

To find out more, please visit our website:

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The master's programme for developing teamwork, leadership, innovation, design, and research skills in the built environment.



IDBE is a transformative part-time master's course at the University of Cambridge, for global practitioners working in the built environment. Through intensive, themed residential weeks we deliver a bespoke learning experience which develops individual and professional skills in multidisciplinary teamwork, the design process and individual research. For 20 years we have been equipping our graduates with enhanced skills, knowledge and professional networks to solve the challenges facing our industry by becoming innovative, dynamic and successful leaders.

2015 – 2017 Prospectus

Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment

The programme is jointly administered by the University of Cambridge Departments of Engineering and Architecture.

COURSE INFORMATION

For you

The IDBE master’s programme helps you to develop your professional skills and gain confidence with participating in, and leading, interdisciplinary teams. Through the course you will deepen your knowledge and understanding of your industry and profession through the residential weeks and written assignments. You will be guided and supported by leading academics to develop research in a relevant area of interest to yourself or your company. You will also develop your network of cross-disciplinary, international, and like-minded professionals. Our graduates have found their IDBE experience to be a catalyst for changing and developing their future careers.

For your employer

Our students have a proven track record of developing interdisciplinary and leadership skills through the course which have been recognised by their employers. Often students investigate specific issues facing their companies, leading to deeper understanding, and added value. Employers can support their staff on the course by: providing access to project data for research; providing time off to attend the residential weeks; and, providing financial assistance.

Entry qualifications & requirements

IDBE is for those involved in the commissioning, design, construction and management of projects in the built environment. Previous students have been architects, engineers, surveyors, planners, landscape designers, project managers, building economists, urban designers, client representatives, contractors, facility managers, and construction litigators, amongst others.

As standard, applicants are expected to have:

- a minimum of three or more years of professional experience since graduating;
- a good first degree (2:1 or better); and,
- for non-native speakers, a good command of English as required by the University.

Each year we have successful applicants from non-standard backgrounds. Those with alternative experience or qualifications should contact the IDBE office for advice.

Course aims

- To equip professionals for strategic decision making, inventive problem solving and evidence based design.
- To develop skills in effective collaboration, communication, teamwork, and team leadership.
- To provide a strategic overview of the development of the built environment and key contemporary challenges facing the industry.

Course structure

Students spend a total of seven residential weeks in Cambridge during the two years of the course. Each week comprises an intensive programme of:

- formal lectures from leading practitioners and academics;
- workshops and seminars;
- a tutor-led studio design project undertaken in small interdisciplinary teams of students; and,
- individual supervisions.

Between the residential weeks, students work on written assignments. In the first year, three structured essays develop their research skills. In the second year, students undertake an individual research project leading to a 15,000 word thesis.

Research Areas

Students are supported in their research assignments through dedicated individual supervision. IDBE has a large pool of tutors with expertise in a wide range of areas including retrofit, BIM, life cycle analysis and policy impacts.

Themes of the residential weeks

Each week is centred on current global challenges and opportunities facing the production of the built environment. The current themes are:

- Interdisciplinarity
- The client, the user, and the design team
- Sustainable construction and climate change
- Personal development, teamwork, and leadership
- Retrofit, conservation and adaptation
- Innovation, new technologies, and materials
- Urbanism, change, and future communities

2015 – 2017 Provisional Course Dates

The seven compulsory course weeks run from Sunday evening to Saturday lunchtime.

Year	Dates (provisional)
2015	September 20th – 26th December 6th – 12th
2016	April 3rd – 9th June 12th – 18th December 4th – 10th
2017	March 26th – April 1st July 9th – 15th

Fees

Every student at Cambridge becomes a member of one of the University’s 31 independent colleges. IDBE students are offered lifetime membership of Wolfson College.

Combined fees for 2015 entry are **£7080 per year**, 25% of which is the college membership fee. This does not include accommodation and meals, but you will benefit from reduced member rates at Wolfson College.

Applications

Applications should be made on-line through the Institute of Continuing Education at: www.ice.cam.ac.uk/mst. The closing date for entry in September 2015 is July 31st, but the process can be lengthy and earlier applications are preferred. If your application is non-standard or if you will need to apply for a visa, we would recommend applying by the end of May.

Accreditation

The course is accredited by the following professional bodies. Please see our website for full details.



‘The course gave me the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the industry, while encouraging me to think more broadly about my own contribution to its future.’
Laila Mehrpour, Product Development Manager, IDBE 16, 2009 – 2011



‘IDBE is an incredible, powerful and transformative course... providing me with an edge in a highly competitive industry.’
Seun Adekunbi, Infrastructure Management Consultant, IDBE 17, 2010 – 2012



‘IDBE provided the opportunity to engage and network with innovative people, joining together practical experience with academic rigour and research.’
Martin Watson, Architect and Partner, IDBE 18, 2011 – 2013