



LSE

THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

LSE Cities

# Executive MSc in Cities

2023 ADMISSION



LSE

The London School

# LSE Cities



LSE Cities and its Executive MSc in Cities are making an important contribution to advancing city leadership globally. ”

**Parks Tau, President, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**

LSE Cities is an international centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science that carries out research, graduate and executive education, outreach and advisory activities in London and abroad. Extending LSE's century-old commitment to the understanding of urban society, LSE Cities investigates how complex urban systems are responding to the pressures of growth, change and globalisation with new infrastructures of design and governance that both complement and threaten social and environmental equity. LSE Cities was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education for 2016-2018 in recognition of its work on training, research and policy formulation for cities of the future and a new generation of urban leaders around the world.

LSE Cities hosts a young and interdisciplinary group of researchers who investigate how cities can be designed and managed to be more open, promote social inclusion, reduce the impacts of climate change and be governed more effectively. Building on its authoritative database of over 60 global cities, the centre works with local governments, international agencies other institutions on innovative applied research that shapes urban policy and practice. Through the Urban Age conferences and EMC Lab programme, the centre leverages its global network of urban leaders, experts and practitioners to raise the level of debate, promote knowledge exchange and influence change in the ways cities are planned, designed and governed. LSE Cities contributes to the public life of the LSE, organises major conferences and exhibitions, publishes books and research reports, and has an active social media presence.

The innovative Executive MSc in Cities, now in its sixth year, is designed around the popular 'learning while working' model for early to mid-career professionals. With five weeks of intense teaching modules spread over twelve months, the programme provides direct contact with LSE faculty and global fellows, and a further six months of personalised consulting with a host organisation. This flexible, tailor-made programme in one of the top social science universities in the world attracts urban professionals in the public, private and third sectors who want to improve the way their organisations understand and deliver change in cities. Participants include mayors and policymakers, investors and property experts, as well as planning and urban design consultants from cities across the globe.

# Programme Overview

The Executive MSc in Cities is aimed at urban professionals who want to rethink the way their organisations are delivering large-scale change in cities. Using an evidence-based approach, the programme builds upon LSE Cities' extensive interdisciplinary urban research programme, social science research methods and wide range of public and private sector advisory activities to train the urban leaders of tomorrow.

This 18-month executive programme is delivered in five intensive teaching modules, followed by a six-month urban consultancy project in the participant's own organisation. Each of the teaching modules features lectures, workshops and seminars led by LSE's world-leading faculty and high-profile

guest speakers with direct governmental, civic and industrial experience of urban change. Through these modules, participants are exposed to the latest analysis, strategy and delivery tools to address urgent issues of urban inequality, economic development and environmental sustainability.

Between teaching modules, participants work together on challenges based upon urgent issues currently facing cities. These challenges are designed with help from global NGOs and local government authorities.

Following the last teaching session, participants complete an urban consultancy project in their own organisation (or an organisation of their own choosing). Supervision support is provided remotely, allowing participants to work locally without having to return to London.



# The Hybrid-Flex Approach

Teaching for the 2023/24 Executive MSc in Cities will be based on the 'hybrid-flex' approach, allowing participants to undertake learning and engagement in-person in London or remotely via live video interaction.

Hybrid-flex utilises a blended learning approach, combining immersive content on a dedicated digital platform which is later discussed in live follow-up sessions:

- The digital platform sessions include video lectures, short documentaries and other film material, alongside interviews, texts, real-world data and interactive learning activities which are completed at the participant's own pace ahead of each live session..
- Live sessions are scheduled during each teaching module and give participants the opportunity to explore the content introduced through the digital learning platform. These live sessions give participants the opportunity to share their own expertise, experience and viewpoints with LSE Faculty, guest speakers and fellow participants.

The hybrid-flex approach has also been designed to enable the programme's flagship engagements such as the EMC Lab and Challenges with partner organisations including the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and the World Bank's Municipal Finance Team. These engagements happen throughout the first 12 months of the programme.

## KEY FACTS

- Building new networks of trust and professional relationships among the participants is realised through the programme's intense collaborative approach and social/networking sessions cutting across in-person and virtual engagement.



