



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information	
Awarding Institution	UWE
Teaching Institution	UWE
Delivery Location	Frenchay
Study abroad / Exchange / Credit recognition	Not applicable
Faculty responsible for programme	FET
Department responsible for programme	Geography and Environmental Management
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	Royal Town Planning Institute (MSc and PG Diploma)
Highest Award Title	MSc Planning Major Projects
Default Award Title	MSc Planning Major Projects
Interim Award Titles	PG Diploma Planning Major Projects PG Certificate Planning Major Projects
UWE Progression Route	
Mode of Delivery	FT (attendance) Contributing modules can be taken individually as CPD.
ISIS code/s	K4931
For implementation from	September 2018

Part 2: Description

The MSc Planning Major Projects provides a flexible and innovative programme of study that focuses upon the planning, design and appraisal of major residential, commercial and infrastructure-focused projects. The programme offers a learning experience suitable for those wishing to enter, or currently working within, the major projects sector. This sector can be described as being diverse, dynamic and global and Bristol is fortunate enough to have considerable expertise within its various manifestations.

Initially, the programme outlines some of the contemporary challenges affecting place and society today and the pressures and processes that enable these to be translated into major projects. These projects, by their nature, tend to be complex and require specialist knowledge with respect to how the project is packaged and presented, and how it is subsequently appraised and assessed. Major projects tend to be long-term and resource intensive and while they are often unique in terms of their form and design, much can be learnt to aid delivery elsewhere. The programme considers key factors in the initiation and delivery of major projects and encourages students to engage with, and learn from innovations across the major projects sector. It considers the context against which projects are initiated and appraised and focuses on a range of delivery and implementation issues surrounding project success.

The programme will adopt a mixed approach to learning and will include both taught and online elements. Those practising in the field will be invited to pass on their experiences, while students will be expected to engage with the projects and stakeholders of the sector. Doing so will enable students to externalise their learning and to create some important networks that can help to progress their career.

The MSc Planning Major Projects has the following specific educational aims:

1. To develop relevant knowledge, skills, competencies and experiences in the planning, design and appraisal of major residential, commercial and infrastructure-focussed projects.
2. To identify innovative practice in the planning and delivery of major projects by engaging with successful project case studies.
3. To involve key partners in the creation of a programme that is relevant and engaging and responsive to the educational needs of those working in, or those looking to enter, the major projects sector.
4. To provide a stimulating and supportive learning environment that enables students to extend their educational potential in a way that will enhance their employment prospects and contribute towards their personal and social development
5. To advance student competencies in a range of core and specialist skills, including research design, project management, writing and public speaking
6. To foster a commitment to self-directed learning and intellectual independence in order to produce graduates who can critically evaluate information and demonstrate independent thinking
7. To provide students with an opportunity to work effectively both as individuals and team members, to communicate effectively and apply appropriate practical and IT skills.

Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

Students graduating from this programme will have developed wide-ranging knowledge associated with the planning, design and appraisal of major residential, commercial and infrastructure-focused projects. Study modules provide a blend of both theory and practice and collectively encourage students to engage with the projects and stakeholders of the sector in order to identify best practice in project delivery. The award enables a variety of skills and interests to be developed, providing students with specialist knowledge and professional and transferable skills that can be taken into the workplace. Graduates from this programme will be attractive to employers due to their relevant subject knowledge, their awareness of relevant legal and procedural practices, and their broader appreciation of the strategic goals that major projects are seeking to respond to, such as the delivery of housing and tackling the effects of climate change.

Part 2: Description

Regulations

Approved to [University Regulations and Procedures](#)

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

		Core						
		UBGMFH-15-M : Strategic Growth and Infrastructure	UBGML9-15-M: Planning Major Projects	UBGLXM-15-M Environmental Assessment	UBGMLQ-15-M: Innovations in Major Projects.	UBGMM9-30-M: Major Projects Studio (Appraisal and Delivery)	UBGMY5-30-M Agency Project B (Option)	UBGMQA-30-M: International Planning Study Trip (Option)
Key to table: I: Introduced; C: Consolidated; and A: Assessed. Learning Outcomes:								
A. Knowledge and Understanding (subject specific)								
1.	Evaluate the social, economic, environmental and political context for the planning and delivery of major projects (RTPI specialist outcome 2).	● IA	● IA		● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA
2.	Define and characterise major planning projects and recognise the wide-ranging goals they seek to satisfy, such as contributing to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change and the making of place (RTPI specialist outcomes 3 and 6).	● I	● CA		● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA
3.	Recognise the importance of problem identification and the ways in which alternative strategies and options can be generated and assessed (RTPI specialist outcome, bespoke 1).	● I	● I	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● I
4.	Demonstrate a comprehensive and critical understanding of the legislation that surrounds the delivery of major projects. (RTPI specialist outcome, bespoke 2)	● I	● CA	● CA	● C	● CA	● CA	● I
5.	Outline the importance of risk and risk aversion in the planning and appraisal of major planning projects, including the role for Environmental Appraisal.	● I	● IA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	

