



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of England	
Teaching Institution	University of the West of England	
Delivery Location	Frenchay campus, University of the West of England	
Faculty responsible for programme	Environment and Technology	
Department responsible for programme	Geography and Environmental Management	
Modular Scheme Title	FET Postgraduate Modular Scheme	
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body	Royal Town Planning Institute	
Highest Award Title	MSc Urban Planning	
Default Award Title		
Interim Award Titles	PG Cert. Urban Planning PG Dip. Urban Planning	
UWE Progression Route		
Mode(s) of Delivery	Full time or part time	
Codes	UCAS: K4911	JACS:
	ISIS2: K40112 (FT) K40V42 (DA)	HESA:
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	QAA Masters Degree Characteristics 2010	
Approval Date	24 July 2019	
Valid From	September 2019	
Version	5	

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The MSc Urban Planning is a one year full time/two year part time postgraduate master's programme. It is open to graduates from both cognate disciplines (such as geography, for example) and from non-traditional routes (students from non-cognate disciplines, practitioners and the like). Part-time students include apprentices progressing towards the L7 Chartered Town Planner Degree Apprenticeship. The programme is accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute [RTPI] as a combined award, enabling successful students to satisfy the educational requirements of the RTPI and to progress towards chartered membership of the RTPI. The award also responds to the approved Degree Apprenticeship Standard for becoming a Chartered Town Planner by incorporating required areas of knowledge, as well as prescribed skills and behaviours. As such, the award prepares students / apprentices for the Assessment of Professional Competence [APC] and End Point Assessment. Overall, the programme prepares students / apprentices for work as planners in a wide range of jobs across local or central government, private practice, and the third sector. Graduates / apprentices are also equipped to work outside the UK through the acquisition of international knowledge and skills.

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme aims:

1. To provide a coherent programme of advanced postgraduate study in urban planning, which is firmly underpinned by a wide range of research (including that carried out by staff who teach on the programme) and by Faculty scholarship, consultancy, and links with practice;
2. Drawing upon an inspirational programme of learning strongly linked to practice, to enable students / apprentices from a range of disciplines and backgrounds to become effective, professionally- qualified planners;
3. To offer varied study patterns in order to broaden access to the programme (flexible part-time study, distance learning, ability to take periods of 'time out', etc.);
4. To ensure the management of the programme is sensitive and responsive to the study needs of a range of individuals, including mature students in employment;
5. To provide an opportunity for students / apprentices to study two complimentary specialised areas of planning, within a course built around core planning knowledge and skills; and
6. To encourage students to develop the capacity for advanced thought and action that is independent, critical, reflective and applicable in a range of international contexts.
- 7.

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

Learning Outcomes:	Module: Plan Making	Module: Implementation and Design Quality	Module: History and Theory of Urban Planning	Module: Planning for Conservation	Module: Healthy Cities	Module: Transport Policy and Finance	Module: Changing Travel Behaviour	Module: Grassroots Planning	Module: Urban Design	Module: Dissertation (30 and 60 credit versions)	Module: Agency Project	Module: Major Project Studio
A) Knowledge and understanding of:												
1 to demonstrate a reflective understanding of how relationships in place and space evolve over time and are open to positive influence by creative planning	√	√	√	√	√			t	t	√	√	√
2 to demonstrate a reflective understanding of the relationships between the social, economic, and natural environments within different political and cultural contexts	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t	√	√	√
3 to demonstrate a critical understanding of the relationships between market processes, the built environment and different patterns of development	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√	t
4 to evaluate the potential of design to create high quality places, and to demonstrate an understanding of design processes	√	√		√	√				t	√	√	√
5 to critically analyse the concept and different interpretations of sustainability in relation to urban planning concerns	√	√			√	√	√	t		√	√	t

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(B) Intellectual Skills												
	Module: Plan Making	Module: Implementation and	Module: History and Theory of Urban	Module: Planning for	Module: Healthy Cities	Module: Transport Policy and Finance	Module: Changing Travel Behaviour	Module: Grassroots Planning	Module: Urban Design	Module: Dissertation (30 and 60 credit versions)	Module: Agency Project	Module: Major Project Studio
1 to generate visionary and imaginative responses to urban planning challenges	√	√			√		√		t	√		
2 to judge and evaluate the quality of evidence that is used to support claims about theory and current	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t		√		