- Hybrid-flex enables truly global, live engagements with city governments, networks and organisations from across the world.
- Live teaching for all five teaching modules will be taught on an in-person basis for participants who want to travel to London. Alternatively, participants may opt to join remotely via live video interaction. In-person teaching will be offered whenever possible, subject to UK government guidance.
- All participants will undertake digital platform sessions in the lead up to each teaching module which will be made available 10 days before live teaching.
- There will be approximately 10 to 15 hours of upfront learning to be completed ahead of each teaching module.
- Live Sessions for all participants during teaching modules will take place during core teaching hours (11.00 to 15.00 London local time).

# Programme Journey

A unique programme taking you through all stages of the policy and project lifecycle with the leadership skills to help you strategise, engage and deliver.



## **MODULE 1: THE CHALLENGE**

**2-6 October 2023**

### **THEMATIC FOCUS**

What are the world's major urban challenges? How does leadership, planning and growth affect the future of cities?

### **LEADERSHIP FOCUS**

Reflect. This opening week will help you understand your leadership values and styles. How are you placed to effectively lead change in your city?



## **MODULE 2: ANALYSIS**

**27 November – 1 December 2023**

### **THEMATIC FOCUS**

The analytic frameworks to help you understand the latest economic, environmental and social trends in cities, including key performance indicators and understanding multicriteria assessments.

### **LEADERSHIP FOCUS**

Diagnose. See challenges from a systems-based approach. Move beyond the analysis of urban conditions to their underlying structures, mental models and cultural values that are often resistant to the change you want to deliver.



## **MODULE 3: STRATEGY**

**26 February – 1 March 2024**

### **THEMATIC FOCUS**

Strategic visions, forecasting and innovation. How are cities positioning themselves for more sustainable futures? How to translate broader conceptual ideas to specific urban contexts?

### **LEADERSHIP FOCUS**

Strategise. Design strategies and pathways to action. Build your own theory of change and inspire and campaign for a shared vision amongst conflicting agents.



## **MODULE 4: DELIVERY**

**22 – 26 April 2024**

### **THEMATIC FOCUS**

Delivery vehicles, governance structures and financing mechanisms for environmental, social and economic programmes and projects.

### **LEADERSHIP FOCUS**

Innovate. Understand how institutions think and create innovation cultures within your organisation.



## **MODULE 5: EMC LAB**

**17 – 21 June 2024**

### **THEMATIC FOCUS**

Participants act as consultants in one of two city-focused institutions. One organisation will be seeking collective advice on metropolitan level strategic planning and infrastructure provision. The other will focus on a local master plan for a development area.

### **LEADERSHIP FOCUS**

Collaborate. Engage in a collaborative planning framework that brings people together to achieve the change you want to implement. Facilitate agreement and negotiate.

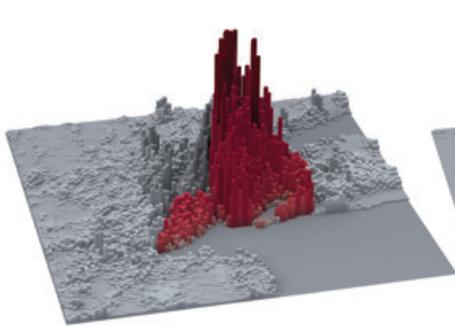


## **INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY**

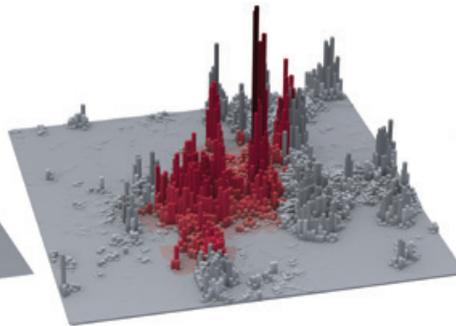
**Six months**

Having consulted for an organisation in Module 5 as part of the EMC Lab, participants will conduct an individual strategic advisory/management project within an organisation of their choice.