<p>6. Explain the theoretical, political and ethical nature of major project planning and delivery (RTPI specialist outcome 1)</p>	<p>● I</p>	<p>● C</p>	<p>● CA</p>		<p>● CA</p>			
<p>7. Identify the groups and organisations that have a role in the planning, design, appraisal and delivery of major projects.</p>	<p>● IA</p>	<p>● CA</p>	<p>● CA</p>	<p>● CA</p>	<p>● CA</p>	<p>● CA</p>	<p>● CA</p>	
<p>8. Critically consider the factors that are necessary for project initiation and delivery, such as the assembly of land and the availability of finance (RTPI specialist outcome, bespoke 3).</p>	<p>● I</p>	<p>● C</p>		<p>● CA</p>	<p>● CA</p>	<p>● CA</p>	<p>● CA</p>	
<p>9. Recognise the importance of innovation and creativity in the design, planning, appraisal and delivery of major projects (RTPI specialist outcome, bespoke 4).</p>	<p>● I</p>	<p>● CA</p>		<p>● CA</p>	<p>● CA</p>			

		Core							
		UBGMFH-15-M : Strategic Growth and Infrastructure	UBGML9-15-M: Planning Major Projects	UBGLXM-15-M Environmental Assessment	UBGMLQ-15-M: Innovations in Major Projects.	UBGMM9-30-M: Major Projects Studio (Appraisal and Delivery)	UBGMY5-30-M Agency Project B	UBGMQA-30-M: International Planning Study Trip (Option)	UBLLY7-60-M Dissertation
B.	Intellectual Skills (generic)								
1.	Engage in theoretical, practical and ethical debates associated with the planning, design, appraisal and delivery of major projects.	● I	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA
2.	Analyse, evaluate, interpret and integrate data from a variety of sources	● IA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA
3.	Construct arguments capable of withstanding rigorous intellectual, legal and practical challenge	● IA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA
4.	Provide evidence of their ability to conceptualise, operationalise and manage a sustained piece of independent intellectual work which provides evidence of critical engagement and interpretation of appropriate data.					● CA	● CA	● CA	● ICA
5.	Analyse arguments logically, identifying any flaws in reasoning, and contrasting the merits of different arguments		● IA	● CA		● CA			● CA
6.	Demonstrate and exercise independent thinking.	● IA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA	● CA
7.	Generate integrated and well substantiated responses to identified planning challenges in a way that is responsive to the sensitivity of the project's context.	● IA				● CA			● CA

<p>6. Distinguish the characteristics of a professional, including the importance of upholding the highest standards of ethical behaviour and a commitment to lifelong learning and critical reflection so as to maintain and develop professional competence.</p>				● IA	● C	● CA	● CA		
<p>7. Recognize the contribution that graduating students can make to the planning profession, and the major projects sector more specifically, and to identify the importance of lifelong learning and professional membership (the assessment of professional competence) (RTPI specialist outcome 4).</p>				● IA	● C	● CA	● CA		

Part 4: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical postgraduate entrant.

ENTRY	Level M	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Awards
		UBGMFH-15-M Strategic Growth and Infrastructure	UBGMY5-30-M Agency Project B	OR UBGMQA-30-M: International Planning Study Trip
UBGML9-15-M Planning Major Projects	PG Diploma in Planning Major Projects (120 credits)			
UBGMLQ-15-M Innovations in Major Projects.	MSc Planning Major Projects (180 credits)			
UBGLXM-15-M Environmental Assessment				
UBGMM9-30-M Major Projects Studio (Appraisal and Delivery)				
UBLLY7-60-M Dissertation				

Study format

The programme is delivered on a full-time basis although modules can be taken individually as Continuing Professional Development.

Part 5: Entry Requirements

The University's Standard Entry Requirements apply. Entry requirements are [here](#).

Part 6: Reference Points and Benchmarks

Set out which reference points and benchmarks have been used in the design of the programme:

The following documents have been used to develop the programme.

- [QAA UK Quality Code for HE](#)
- Framework for higher education qualifications (FHEQ)
- Subject benchmark statement for [Town and Country Planning \(2016\)](#)
- Qualification characteristics for [Master's degrees](#)

Part 6: Reference Points and Benchmarks

- UWE Bristol's [Strategy 2020](#)
- Key [University policies](#)

Specific regard has been had to the 'Policy Statement on Initial Planning Education' that was published by the Royal Town Planning Institute (December 2012) and to the 'National Competency Framework for Planners' that was published by the Planning Advisory Service in 2013. The QAA's subject benchmark statement for 'Town and Country Planning' (April 2016) has also been an important source of reference.

The design of the programme has been shaped by the research interests of staff and the significant body of expertise that exists within the major project sector across the city and beyond.

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First CAP Approval Date	22 March 2017			
Revision CAP Approval Date		Version	1	Link to MIA (ID 3746)
	7 March 2018		2	Link to RIA (ID 4670)
Next Periodic Curriculum Review due date	2023			
Date of last Periodic Curriculum Review				