



Module Specification

Strategic Growth and Infrastructure

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Contents

Module Specification	1
Part 1: Information	2
Part 2: Description	2
Part 3: Teaching and learning methods	3
Part 4: Assessment.....	5
Part 5: Contributes towards	6

Part 1: Information

Module title: Strategic Growth and Infrastructure

Module code: UBGMFH-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Environment & Technology

Department: FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt

Partner institutions: None

Field: Geography and Environmental Management

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module focuses on the planning of strategic growth and infrastructure and is structured into two parts.

Collectively both parts will provide an insightful introduction to the planning of major

projects and identify some of the critical issues for major projects: the role of Government, clients, investors, regulators and other actors; planning strategy; assessment and development frameworks; securing the necessary land; funding, financing and project delivery mechanisms.

Outline syllabus: The syllabus will therefore explore the following:

Terminology, concepts, definitions and justifications associated with strategic planning and growth

Key priorities for planning strategic growth and infrastructure at the city-region scale and beyond

The debates and processes associated with the delivery of large scale housing, including the strategic spatial options for delivering new homes

The role of key stakeholders in the delivery of major growth and infrastructure

Appraising strategic options for housing development: the role for Strategic Environmental Assessment

Defining infrastructure and contextualising the need for infrastructure investment

Scales of infrastructure development, including the role for nationally significant infrastructure

Introductory discussion on the challenges affecting the planning, design and delivery of major projects

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Part one is orientated to the planning of strategic growth at the scale of a city-region. You will hear about the key agendas for planning

at this scale, from encouraging greater cohesion to promoting more resilient and polycentric forms of development. The module will define some of the terminology that surrounds planning at this scale and will identify the role of key organisations, such as the Local Enterprise Partnerships that extend across England. You will be introduced to some of the key debates surrounding the planning of strategic growth, such as the influence provided by growing levels of population. The module will consider the momentum this creates for the delivery of large scale housing, the type of options that exist for delivering this and the tools and mechanisms that can be applied to help facilitate delivery. Importantly the module will consider the broader type of strategic interventions that are needed for this growth to be successful and sustainable, such as major projects relating to employment, transport, energy and the environment. In looking beyond the planning of individual city regions, the module will take a critical perspective on the extent to which strategic growth is sufficiently coordinated nationally. Case studies will be used throughout with a range of plans, policies and projects being referred to. Many of these will be situated in the UK but international examples will also be provided to help generate some comparative insight.

Part two of the module will focus on national infrastructure, and specifically the type of projects that are necessary if strategic growth at the city-region scale is to be supported. You will be provided with some helpful definitions and a typology to appreciate the type of projects covered. The module will explore the translation of national policy into the promotion of major planning projects. You will hear about the steps through which infrastructure needs are assessed and the mechanisms through which investment in infrastructure is being facilitated. The module will outline the policy context from which nationally significant infrastructure projects arise and critically consider the extent to which these schemes are strategically planned and coordinated.

The module will be delivered to both online and in-class audiences. Through both of these formats, case studies will be used to illustrate current practices. Discussion forums will be used to facilitate the exchange of ideas, opinions and knowledge.

Distance Learning students will be enabled through the use of appropriate software

to create a quality student experience and ensure the delivery of module learning objectives.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Critically evaluate the role and value of planning strategically in a manner which consolidates and develops knowledge previously gained

MO2 Critically reflect on the factors and concepts that are driving investment in strategic growth and infrastructure at the city-region scale and beyond, by referring to global and UK case studies

MO3 Demonstrate an understanding of how major strategic development is promoted, identified and appraised

MO4 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the relationship between the promotion of strategic growth and infrastructure and the initiation and planning of major projects

MO5 Critically consider the types of infrastructure that exist, the scales at which it is planned, and the extent to which projects and initiatives are strategically coordinated

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmfh-15-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmfh-15-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The module will be assessed by one piece of coursework:

Report (3,000 words) – This will require you to write a well-illustrated strategy report providing well-reasoned proposals for delivering future strategic development. In doing so, particular regard will need to be had to the location and capacity of existing infrastructure, the suitability and deliverability of land for housing development, and the capacity and resilience of the relevant landscape to accept strategic growth. Students should reflect on some of the conceptual and practical thinking surrounding the planning of strategic and nationally significant infrastructure.

Resit Report - a similar brief to that described above, which may include some topic changes.

Assessment tasks:

Report (First Sit)

Description: Individual report (3000 words with illustrative material)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Report (Resit)

Description: Individual report (3000 words with illustrative material)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2023-24

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2022-23

Geography {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] - Not Running MPlan 2018-19