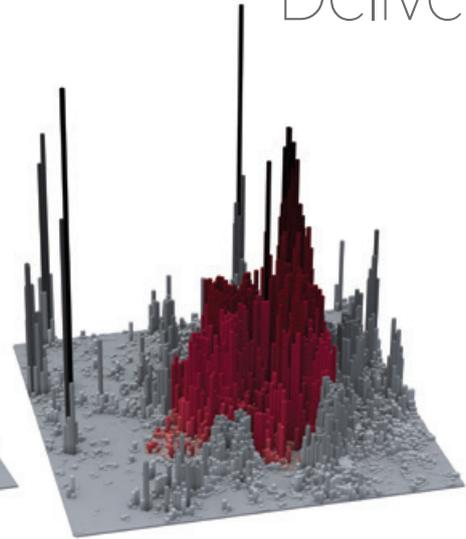
LSE CITIES HAS PIONEERED NEW FORMS OF MEASUREMENT AND REPRESENTATION OF CITY DYNAMICS, SUCH AS RESIDENTIAL DENSITY OF MANY MAJOR GLOBAL CITIES.



NEW YORK



JOHANNESBURG



DELHI

## TEACHING METHODS

The Executive MSc in Cities programme uses an innovative blended learning model, combining live teaching, online learning and coaching to help participants develop the skills they need to become future urban leaders.

Modules 1-4 consist of lectures, seminars, workshops and roundtables, delivered by LSE faculty and high-profile guest speakers. Through these modules, participants engage with leading academics and professionals to enhance their understanding of urban design, economic development and environmental sustainability.

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Leadership Development Programme is designed to aid professional development and help participants work through complex urban challenges. The programme uses a variety of frameworks and methods such as systems thinking, stakeholder

analysis and ideation labs to help participants make the case and deliver change on the ground.

### REAL-WORLD CASE STUDIES

During modules 2-4, participants work with a variety of local governmental, governmental, private and third sector organisations involved with running and developing cities. Participants will have the opportunity to watch virtual tours of some of London's development and regeneration sites.

### DISTANCE LEARNING

In between teaching modules, participants are supported in their learning through a series of online challenges delivered through collaborative online teaching tools. In addition to these, the programme directors run regular virtual office hours to discuss assessments, answer questions and offer feedback.

# EMC Lab

The final teaching session of each year is dedicated to a EMC Lab activity where participants act as consultants for a city-focused institution. Participants are given the choice of two EMC Labs (aligned with the programme's elective courses), one on metropolitan-level strategic planning, while the other focuses on a local master plan for a development area. New organisations are chosen each year and a few examples are listed below.

## URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

### AMARAVATI, INDIA

Participants developed a report for the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, intended to inform the phased building of Amaravati, the new state capital for Andhra Pradesh, India. The participants worked in teams to address issues surrounding sustainable financing, urban mobility and affordable housing.

### ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Participants worked with the Addis Ababa City Plan and Development Commission on three strategic planning topics related to the Addis Ababa City Structure Plan 2017-2027. These topics addressed affordable housing, upgrading street space and nature-based solutions for urban intensification.

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MASTER PLANNING

### LONDON ROYAL DOCKS

Participants engaged with a number of organisations and interest groups (including the Greater London Authority) to develop a new Urban Park in the London Royal Docks. This process covered the overall design concept, proposed uses and suggested how the park could be operated to be financially self-sustaining.

### PARK ROYAL, LONDON

Participants worked with the Old Oak & Park Royal Development Corporation to explore the future of urban manufacturing and industrial estates in cities using the case of Park Royal in London. The EMC Lab explored how to reinforce existing industrial and business sectors within Park Royal while also attracting new ones.





AMARAVATI, INDIA

# Urban Consultancy

The Urban Consultancy Project is a six-month individual consultation undertaken in a participant's own organisation or an external organisation of their choice.

The project is an opportunity for participants to put the research and strategy skills gained over the teaching modules into practice by undertaking a piece of work that directly benefits their host organisation.

Previous consultancies have had a major impact in a diverse range of organisations, including the Asian Development Bank, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and the cities of Sydney, Vienna, Kampala and Medellín.

The Urban Consultancy Project is designed to allow participants to advance their careers by:

- Repositioning themselves in their current organisation.
- Supporting the development of new business plans.
- Engaging with a prospective future client or employer.
- Working with an organisation that is a sector leader in a field.
- Advising on urban strategies and policies.

The project begins with participants agreeing a brief that meets both the strategic goals of their host organisation and the academic requirements of LSE. Each participant is then allocated a supervisor from the programme's senior faculty who provides advice and guides them through the research and writing process. Supervision modules are undertaken remotely, allowing participants to engage with the programme without having to travel to London.

