



Module Specification

Strategic Projects

Version: 2026-27, v1.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Strategic Projects

Module code: UBLLCJ-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: Architecture and the Built Environment

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 combines academic insight in the field of strategic planning with a practice-based placement, enabling students to apply knowledge in professional settings while developing key RTPI competencies such as leadership, ethical practice, stakeholder engagement, and reflective learning.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: In this module, students are first introduced to the strategic dimensions of planning, including spatial development and infrastructure coordination, laying the groundwork for applied professional experience. Students explore planning at scale through strategic frameworks, spatial development strategies, and nationally significant infrastructure projects. This component of the module fosters RTPI competencies in strategic thinking, governance, and leadership, equipping students to navigate complex planning environments and contribute to visionary, long-term spatial planning outcomes.

Drawing on this, the second part of the module offers students a structured opportunity to engage directly with professional planning environments through a practice-based placement. It is designed to support the development and demonstration of core competencies required by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), including professional ethics, spatial planning knowledge, stakeholder engagement, and reflective practice.

Outline syllabus: The syllabus will explore the following:

Terminology, concepts, and debates associated with strategic planning and growth, including an overview of population and economic projections and their role in strategic planning;

Key priorities for planning strategic growth and infrastructure at the sub-regional, regional and national scale;

The debates and processes associated with the delivery of large scale housing, including appraising spatial options for growth, and the role of Strategic Environmental Assessment;

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

Defining infrastructure and contextualising the need for infrastructure investment, at the sub-regional, regional and national scale;

Infrastructure planning systems, with a focus on nationally significant infrastructure projects, and their planning and implementation challenges, including debates about need, democracy, scale and participation.

Although grounded in UK practice, the module will also provide insight into international practices.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: This module will be delivered asynchronously, with learning materials accessed online.

For students on the MSc Urban Planning, in-class seminars will be available at key points during the module to allow student discussion and consolidation of learning materials.

For students on the MSc Planning and Urban Leadership masters, online webinars will be available at key points during the module student discussion and consolidation of learning materials.

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

MO1 Apply the principles of strategic planning and critically evaluate the role of planning in managing strategic growth, with reference to spatial development strategies and governance frameworks.

MO2 Critically assess spatial options for strategic growth and evaluate the contribution of nationally significant infrastructure projects to national planning objectives, drawing on UK and international case studies.

MO3 Create a deliverable project plan that outlines the scope and key tasks underpinning the professional experience, and fulfil the expectations and professional requirements of a planning-related employer.

MO4 Develop an in-depth reflection of the relationship between academic theory and professional planning practice, evaluating how acquired knowledge, skills, and behaviours have informed ethical, political, and economic decision-making in a real-world context.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 108 hours

Placement = 120 hours

E-learning/online learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/0E0741E4-AFA7-145E-3940-E3B6D7FFDA10.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module will be assessed by two pieces of coursework:

The first: This will require students to write a professional report (3000 words) comparing and contrasting two or more strategic project case studies [with the option to either compare two or more strategic plans, or two or more NSIPs], drawing out commonalities and differences in approach and advising on improved practice. The report will be weighted at 70%, to be supplemented by a 10-minute on-line interview to review and discuss the report, weighted at 30%.

The second coursework evaluates students' ability to apply academic knowledge in professional planning contexts and reflect critically on their development. The strategy combines a placement report (up to 3000 words) with a professional interview, ensuring students demonstrate both practical competence and reflective insight. The report will be weighted at 70%, to be supplemented by a 10-minute on-line interview to review and discuss the report, weighted at 30%.

Rationale:

The placement report will consist of:

A project output outlining the scope, objectives, and a detailed evidence of key tasks undertaken during the placement

A reflective analysis of how academic knowledge, skills, and behaviours were applied in practice.

The interview will assess:

The student's ability to articulate their role, responsibilities, and contributions during the placement

Their understanding of workplace expectations and how they met professional standards relevant to planning practice.

Resit brief will be the same as the first sit.

Formative feedback takes place during the module and considers the development of the professional planner and nurtures a critical and reflective mindset.

Formative feedback will consist of:

Discussion between peers within the lectures, tutorials and other scheduled sessions;

Comments on coursework drafts by the teaching team;

Use of interactive online tools (e.g. Menti) for students to post ideas/questions relating to taught content/coursework;

Use marking rubric both at the start to manage expectations of what 'good' looks like as well as facilitating students to use the rubric to evaluate their own drafts.

Assessment tasks:**Report (First Sit)**

Description: This will require students to write a professional report comparing and contrasting two or more strategic project case studies [with the option to either compare two or more strategic plans, or two or more NSIPs], drawing out commonalities and differences in approach and advising on improved practice. The

report will be weighted at 70%, to be supplemented by a 10 minute on-line interview to review and discuss the report, weighted at 30%.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Practical Skills Assessment (First Sit)

Description: The second coursework evaluates students' ability to apply academic knowledge in professional planning contexts and reflect critically on their development. The strategy combines a placement report (up to 3000 words) with a professional interview, ensuring students demonstrate both practical competence and reflective insight. The report will be weighted at 70%, to be supplemented by a 10 minute on-line interview to review and discuss the report, weighted at 30%.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Report (Resit)

Description: This will require students to write a professional report comparing and contrasting two or more strategic project case studies [with the option to either compare two or more strategic plans, or two or more NSIPs], drawing out commonalities and differences in approach and advising on improved practice. The report will be weighted at 70%, to be supplemented by a 10 minute on-line interview to review and discuss the report, weighted at 30%.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Practical Skills Assessment (Resit)

Description: The second coursework evaluates students' ability to apply academic knowledge in professional planning contexts and reflect critically on their

development. The strategy combines a placement report (up to 3000 words) with a professional interview, ensuring students demonstrate both practical competence and reflective insight. The report will be weighted at 70%, to be supplemented by a 10 minute on-line interview to review and discuss the report, weighted at 30%.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2025-26

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2026-27

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2026-27

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

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2025-26

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27