



Programme Specification

Urban Planning [Frenchay]

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Urban Planning [Frenchay]

Highest award: MSc Urban Planning

Interim award: PGCert Urban Planning

Interim award: PGDip Urban Planning

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: No

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CATE School of Architecture and Environment, College of Arts, Technology and Environment

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:

Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)

Modes of delivery: Full-time, Part-time

Entry requirements: For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

Approved qualifications include the Certificate in Urban Planning Practice that is included as part of the UWE Bristol Degree Apprenticeship offer.

For implementation from: 01 September 2026

Programme code: K49112

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: 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.

Features of the programme:

Educational Aims: The programme aims:

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;

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;

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.);

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;

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

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.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

- PO1. Re-thinking Planning: Critically understand how place and space relationships evolve, using brokerage and boundary spanning skills.
- PO2. Resource management: Analyse sustainability in urban planning and evaluate public projects' feasibility.
- PO3. Interdisciplinary Relationships: Understand links between environments within political and cultural contexts, demonstrating systems thinking.
- PO4. Visionary Responses: Generate visionary responses to planning challenges using modelling and solution-oriented thinking.
- PO5. Market and Development: Analyse market processes, built environment, and development patterns, collecting and analysing market data.
- PO6. Policy Complexity: Critically examine policy processes and outputs driven by data and technology, and manage fast-paced roles.
- PO7. Communication and Debate: Present and debate complex ideas, balancing agendas and thinking critically.

- PO8. Evidence Evaluation: Use innovative methods for data collection, judge quality of data and critically interpret data.
- PO9. Design and Quality: Evaluate design potential for high-quality places, considering long-term impacts.
- PO10. Professionalism and Ethics: Understand professionalism, make ethical judgments, and develop new planning approaches.

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy for the MSc Urban Planning programme is designed to holistically evaluate students' acquisition and application of knowledge, skills, and professional behaviours across a range of planning contexts. It reflects the programme's commitment to practice-based learning, critical reflection, and interdisciplinary integration, ensuring graduates are equipped to navigate complex planning environments with confidence and competence.

Assessment Methods Overview

Assessment across the programme is varied, inclusive, and aligned with real-world planning practice. It includes:

Written Reports

Oral Presentations and Interviews

Portfolios

Reflective Logs and Commentaries

Practice-Based Projects and Case Studies

Independent Research Dissertation

This diversity ensures that students are assessed through multiple lenses—analytical, creative, reflective, and communicative—mirroring the multifaceted nature of planning practice.

Integration and Progression

The assessment strategy is scaffolded across the programme to support progressive learning:

Core modules focus on foundational knowledge in urban planning theory and collaborative practice.

Applied modules introduce strategic analysis, placements, and reflective practice. Specialist modules emphasize thematic specialisms such as health, urban design, public participation and heritage.

The Dissertation consolidates learning through independent research and synthesis. This progression ensures students build confidence and competence incrementally, culminating in a capstone project that showcases their academic and professional maturity.

Real-World Relevance

All assessments are grounded in planning practice, encouraging students to engage with live sites, policy frameworks, and community contexts. This applied orientation ensures graduates are not only academically capable but professionally ready.

Student support: Programme leader drop-in sessions

Annual planning school events

Academic Personal Tutors

Development of group work skills and attributes

Video capture of course content delivery

Formative feedback is embedded throughout the programme to support continuous learning and development. It includes:

Peer-to-peer discussions and debates

Tutor-led feedback during seminars and workshops

Ongoing supervision and feedback during dissertation development

Reflective exercises and logbooks to encourage self-assessment and critical thinking.

Formative assessment is not only preparatory but developmental, fostering a culture of dialogue, inquiry, and iterative improvement.

Part B: Programme Structure**Year 1**

Full-time students must take 180 credits in Year 1.

Part-time students must take 60-90 credits in Year 1.

PG Cert Urban Planning interim award awarded after completion of 60 credits of compulsory modules.

PG Dip Urban Planning interim award awarded after completion of all taught elements of the programme except the dissertation.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full-time)

Full-time students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGMP3-30-M	Planning Practice 2026-27	30
UBGMN3-30-M	Principles of Planning 2026-27	30
UBGMNJ-30-M	Planning Theories and Histories 2026-27	30
UBGMT6-30-M	Dissertation 2026-27	30

Year 1 Optional Modules (Full-time)

Full-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Full-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBLLCF-30-M	Healthy Placemaking 2026-27	30
UBLLCD-30-M	Inclusive Urban Conservation 2026-27	30
UBLLCJ-30-M	Strategic Projects 2026-27	30

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGMN3-30-M	Principles of Planning 2026-27	30
UBGMP3-30-M	Planning Practice 2026-27	30

Year 1 Optoinal Modules (Part time)

Students must take 0-30 credits from Optional Modules (Part time) in Year 1

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBLLCJ-30-M	Strategic Projects 2026-27	30

Year 2

Part-time students must take 90-120 credits in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBGMNJ-30-M	Planning Theories and Histories 2027-28	30
UBGMT6-30-M	Dissertation 2027-28	30

Year 2 Optional Modules (Part-time)

Part-time students must 30-60 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Part-time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UBLLCD-30-M	Inclusive Urban Conservation 2027-28	30
UBLLCF-30-M	Healthy Placemaking 2027-28	30

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis**Part D: External 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:

1Self-reliant and connected via their student / apprentice and wider programme networks together with the student centred and enquiry based learning experience. 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.

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. 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.

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.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.