# Courses

## CORE COURSES

### **CITIES IN AN URBAN AGE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

An introduction to the structural dynamics that shape the way cities are governed, planned and managed in different regions across the globe. The course outlines the key environmental, social and economic drivers that determine urban change in the 21st century.

### **CITIES AND SOCIETY: DESIGN AND SOCIAL COHESION**

The connections between how cities are configured and the impact on different social, ethnic and economic groups – including migrants, youth and the elderly - are explored in a course that investigates how the design and planning of cities can either promote social inclusion or exacerbate divisions in urban society.

### **CITIES AND THE ECONOMY: URBAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE**

This applied course investigates how city governments, investors and firms can drive inclusive local development in a competitive global economy. Using case studies and real-life examples, the course identifies better ways to measure the city economy and looks at how urban policy can play a key role in steering it through industrial strategies, investments in innovation and fiscal policy.

### **CITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITIONS**

Recognising the critical role that cities play in successfully responding to the global ecological and climate crisis, the

course identifies how the negative impacts of urban development on the environment – linked to urban sprawl, motorisation and resource use – can be reversed through innovative governance, green policies and practices that transform the way we develop and inhabit cities and regions in the future.

### **URBAN CONSULTATION PROJECT**

The six-month final report allows participants to develop a tailor-made consultancy designed to respond to the actual urban needs of an organisation or city of their choice, including public sector agencies, corporations and companies, NGOs and international bodies.

## ELECTIVE COURSES

### **URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC PLANNING**

A collaborative group-based workshop brings together participants with representatives of an external organisation to provide input and practical insights on infrastructure development and strategic planning for cities.

### **URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MASTER PLANNING**

A similar collaborative group-based workshop engages participants with real-life clients, landowners and city authorities to tackle selected planning, design and development issues on a major urban regeneration site.



# Senior Faculty



**Ricky Burdett**  
Director, LSE Cities  
Research areas: City design,  
social equity and planning



**Tony Travers**  
Director, LSE London  
Research areas: Urban  
governance, finance and  
public policy



**Jo Beall**  
Professorial Research Fellow,  
LSE Cities  
Research areas: Development,  
education and infrastructure



**Nick Stern**  
IG Patel Chair of Economics  
and Government, LSE  
Research areas: Climate  
change, economics and policy



**Fran Tonkiss**  
Deputy Head, Department  
of Sociology, LSE  
Research areas: Urban  
sociology, society and inequality



**Suzi Hall**  
Director, Cities Programme, LSE  
Research areas: Social diversity,  
urban migration  
and integration



**Andrés Rodríguez-Pose**  
Professor, Department of  
Geography, LSE  
Research areas: Economic  
geography, regional and urban  
economic development



**Alcinda Honwana**  
Strategic Director, Firoz Lalji  
Centre for Africa, LSE  
Research areas: Youth politics,  
social movements  
and urban cultures

# Programme Co-Directors



## **PHILIPP RODE – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LSE CITIES**

Philipp is Executive Director of LSE Cities and Co-Director of the Executive MSc in Cities at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Since 2003, he has been directing interdisciplinary projects comprising urban governance, transport, city planning and urban design. He co-directed the cities workstream of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate in the run-up to the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris and co-led the UN Habitat III Policy Unit on Urban Governance. Philipp is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) and Steering Committee Member of the Coalition for Urban Transitions.



## **SAVVAS VERDIS – SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, LSE CITIES**

Savvas is Senior Research Fellow at LSE Cities and Co-Director of the Executive MSc in Cities at the London School of Economics. Until recently he was Director of Infrastructure Economics at Siemens Cities. At LSE, he manages the Executive Education programmes, which include: tailored learning experiences for organisations; an Executive Summer School programme; and the Executive MSc in Cities. He previously worked in the advisory service of LSE Cities and led the research of the ninth Urban Age conference in Rio de Janeiro. He has consulted numerous city and national governments on their infrastructure strategies in countries such as Australia, Brazil, Ethiopia, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia and Turkey.

