



## **Module Specification**

### **Professional Development and Practice**

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 11 May 2023

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Professional Development and Practice

**Module code:** UBGL34-15-1

**Level:** Level 4

**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 is designed to enhance student understanding about planning as an academic discipline and as an area of professional activity. It also introduces students to the value of professional development and career planning

**Outline syllabus:** The first part of the module considers the origins of the planning profession and how it is practised today, both across the UK and the wider world. It provides insight into what planners do, the range of organisations they are employed by, and the type of work they are typically engaged with. The module unpacks the sectors and specialisms that planners can work within, and considers the type of skills, knowledge and behaviours that planners are expected to have. Sessions will also highlight some of the challenges and pressures that planners are likely to encounter through their work. These pressures might be quite generic in nature, such as those relating to project or time management, or be more specific, such as those relating to confidentiality, professional ethics and customer and client management. The module will also allow students to consider the type of change that is likely to pervade the profession in the future, such as the transitions arising from the application of new technology. The module will re-introduce the professional and subject bodies that support, promote and accredit the profession, and will outline the steps that need to be taken for becoming a professional, chartered planner. Students will develop an understanding of the current composition of the profession and recognise the ongoing attempts to extend and diversify. Finally, this part of the module will consider how planning is practised internationally, with a selection of case studies being included to show the nature of the planning profession in a selection of countries.

The second part of the module will focus on planning as an academic discipline and the contribution it makes, in a multidisciplinary sense, to the management of our built and natural environments. Students will be introduced to the role of universities and other research centres as the generators and disseminators of knowledge. The module will support the development of key library skills by helping to identify the sources through which research, knowledge and opinion is advanced, and provide appropriate frameworks through which publications can be reviewed and critiqued. As part of this, exposure will be given to some of the most noteworthy scholars and texts that have supported the profession to date.

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

**Teaching and learning methods:** The module will be delivered via a workshop-based approach to learning, supported by a suite of online resources.

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

**MO1** Outline the evolution of, and future prospects for, planning as an academic discipline and as an area of professional activity.

**MO2** Identify and explain the knowledge, skills and behaviours that practising planners are expected to demonstrate.

**MO3** Carry out a search of relevant literature and demonstrate skills in academic writing and referencing.

**MO4** Audit personal knowledge, skills and behaviours and apply reflective practice to articulate a professional goal and associated strategy for how this goal can be achieved.

**Hours to be allocated:** 150

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 120 hours

Face-to-face learning = 30 hours

Total = 150

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/56B05218-61AE-1357-E77D-3A4E270B5256.html) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/56B05218-61AE-1357-E77D-3A4E270B5256.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** Set Exercise - submit a video presentation requiring students to prepare a resource capable of promoting, and adding identity, to planning as an academic discipline and as an area of professional activity. By drawing from scheduled workshops and personal research, students will need to reflect on the evolution of both and consider the prospects for the future. They will

also need to consider the knowledge, skills and behaviours that practising planners are expected to have, the type of jobs they undertake, and the kind of legal, social, ethical and professional issues that they are likely to encounter through their work. While students will be encouraged to review and critique similar resources, module sessions will provide support with respect to identifying best-practice concerning both visual and verbal communication. In-class guidance, together with relevant online resources, will be used to offer appropriate support to students as they progress the task.

Online Assignment - academic study skills portfolio (1500 words) requires students to complete a Library Research Exercise that builds upon the Library's Online Workbook. This resource provides guidance with respect to searching for information, reading and notetaking, academic writing and referencing.

Online Assignment - Professional Development portfolio (1500 words) develops an understanding of professional development and reflection. Exercises will require students to reflect on the knowledge, skills, behaviours that they personally possess. Students will be asked to research and identify a personal professional goal relating to a specific job, or employment sector, of interest. Exercises will require the student to unpack the requirements and expectations surrounding the goal and develop a strategy for how they can be successful in securing it. To support this part of the portfolio, sessions will provide students with insight about application processes and allow them to practise writing covering letters and curriculum vitae (and their equivalents).

Although students will need to prepare their portfolios individually, they will be expected to collaborate with students, staff and relevant professional services within the university.

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

Resit Online Assignment - (both portfolios) a similar brief to that described above, which may include a reflective summary of changes to work already submitted.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Set Exercise** (First Sit)

Description: Video presentation (10 mins)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Online Assignment** (First Sit)

Description: Online Portfolio: Library Research Skills (1,500 words)

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3

**Online Assignment** (First Sit)

Description: Online Portfolio: Professional Development (1,500 words)

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4

**Online Assignment** (Resit)

Description: Online Portfolio: Professional Development (1,500 words)

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4

**Set Exercise** (Resit)

Description: Video Presentation (10 mins)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Online Assignment (Resit)**

Description: Online Portfolio: Library Research Skills (1,500 words)

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Urban Planning Practice {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] CertHE 2023-24

Urban Planning [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24