



Module Specification

Principles of Planning

Version: 2026-27, v2.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Principles of Planning

Module code: UBGMN3-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Architecture and Environment

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: This module offers a critical and imaginative exploration of contemporary plan-making practices across multiple spatial scales—from neighbourhoods to international contexts.

Drawing on foundational theories, planning philosophies, and real-world case studies, students will analyse diverse approaches to development planning, including strategic infrastructure and regional frameworks.

Through workshops, group presentations, and participation strategies, the module encourages reflective engagement with varied stakeholder interests, fostering inclusive and responsive planning solutions. Key themes such as planning reform, climate change, housing, and place-making are examined alongside comparative perspectives from the EU and the Global South.

By the end of the module, students will be equipped to develop innovative responses to complex spatial challenges, grounded in both critical analysis and collaborative practice.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The aim of this module is to introduce students to planning and the core skills necessary to conceive of, develop and write appropriate plans for a range of spatial scales in a range of sectors.

Outline syllabus: This module's content indicatively covers a number of aspects:

The logic of making plans – why are plans necessary and how can they provide appropriate frameworks for particular situations and scenarios

Plan-making: a historical and international perspective

Visioning and the setting of strategic goals and objectives

Planning for infrastructure

The role of evidence in plan making

Using scenarios and forecasts to make plans

Identifying and testing alternatives – impact assessment and the testing of plan policies

Developing plans and proposals collaboratively

Assessing the deliverability of plans

Testing plans through relevant legal frameworks through public examination

Monitoring and evaluation of plans and their policies

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning includes lectures, virtual or actual site visits, self-guided study site study, discussion exercises, and supported group-based project work.

Independent learning includes essential reading, assignment preparation and completion, etc., site study (actual or virtual) to explore examples of good practice. Independently managed group-based learning will also be required.

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.

Contact time: 72 hours

Assimilation and development of knowledge: 108 hours

Assessment: 120 hours

Total: 300hrs

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

MO1 Critically analyse plan making methods at a range of spatial scales drawing upon core concepts, theories and philosophy, as well as from practice.

MO2 Demonstrate reflective criticality on the importance of engaging with a diverse range of interests in the development of plan solutions.

MO3 Evaluate and develop imaginative solutions for planning challenges at a range of spatial scales.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmn3-30-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmn3-30-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessments will enable students to demonstrate their understanding of knowledge, skills and behaviour needed to appreciate the field of planning.

Formative Feedback - Students will receive formative assessment constantly during the module, as all sessions will involve some sort of discussion, debate or reflection. This will be both from their peers and module tutors.

Summative assessment is set out as below:

Task 1 - Presentation (20 minutes) - a group presentation about an aspect of the plan-making process involving recommendations about a particular issue.

Task 2 - Report (2500 words) - a practice-based report related to an aspect of plan-making.

The resit strategy is an individual presentation (15 minutes) for the first task, and Task 2 has the same profile as the first sit assessment.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Presentation (10 minutes)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3

Report (First Sit)

Description: Plan-making related report (2,500 words plus visual material)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Individual presentation

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3

Report (Resit)

Description: Plan-making related report (2,500 words plus visual material)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2026-27

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Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Urban Planning {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Urban Planning {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27