# Global Faculty



**Sue Parnell**  
Global Challenges Professor of Human Geography, University of Bristol



**Ireena Vittal**  
Independent Consultant and Advisor, Delhi



**Mark Watts**  
Executive Director, C40 Cities



**Greg Clark**  
Chair, The Business of Cities & Global Head of Future Cities and New Industries, HSBC



**Alejandro Echeverri**  
Director, URBAM, Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies, Medellín



**Jagan Shah**  
Senior Infrastructure Advisor, DFID, UK Government



**Diane Davis**  
Charles Dyer Norton Professor of Regional Planning and Urbanism, Harvard University



**Henk Ovink**  
UN Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands



**Jennifer Musisi**  
Executive Director, Kampala, 2014-2018 & City Leader in Residence, Harvard Kennedy School



**Jean Louis Missika**  
Deputy Mayor of Paris Planning and Economic Development, 2010-2020



**Erion Veliaj**  
Mayor of Tirana



**Leilani Farha**  
UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, 2014-2020 & Global Director, The Shift



# Participant Stories



## Cecilia Vaca Jones

**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, BERNARD VAN LEER FOUNDATION**

The Bernard van Leer Foundation works internationally to improve the health and wellbeing of babies, toddlers and the people who care of them. The Foundation's Urban95 initiative works with urban planners, designers, policy-makers and civil society to reimagine cities from the height of an average healthy three-year-old (95cm).

The Executive MSc in Cities helped me spread Urban95 by reaching a diverse set of great professionals who now show interest and enthusiasm for understanding how the lives and development of young children and their families are affected by urban design, mobility and the environment.



## Anupma Jain

**SENIOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

One of the highlights of the programme was the urban consultancy project. I took the academic research from my consultancy and turned it into a successful project proposal for regional financing and partnership, securing funds from within my organization to develop a Pacific city resilience measurement tool to prepare a sub-regional solid waste management strategy in the Pacific.

Through the innovative learning from the programme and inputs received during the consultancy, I have identified ways in which the concept of wellbeing can be woven in measurement and strategy development. It is about the people and their relationship with the urban space in which they live and work - it goes beyond just infrastructure development.



**Ciarán Cuffe**  
**MEP FOR DUBLIN**

2019 has been an eventful year. After submitting my LSE Cities consultancy project in March, I kicked off my election campaign to represent Dublin in Europe. I was honoured to top the poll in Dublin, and receive a merit grade for my work on 'Decarbonising Dublin'.

Now I am working on low-carbon solutions in the European Parliament, helping deliver a European Green Deal to tackle climate change across cities and regions in the European Union. The Executive MSc in Cities helped me to be more strategic in my work, and collaborate successfully on shared goals.



**Hastings Chikoko**  
**REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, C40 CITIES**  
**CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GROUP**

The unprecedented rate of urbanization in Africa provides an opportunity for economic growth and low-carbon development. However, the climate emergency is stretching the continent's capacity to achieve healthy and prosperous cities due to increasing climate hazards, insufficient resilience of existing infrastructure, and inadequate financial and professional capacity. C40 provides cities with the best available data, approaches and capacity necessary to develop and implement policies and programmes for a sustainable, resilient and inclusive urban future.

The Executive MSc in Cities equipped me with analytical skills to unpack complex research findings and lessons from C40 programmes, and propose to city leaders innovative ways of addressing climate change while dealing with poverty, employment creation, service delivery and inequality.

# Benefits to your organisation

As an executive participant, your development on the programme will bring many valuable benefits to your organisation.

## **IMMEDIATE IMPACT**

Studying whilst working, you can immediately apply your newly gained knowledge, skills and strategies in your workplace, contributing to new and improved efficiency and effectiveness in your team. You will be able to demonstrate enhanced communication, negotiation and influencing skills and confidence with your contextual understanding of the problems facing urban environments. Supporting a participant from your organisation offers instant return on investment.

## **DEVELOPING TALENT**

Being a sponsored executive participant signals a strong interest in the development of the staff within your organisation. Such a commitment to nurturing talent will increase motivation, loyalty and in turn strengthen the leadership of your organisation.

## **CONSULTING FOR YOUR COMPANY**

Through the choice of two final courses, the programme will be tailored to your organisation's specific business needs. This will be further developed during the six month consultancy project in which you will be expected to analyse specific challenges facing your business. With lectures and workshops led by world renowned faculty and a network of global urban thinkers, their leadership, knowledge and expertise flow directly into your organisation.

