



## **Module Specification**

### **Strategic Planning and Infrastructure**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Strategic Planning and Infrastructure

**Module code:** UBGMFL-30-1

**Level:** Level 4

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**Faculty:** Faculty of Environment & Technology

**Department:** FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt

**Partner institutions:** None

**Delivery locations:** Frenchay Campus, Global College of Engineering and Technology (GCET)

**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:** This module explores the application of planning at a national-regional scale. It considers the merits of planning strategically, the type of matters where a strategic view is required, and the value of planning for the long-term.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** In addition to the Learning Outcomes, transferable skills developed through the module will include:

Self-directed learning and time management

Use of an academic library

Carrying out secondary research

Collecting information in the field

Development of the ability to construct concise arguments and defend them

Writing in professional and academic styles to a high standard

Ability to engage on a one to one basis in a professional context

**Outline syllabus:** While the module provides examples of strategic plans that are being prepared and actioned across the world, much of the focus will be directed to showcasing the national and regional planning that is occurring across the Sultanate of Oman and the wider Arab peninsula. Regard will be given to the Oman National Spatial Strategy, regional strategies, and the five-year plans and longer-term visions that the Sultanate has prepared in support.

Through the module students will be exposed to the demographic trends that the Sultanate is experiencing, and the level of growth it is expected to support moving forward. Critically the module will explore the distribution of this growth and the strategic options that exist for accommodating it, from standalone new communities (such as at Madinat Al Irfan) to the expansion of existing centres. It will encourage critical debate on whether existing centres, such as Muscat, can (or should) be encouraged to grow at the same pace or whether new nodes or points across the Sultanate should be pursued. It will consider some of the externalities that can arise with the unplanned intensification of a city, from congestion to pressure on supporting infrastructure, and the inequality that can arise in the rural and de-populating areas feeding the urban growth.

The module will consider the strategic demands that are collectively placed upon Oman's existing communities, with specific regard being given to future infrastructure. This term will be broken down to encompass infrastructures connected to transport, energy, healthcare, education, telecommunications and water supply. Future infrastructure investment will be considered in the context of

coverage, projected demand, and resilience in response to a range of factors, including climate change. While the module will give particular focus to urban areas, where growth is highest, it will also explore the regional challenges connected to the rural areas of the Sultanate and the strategic tools and measures that are needed to safeguard and protect the most sensitive, and most vulnerable, areas across Oman.

The module will explore the flows and interactions that exist across the geographical space of the Sultanate. Reference will also be made to the nationally significant infrastructure that the Sultanate will need if it is to remain competitive in the Arabian Peninsula as well as the broader global economy. Lastly the module will focus on the delivery and implementation of strategic growth and infrastructure by looking at how it can be funded, and the roles that key groups and stakeholders will need to have through the planning and design stages.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** The module will be delivered through a mix of lectures and workshops. Reading, via the online list, will be set in advance of sessions and will be used to encourage discussion and reinforce the learning experience. External guests will be invited to contribute where appropriate.

Independent learning will use directed reading via the online reading list and a selection of online resources, including appropriate case studies.

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

**MO1** Reflect on the relationship between local and regional/ national issues in planning approaches

**MO2** Articulate, and reflect, on the applicability of relevant theory on the planning of strategic growth and infrastructure

**MO3** Demonstrate an understanding of the methodologies that exist for robustly assessing spatial options and development strategies

**MO4** Analyse strategic data and use it in the formulation of policies and proposals

**MO5** Summarise the broad options for delivering large-scale growth in the context of a sub/city region, and to how these alternatives can be robustly assessed

**MO6** Explain and demonstrate understanding of the administrative and legal frameworks that exist for delivering infrastructure at the national/regional scale

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 240 hours

Face-to-face learning = 60 hours

Total = 300

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

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** Exam - a seen examination that will require students to write an essay linked to particular theory or concept connected with the planning of strategic growth and infrastructure. Prompts will be given in class with respect to developing exam technique while examples will be released in addition to the actual paper to help provide opportunities for formative assistance. An examination is felt to represent the most appropriate tool for delivering against the identified learning outcomes and provides an effective counter-balance to the general focus on coursework. Having an examination at this stage will provide students with additional confidence moving forward.

Poster presentation - requires students to prepare a baseline appraisal for an identified Governorate in the form of large (A1) visual displays. Preparing baseline accounts are common in urban planning and providing this opportunity early will

provide a very strong grounding moving forward. In practice, baseline material can be presented via a range of means but the assessment here uses exhibition boards. These are commonly used in planning and require careful consideration of the amount and type of information presented. In addition to satisfying the requirements of the relevant learning outcomes the assessment will also provide an opportunity for students to develop skills in visual presentation. Students will communicate outcomes via exhibition boards that will need to be defended in front of staff and course colleagues.

Resit Exam - another exam in the same format as above, which may contain different questions.

Resit Poster - a similar brief to that described above, which may include an adjusted topic choice.

### **Assessment components:**

#### **Examination (First Sit)**

Description: Seen Exam (2 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO6

#### **Poster (First Sit)**

Description: Poster Presentation (two A1 and questions) 5 mins

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

#### **Examination (Resit)**

Description: Seen Exam (2 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO6

**Poster (Resit)**

Description: Poster Presentation (two A1 and questions) 5 mins

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Urban and Regional Planning {Foundation} [GCET] BSc (Hons) 2022-23