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Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme												
problems in planning practice												
3 to appreciate the complexity of policy issues and the role of values in their definition and solution	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t	√	t	
4 to formulate, present, and debate complex ideas, and engage with contested concepts	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t	√	t	
5 to devise and apply appropriate strategies for their own research	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t	√		
(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills												
1 to appreciate and respond sensitively to the values and needs of different groups in society	√	√	√	√	√		√	t	t		t	
2 to use skills of negotiation, mediation, and advocacy in the planning process	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t		√		
3 to be able to participate effectively as part of a team with other professionals in an integrated inter- disciplinary and/or inter-agency context	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t	√	√	
4 to make informed judgments on aesthetic and ethical questions	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t	√		
5 to appreciate the meaning of 'professionalism' including all the responsibilities, both individual and collective attached to this	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t			
(D) Transferable skills and other attributes												
1 to communicate and present complex material effectively in written, visual and oral form to specialist and non-specialist audiences	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t	√	√	
2 to manage a process of research, utilising appropriate methodologies	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t	√	√	
3 to work effectively as a member of a team	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t		√	
4 to act autonomously and demonstrate initiative in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t	√	√	
5 to self-direct, manage and reflect upon their own learning in a mature and responsible manner	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	t	t	√	√	

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

Teaching and learning strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

The Department of Geography and Environmental Management has a well-established track record of success in teaching and research in planning, and environmental sustainability. Students / apprentices will also benefit from teaching, including but not only, dissertation supervision, from members of the Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments. Facilities are excellent, with teaching carried out in an award-winning studio building which has recently been expanded to provide a variety of teaching and communal space.

While students / apprentices are offered support through the teaching and learning strategies of individual module leaders, the programme also provides direct support to students through the programme leader who arranges direct meetings twice per year.

Alongside the formal requirements of attendance, students are encouraged to attend a number of additional sessions as per the following:

- Careers and skills seminars run in second semester by the UWE careers service;
- Departmental/SPE research seminars run by departmental staff; and
- Postgraduate Research Skills Training run by the Faculty.

Employment opportunities

Student employment prospects are excellent since the job market for urban planners in both the private and public sectors is buoyant. This enables many students to find employment before or as soon as they have completed their studies. Links with employers are strong, including contributions on the course in recent years from Pegaus Group, the Planning Inspectorate, Place Studio and Atkins.

The programme promotes the role and value of chartered membership to the RTPI and provides preparatory support to the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) that graduates are able to pursue once they successfully complete their studies. Online programme support provides links to relevant documentation while regular workshops are held (often involving graduates) to develop skills and competencies in certain areas of the APC process (such as reflective writing and goal setting). The Agency Project, which is a core module for Degree Apprenticeship students, provides specific guidance on the End Point Assessment.

Field trips and exchange opportunities

Field trips are an integral part of the programme, including to overseas and British cities. The department has well-developed Erasmus links with many universities in the rest of Europe. Furthermore, staff teaching on the MSc have direct links with a number of other international universities. All of these links are exploited in the MSc for teaching and research purposes.

Part 5: AssessmentA: Approved to [University Regulations and Procedures](#)**Part 6: Programme Structure**

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **full time student**, including:
 level and credit requirements
 interim award requirements
 module diet, including compulsory and optional modules

	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
Year 1	UBPMN3-30-M Plan Making UBPMNJ-30-M History and Theory of Urban Planning UBMP3-30-M Implementation and Design Quality	<p><u>Students needs to complete 30 credits from:</u></p> UBGMY7-15-M Planning for Conservation UBGMXN-15-M Healthy Cities UBGMX7-15-M Urban Design UBGMYN-15-M Grassroots Planning UBPM8Q-15-M Transport Policy and Finance UBPM8P-15-M Changing Travel Behaviour Or UBGMM9-30-M Major Projects Studio (Appraisal and Delivery) <p><u>Students need to choose 60 credits from:</u></p> UBLLY7-60-M Dissertation UBGMT6-30-M Dissertation UBGMY5-30-M Agency Project B [Apprentices studying as part of the L7 Chartered Town Planner Degree Apprenticeship are required to take both UBGMT6-30-M and UBGMY5-30-M].	<p>PG Certificate in Urban Planning (After completion of 60 credits of core modules)</p> <p>PG Diploma Urban Planning (After the completion of all taught elements of the course except the dissertation)</p> <p>Highest award:</p> <p>MSc Urban Planning (180 M level credits)</p>

GRADUATION

Part 6: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to graduation for part time students:

	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
Year 1	UBPMN3-30-M Plan Making UBPMN3-30-M Implementation and Design Quality		PG Certificate Urban Planning (after completion of 60 credits of core modules)
Year 2	UBPMNJ-30-M History and Theory of Urban Planning	<p><u>Students need to choose 30 credits from:</u></p> UBGM7-15-M Planning for Conservation UBGMXN-15-M Healthy Cities UBGMX7-15-M Urban Design UBGMYN-15-M Grassroots Planning UBPM8Q-15-M Transport Policy and Finance UBPM8P-15-M Changing Travel Behaviour UBGMM9-30-M Major Projects Studio (Appraisal and Delivery) <p><u>Students need to choose 60 credits from:</u></p> UBLLY7-60-M Dissertation UBGMT6-30-M Dissertation UBGM5-30-M Agency Project B <p>[Apprentices studying as part of the L7 Chartered Town Planner Degree Apprenticeship are required to take both UBGMT6-30-M and UBGM5-30-M].</p>	<p>Interim award</p> <p>PG Dip Urban Planning (After the completion of all taught elements of the course except the dissertation)</p> <p>Highest award:</p> <p>MSc Urban Planning (180 M level credits)</p>

GRADUATION

Part 7: Entry Requirements

The University's Standard Entry Requirements apply with some discretion to be applied in exceptional circumstances. Approved qualifications include the Certificate in Urban Planning Practice that is included as part of the UWE Bristol Degree Apprenticeship offer.

Part 8: Reference Points and Benchmarks

The design and philosophy of the programme is underpinned by the learning requirements of the Royal Town Planning Institute and satisfies the educational requirements that are prescribed for a combined award. These requirements are presented through the institute's Initial Statement on Planning Education (2012). The programme also incorporates and / or develops the knowledge, skills and behaviours required by the Chartered Planner Degree Apprenticeship Standard (2019) and the QAA benchmark for Town and Country Planning.

The programme also responds to UWE Bristol's 2030 strategy and has been developed with a focus upon the UWE Graduate Outcomes Framework. This will ensure that students / apprentices are:

1. Self-reliant and connected via their student / apprentice and wider programme networks together with the student centred and enquiry based learning experience.
2. Ready and able graduates through the delivery of a holistic learning experience focused around both the academic and professional knowledge and skills requirements of being a chartered planner.
3. Enterprising and creative, underpinned by a shared learning experience, students / apprentices will engage in supported and student led learning with associated requirements for key enterprising attributes and behaviours including independent research, resilience, determination, enthusiasm, creative thinking, ambition, problem solving, communication skills, dedication, perseverance, and self-confidence.
4. Globally responsible through their subject studies which are all underpinned by the principles of sustainable development, international comparative study, and recognition of global best practice.
5. Future-facing with the skills and knowledge required to succeed informed by a programme which considers the requirements, implications, and challenges of the urban and rural futures again informed by the principles of sustainable development and the balancing of social, economic, and environmental considerations.

Staff research and consultancy interests and expertise

The programme is supported by a strong research base, with three four research centres providing particular support. These comprise the Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments, the Centre for Transport and Society and the Centre for Floods, Communities and Resilience. Members of staff from each of these groups are actively involved with the delivery of the programme and regularly attend conferences and produce articles for publication in their respective field.

Employer feedback

The faculty has a long and established track record in delivering geography and planning education at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The quality of our offer is acknowledged by employers, and excellent links are maintained with practice both locally and across the country. Many of these organisations help with the activities of the university, including giving advice to a joint employer/university forum, lectures, projects and dissertations.

Apprexix: Mapping of Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours from MSc Urban Planning to the L7 Chartered Town Planner Degree Apprenticeship

Where a module will fully satisfy a requirement of the apprenticeship standard this is marked 'F'. Where a module partially covers a requirement this is marked 'P'.

