MA Urban History and Culture Online Open Day

london.ac.uk/institute-in-paris
University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP)

• One of the leading UK institutes on continental Europe.

• The Institute is a central academic body of the University of London, one of the oldest, largest and most diverse universities in the UK.

• We work closely with Queen Mary University of London, King’s College London and Goldsmiths University of London.

• Our students graduate with a University of London degree and have access to the University’s vast library holdings and electronic resources.
Location: Paris is our campus

- Located in the heart of Paris in the 7th arrondissement, home to the Eiffel tower, we are within walking distance of numerous monuments, institutions and museums.
Small University Institute

We are a small institute, roughly 200 students, meaning that students are never lost in the crowd at ULIP. Thanks to our size, you will benefit from interacting with an interdisciplinary student body and make friends with diverse horizons.

Graduate Programmes

• MA in Urban History and Culture
• MA in International Relations
• LLM and double LLM
MA in Urban History and Culture: Why?

- This programme was created in 2017 at a crossroads in Parisian history, two years after the devastating attacks of 2015, which had a massive impact on all number of aspects of urban culture, and as Paris was nominated to host the 2024 Olympic Games, a perspective that is now shaping the city of the future.

- We launched our unique programme to work at the intersection between the political and social history of cities and the understanding of how built environments reflect and transform this history.

- Our MA offers you the chance to study the changing shape of the city and understand the impact that urban form has on local, national and transnational culture.
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A Unique Split-Site Programme

The programme is delivered in partnership with Queen Mary University of London, a world-ranked research university with a vibrant School of History.

Semester 1 is spent in Paris at ULIP. You will work with ULIP lecturers as well as colleagues from Queen Mary who travel to Paris to teach topics ranging from women in the medieval city to the history of the Beaux Arts Salon and the Louvre museum. Towards the end of the semester, you will all undertake a field trip to London.

Semester 2 can either be spent in Paris at ULIP, or you may choose to relocate to London and continue your studies at Queen Mary’s east-end campus at Mile End.

You do not need to declare your intention to spend semester 2 in London until the beginning of the programme (at the end of September/beginning of October).
What will you study?
Some of our questions…

• Why is the new garden in the centre of Paris named after Nelson Mandela?

• What was the legacy of the Great Plague of London on the shape of the City?

• Why does central London include key examples of brutalist architecture while the great wave of modernism only had a lasting effect on the Parisian suburbs?

• What are the challenges of a socially just transition to a more environmentally sustainable city?

• How did New York steal the art market? And has the street claimed it back?

Our MA spans the development of the modern city and gives you a diverse array of vantage points from which to grapple with the complex interplay of social history, ideas and art forms, and political upheavals.
How will you study?

Core Modules

The programme is divided into a first semester of core modules all delivered in Paris.

• 'Encountering the City' is built around the exploration of particular sites of historical significance. You will undertake field work and write a core essay on a ‘site visit report’. You will also develop your grasp of urban history and write a long critical assignment on a topic of your choice.

• ‘Interpreting the City’ delves into cultural representations of the urban environment, from maps to poems, as well as paintings and much more. You write two essays, one on art works in context, one on critical sources.

• These modules are supported by a non-assessed methodology course.
In the second semester you will choose two special options from a range available at the University of London Institute in Paris or at Queen Mary University of London. The options cover some of the following topics:

- from urban regeneration to grassroots insurgency
- from logistics to international exhibitions
- from climate policy to Impressionist painting
- from Walter Benjamin and the avant-garde to health and the city in the seventeenth century
- from the building of new religious edifices to the tearing down of social housing.
How will you study?  
The MA dissertation

The crowning component of your MA is a 12-15 000-word dissertation, which you prepare through an assessed methodology course in semester two and submit in early September.

This dissertation gives you the opportunity to develop your own research on a topic you will define and refine through personal supervision. It is the chance for you to lay the building blocks for your future career and work on a subject about which you are passionate.

Last year students wrote about:

- Deaf History and Culture in Paris
- The queer politics of pre-AIDS Paris nightlife in the 1970s and 80s through a study of the Palace club
- The development of the Paris Plage event and its relation to the sand industry
- How Samuel Beckett drew inspiration from his life in Paris
- The excavation of Paris and how the substratum was reconfigured in parks and buildings.
Where will this take you?

We place a strong emphasis on interactive learning, offering you the chance to work in a group and to develop both written and oral skills, as well as subject-specific expertise. You will be encouraged to develop original research in your dissertation and to use this as a means to build a pathway to future career opportunities.

- Graduate with a recognised postgraduate qualification from the University of London
- Gain strong inter-cultural skills and a range of advanced project management skills
- Take advantage of the free dedicated careers service through Queen Mary University of London's Careers and Enterprise

Previous graduates have gone on to work in:

- Journalism
- Academia
- Museum-curation
- Local-authority and environmental consultancy
- Photography
- Teaching
Research Interests

Mobilities and City Studies

Spanning the disciplines of international politics, modern history and contemporary cultural production, our faculty works at the intersection between urban culture and the migration of people and goods, from the colonial period through to the contemporary globalized world.

Contemporary Visual Culture

Paris was the first capital of the global image. Research at ULIP draws on this rich legacy, exploring diverse aspects of visual culture and its interactions with the urban landscape, as well as encompassing the representation in different media of cities and the city of Paris itself.
Events

We hold regular academic talks for students and the general public throughout the year. Examples of recent or upcoming events include:

- Localities of welcoming – Cultures of Care
- Public Ecologies: Imaginaries of Urban Nature-Culture
- Reclaiming the Universalist Credo
- Knowledge Diplomacy – Cities as Sites of Knowledge Creation
- Music Migrations: From Stage to Screen
- Decolonising Multilingualism
- Climate Change and the Paris Agreement
- The Empire of Democracy
Facilities: Building

- The Institute is housed in two magnificent 19th century town houses, which are jointly owned with the British Council.
- We are located just one minute walk from the Metro/RER stop Invalides and across the street from a Velib station (bike share).
Facilities: Library

The ULIP Library offers onsite support and research material for students.

- Located on the first floor
- We offer subject-specific resources in English and French, as well as access to dozens of electronic databases.
- Our librarian is on hand to help you with your search
- Printing and computing areas
- Study space with quiet and/or group-work area
Facilities: Student Social Space

- Located in the basement
- Kitchen area with microwaves, coffee maker and kettle
- Spacious lunch/study area where all students meet and mingle
- Short-term lockers
- Student Unions’ Office
- Some of the SU societies organise several events ranging from salsa, yoga and more.
Support Services

Our friendly and bilingual Student Services team operates an open-door policy to offer advice and guidance to any student facing a practical difficulty during their time in France, so if you have any issues there is always someone to talk to.
Student life: activities

- Paris has over 150 museums and galleries of art
- Most museums offer free visits on a regular basis (e.g: Louvre – Saturday; Centre Pompidou – Sunday…)
- Opportunity to access sporting facilities through the City Hall or student sports associations
- Numerous free-to-attend festivals, such as ‘Cinéma en plein air (open-air screen) and more
Thank you for attending our Online Event

Any questions?
Please use the chat box to ask any questions you may have.