## **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**

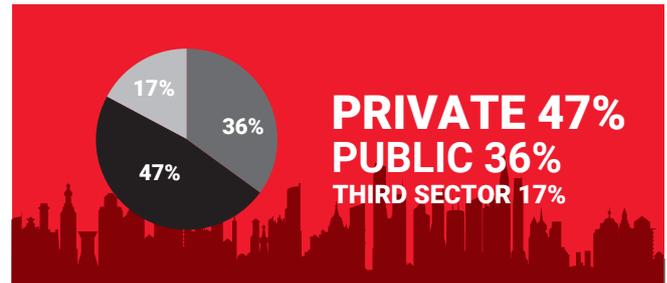
You will have access to high-profile urban leaders and researchers which will offer your organisation the opportunity to tap into diverse new resources and knowledge. Your classmates will offer exposure to a wide range of professional and regional perspectives which will build your employer's global mobility.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION**

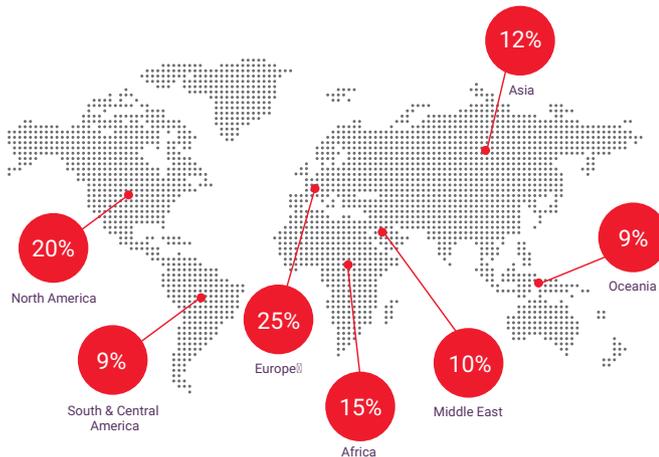
Our team will be very happy to discuss sponsorship options with you and/or your employer, ensuring that the programme is best suited to your organisation's objectives; and to your professional development needs and experience.



# Who Should Apply



## PARTICIPANT REGIONS



## INDUSTRY/SECTORAL AFFILIATION

ARCHITECTURE	6%
CULTURE, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS	9%
MANAGEMENT CONSULTING	3%
ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY	8%
URBAN PLANNING	16%
URBAN DESIGN	7%
URBAN REGENERATION	5%
INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY	7%
REAL ESTATE	6%
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	12%
LOCAL & NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	21%

The Executive MSc in Cities welcomes applications from experienced working professionals based in any location who are committed to leading large-scale change in cities. Our alumni include senior city officials, architects, politicians, entrepreneurs, property developers, urban designers, city planners and academics.

However, our participants are known for their geographic and sectoral diversity, so we will consider applications from all experienced professionals who want to understand and deliver change in cities.

# How to Apply

We welcome applications from working professionals based in any location around the world who are committed to leading large-scale change in cities. Our minimum requirements are below.

- Typically, a minimum of ten years of professional experience in an urban related field in the public/private/third sector, or professionals with a similar level of experience who wish to move into the urban sector.
- A good first degree: UK 2:1 or higher, OR equivalent professional qualification.
- Higher level English language: If you are not a national of a UKVI-approved English-speaking country, you can meet the LSE's language requirements in a number of ways. These include achieving the required grade in a recognised English language test or completing a course of study in a UKVI-approved English speaking country. Please consult the LSE website for details.
- Two references: two professional references, OR one professional reference and one academic reference.
- Personal statement: include your interest and suitability for the programme, career achievements and ambitions, what you hope to get out of the programme and what you believe you can bring to the class.
- CV or résumé.

If you would like to find out if this programme is right for you, we offer personal consultations for prospective applicants.

Please email your CV or résumé to [exec.lsecities@lse.ac.uk](mailto:exec.lsecities@lse.ac.uk) and a member of the programme team will get in touch.

All enquiries should be made to:

Executive MSc in Cities

+44 (0)20 7955 7326

[emc.lsecities@lse.ac.uk](mailto:emc.lsecities@lse.ac.uk)

All applications are made through LSE's Graduate Admissions Office. It is recommended to apply early to avoid disappointment:

[lse.ac.uk/study/grgraduate](https://lse.ac.uk/study/grgraduate)

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**LSE**Cities

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