Knowledge	UBGMN3-30-M: Plan Making	UBGMNJ-30-M: Theory and History of Planning	UBGMP3-30-M: Implementation and design quality	UBGMY5-30-M: Agency Project B	UBGMT6-30-M: Dissertation / UBLLY7-60-M: Dissertation	UBGMM9-30-M: Major Projects Studio (Appraisal and Delivery)	UBGMX7-15-M: Urban Design	UBGMXN-15-M: Healthy Cities	UBGMY7-15-M: Planning for Conservation	UBGMYN-15-M: Grassroots Planning	UBGM8P-15-M: Changing Travel Behaviour	UBGM8Q-15-M: Transport Policy and Finance
	Core	Core	Core	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op
Planning theory, policy and practice. Spatial planning in different contexts and development scales as well as planning policy at national, regional, local and neighbourhood levels. The plan led system and policy frameworks, local plans and neighbourhood plans. National policy statements for major infrastructure and other published Government guidance and initiatives.	F	F	F	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P
Planning and related law. The purpose of planning and the nature and operation of the statutory land use planning system in the UK and the administrative legal and regulatory framework within which it operates related to the built and natural environment. The approaches taken by the different administrations of the UK. The role of planning law in development management and the mechanisms used including planning applications, permissions, permitted development, conditions, planning agreements, enforcement and appeals. The regulatory requirements of plan making to ensure compliance with the necessary processes. Planning for nationally significant infrastructure projects.	F	P	F	P	P	P	P	P	P			

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	UBGMN3-30-M: Plan Making	UBGMNJ-30-M: Theory and History of Planning	UBGMP3-30-M: Implementation and design quality	UBGMY5-30-M: Agency Project B	UBGMT6-30-M: Dissertation / UBLLY7-60-M: Dissertation	UBGMM9-30-M: Major Projects Studio (Appraisal and Delivery)	UBGMX7-15-M: Urban Design	UBGMXN-15-M: Healthy Cities	UBGMY7-15-M: Planning for Conservation	UBGMYN-15-M: Grassroots Planning	UBGM8P-15-M: Changing Travel Behaviour	UBGM8Q-15-M: Transport Policy and Finance
	Core	Core	Core	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op
<p>Types of stakeholders including communities, consultees and statutory bodies. Importance of and reasons for engagement, principles of engagement and how to plan for and achieve effective engagement at each stage of the development process. Role of communication in planning and importance of working in an interdisciplinary context. Equality of opportunity.</p>	F	F	F	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<p>The economics of land and property markets and of the development process. The rationale of government intervention through planning. The implications for generating added value for the community. Development appraisal, viability and evaluation of the impact of planning decisions including planning requirements, agreements and/or conditions.</p>	P		F	P						F		P
<p>Professional ethics and the ethical framework. The characteristics of a professional planner, the importance of upholding the highest standards of ethical behaviour and commitment to maintaining and developing professional competence. The required standards of practice and ethics for Chartered Town Planners and the core ethical principles.</p>	P	P	P	F	P	P						

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Skills	UBGMN3-30-M: Plan Making	UBGMNJ-30-M: Theory and History of Planning	UBGMP3-30-M: Implementation and design quality	UBGMY5-30-M: Agency Project B	UBGMT6-30-M: Dissertation / UBLLY7-60-M: Dissertation	UBGMM9-30-M: Major Projects Studio (Appraisal and Delivery)	UBGMX7-15-M: Urban Design	UBGMXN-15-M: Healthy Cities	UBGMY7-15-M: Planning for Conservation	UBGMYN-15-M: Grassroots Planning	UBGM8P-15-M: Changing Travel Behaviour	UBGM8Q-15-M: Transport Policy and Finance
	Core	Core	Core	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op	Op
<p>Preparation of plans, policies and related documents. Undertake research and analysis of information for planning policy formulation and to prepare material for policy, guidelines and advice. Typically this would include spatial development strategies and statutory development plans, development briefs, design guides, sustainability appraisal, materials for inquiry, advocacy or presentations in public or to councillors or clients.</p>	F	P	F	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
<p>Plan Implementation. Implement policies and procedures set out in plans, legislation and related documents. Typically, this would include statutory development management, the preparation and submission of planning applications, implementation of plans or schemes for matters such as conservation, environmental improvement, economic development or regeneration, infrastructure, minerals or waste. Site appraisal, feasibility studies and other forms of study preparatory to the submission of a planning application. Planning enforcement, appeals and inquiries.</p>	P		F	P		P	P	P				
<p>Creative vision and design. Produce creative and innovative design strategies, policies and solutions. Typically, this would include buildings, public realm, landscaping, villages, towns, cities or other parts of the urban and rural environment.</p>	P		F	P		P	F	P	F			

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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

First Approval Date	22 May 2013			
Revision Approval Date	7 March 2018	Version	4	Link to RIA (ID 4670)
	24 July 2019		5	Link to Business Case (ID 5230)
Next Periodic Curriculum Review due date				
Date of last Periodic Curriculum Review				