

DUBLIN SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

HOUSING MPhil PROGRAMME



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Housing is intrinsically suffused with the human experience. We spend most of our lives there and use it to modulate our environmental and social relationships. Its conception, planning and production span across multiple disciplines. Its production is often centrally linked to national economies with both positive and negative effects. It has been the site of much architectural experimentation and research in the modern era. It is the building typology that is the mainstay of our cities and towns making up as much as 70% of the built fabric. The extent of time spent in housing has considerably altered due to the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic, an experience that has both reinforced its centrality to human existence and has called into question its qualitative aspects.

The Dublin School of Architecture (DSA), at the Technological University Dublin, Housing MPhil Programme offers students an opportunity to research and develop areas of knowledge fundamental to our understanding of the necessity of creating appropriate, diverse housing systems for a sustainable future both within Ireland and for our fragile planet. It allows students to choose from a broad range of housing topics and to undertake supervised research in specific housing topics pertinent to Irish societal needs. This ranges from policy to strategies and from scales at the urban level to the detail of the built fabric - with understandable overlap between them. Topics covered range across housing policy, urban planning, sustainable development, history & theory, housing design and technological innovations. The topics below are placed within specific subject areas but are of course interchangeable depending on the specificity of the research proposal. Other topics will also be considered.

The DSA Housing MPhil (Master of Philosophy) Programme (NQAI level: 9) also offers the possibility for multi-disciplinary collaboration with other related disciplines within the wider College of Engineering and the Built Environment (CEBE) and beyond. MPhil research can be further developed as part of a PhD Programme within the DSA. The enrolment requirement is a Level 8 Honours Degree with a minimum 2.2 award in a relevant discipline. International students should have achieved a minimum of IELTS level 6.0. All graduate researchers within the DSA are also members of the Graduate Research School (GRS). The GRS manages the educational programmes and further information, including fees, is available online at <http://www.dit.ie/researchenterprise/graduateresearchschool/>

STRUCTURE

The Housing MPhil, up to 2 years (FT) or up to 3 years (PT), is equivalent to 180 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits. While the MPhil is primarily self-motivated research under supervision, students will be obliged to complete relevant modules to the value of 10 ECTS (Transversal and Discipline Skills). Students on research programmes may apply for recognition of prior learning in respect of transversal skills training, to a total of 10 ECTS.

FEES & FUNDING

This is a self-funded programme.

However, financial assistance towards the student fee for up to two applicants will be provided by the Housing Agency.

In addition, advice will be offered to students by staff from DSA and the Graduate Research School on possibilities for other funding options.

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Dublin, D01 K822, Ireland.
TU Dublin Architecture Website: tudublin.ie/architecture

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Suitable Topics for a Housing MPhil at DSA



HOUSING, CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

- Location, transport, housing density and typology – impact on climate and sustainability
- Retrofitting of existing housing including historic protected structures
- Design of housing and mixed-use developments for long-term sustainability – what objective criteria should be set from the start?

URBANITY AND HOUSING

- Housing and cities – making Dublin / Cork / Galway / Limerick child & age-friendly cities
- Housing density and livability – a study in the creation of compact, livable cities
- The re-imagining of Irish small town centres as living places with housing as the main driver
- How should we design housing developments to allow for no cars in 30-40 years' time but allowing for their provision in the interim

HOUSING DESIGN

- Smart housing to promote health and well-being and lifelong sustainability
- Housing space standards – comparisons across the European Union
- Impact of health-related crises including the Covid-19 Pandemic on the design of housing
- Post occupancy analysis on selected housing case studies – impact on future guidelines and designs
- Fire safety and design in houses and / or multioccupancy apartment complexes
- Achieving flexibility for life long living in housing design

HOUSING POLICY / STRATEGIES / DESIGN

- Housing tenure – implications of the adoption of multiple varied housing tenure systems on housing typology, design, technology and sustainability?
- Accessibility and shared amenity in multi-occupancy housing – can they be meaningfully combined?
- Housing for positive aging and social care - addressing the demographic time bomb and allow dwellers to experience positive aging in their own homes?
- Cohousing and Community Land Trusts as possible procurement typologies in Ireland
- Development guidelines and models of housing with supports for people with special needs
- Housing affordability, financialisation, gentrification and architecture.

TECHNOLOGY / ENVIRONMENT / POLICY

- A critical review of the various environmental guidelines such as LEED, BREEAM, BRE, Part L, NZEB in promoting environmentally sustainable housing development
- Research on environmental issues such as overheating, ventilation, acoustics, etc.
- Embedded energy in building materials and construction systems in housing
- Prefabricated engineered timber systems in housing provision in Ireland

HISTORY & THEORY OF HOUSING

- Critical appraisals of specific Irish housing case studies from 1870 to the present
- A critical analysis of the forces driving the production of Irish housing during the last 150 years
- Create an interactive digital timeline of Irish Housing from 1870 to the present with reference to economic, social, political and architectural developments nationally and worldwide.

If you would like to discuss a proposed research project in housing with a member of DSA staff please email jim.roche@TUDublin.ie