, engineering, urban planning, urban design, urban geography, psychology, sociology and economics, to address the transition towards healthier urban environments.
- To provide knowledge on the scientific evidence available about the environmental, social, cultural and economic factors that influence people's health and well-being.
- To provide knowledge on a wide array of emblematic healthy urban actions –from policies and regulations to planning and design.
- To teach students skills to help them to plan, execute and communicate strategic urban transformations aimed at enhancing public health and well-being.



Reasons to study this master

Sustainability, well-being and inclusive cities

Becoming an architect or urban planning expert in designing cities based on principles of well-being and sustainability in a university with a strong commitment to sustainable development.

Opportunities for internship

In order to enhance your expertise in your preferred topics, options for internship will be explored in firms and institutions of the program teachers.

Cross-disciplinary and practical approach

Becoming an architect ready to work with other health and urban sustainability experts in the new area of transdisciplinary design. To obtain and compare knowledge not usually covered, such as the environmental, social, cultural and economic dimension.

Our programme combines the interdisciplinary and interscale approaches necessary to face current challenges (climate change, planetary health, sustainable development goals).

All of this is applied in a cross-disciplinary workshop that combines smart technologies and nature-based solutions from a holistic approach.

Multicultural environment

Our programme has a prestigious roster of both local and international lecturers from diverse sectors and professional practices.

Our students also come from various countries around the world, thus generating an exceptionally international and enriching learning environment and a valuable professional network.

The programme is taught in the city of Barcelona, renowned for its urban design.

STUDYING IN BARCELONA

Start the most important learning experience of your life in one of the main European cities. Barcelona is a cultural and financial role model and a city where your knowledge can adapt to multiple professional opportunities.



UIC BARCELONA, OUR CAMPUSES

Classes are held on our Barcelona campus and also our Sant Cugat campus, which has a total area of more than 52.000 m². Each Faculty has the best facilities and latest generation equipment for both theoretical and practical classes.

Find out more about the admissions procedure, reserving a place and enrolment here uic.es/masters. Click on uic.es/grants for information about financial aid, discounts and grants.

RANKINGS

The main rankings in which the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya has been classified.



Find out here about all our rankings.

 <p>World University Rankings 2025 #801-1,000</p>
 <p>#374</p>
 <p>RANKING CYD #13</p>

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