

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Planning is about changing the places within which we live – how we can transform and improve our cities, towns, villages, neighbourhoods and communities. It affects our everyday lives and is an extremely exciting discipline to study at university.

A planning degree provides students with the knowledge and skills to be able to make decisions that shape the processes of growth and development. We currently face many major challenges – attracting investment, creating jobs, protecting the environment, energy policy, housing supply, transport links, providing local amenities – and planning affects how these things happen. Therefore, as future planners you will have a very important role to play in shaping the future.

Planning is a broad subject matter and planners perform many different roles relating to the natural, physical, economic, social and cultural environments that we live in. Given this, planning offers a wide spectrum of employment opportunities. Studying planning will equip you with the knowledge to understand how cities, towns, villages, communities and neighbourhoods function and operate, and then have the skills to make decisions that shape how they grow and prosper.

COURSE CONTENT

The aim of this degree is to develop the professional skills necessary to work in the broad field of planning practice and development management. Graduates will have the skills to enable them to participate in the design and development of the built environment, and a range of other related professions.

In providing an accredited pathway to the planning profession (worldwide), the degree develops knowledge on a wide range of themes such as the economic, social and political context within which planning operates. Furthermore, a range of transferable skills, such as mediation, advocacy, communication and IT skills, are developed which can be applied in a range of international careers.

Level 1

Level 1 assumes no prior knowledge of planning and provides an overall introduction to the key issues, processes and professional skills required for planning practice, plus the history and evolution of planning as a profession and academic discipline. This includes projects that promote group working, oral presentations, academic writing, design and GIS skills and the use of specialist software.

Level 2

Level 2 provides a more detailed appreciation of planning, with modules examining topics such as economics, climate change and planning theory. It includes two key projects, one that develops skills in spatial planning policy, and another that promotes understanding of the development management process. Students are also given an opportunity to further develop skills in design issues and are introduced to the social aspects of planning activity.



BSc Honours

Planning, Environment and Development 3 yrs (K430)

Entrance Requirements

A-level:

BBB+ GCSE Mathematics grade C

BTEC Extended Diploma:

A BTEC Extended Diploma with 100 credits at Distinction and 80 credits at Merit + GCSE Mathematics grade C

For students whose first language is not English

An IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in each [test component](#) or an [equivalent](#) acceptable qualification, details of which are available at: go.qub.ac.uk/EnglishLanguageReqs

Level 2 features an optional Work Placement component, where students can spend a year working in professional practice to consolidate the skills they have developed throughout the academic year. Dedicated placement training is delivered through the University's 'Careers, Employability and Skills' team.

Level 3

Level 3 develops a greater theoretical understanding of planning. Students will study, in depth, some of the key and cutting-edge planning issues and debates that currently face the planning profession. These are studied from a variety of geographical, political and cultural perspectives. In the second semester all students are required to complete an independent research project. The second semester also includes modules in law, infrastructure and transport, and conservation.

WHY QUEEN'S?

Ranking: In the recent National Student Survey, Queen's Planning was ranked 1st in the UK, for teaching satisfaction (95%), 1st for Assessment & Feedback (95%) and 1st for Academic Support (100%). Planning at Queen's is also 7th in the UK in the Guardian University Guide 2022.

Accreditation: this degree is accredited by two professional bodies: the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). To gain accreditation from the RTPI, students are required to complete a fourth year of study (not necessary for RICS). In each case completion of academic studies must be followed by a period of work experience and assessment of professional competence.

CAREERS/FURTHER STUDY

Although the majority of our graduates pursue careers in planning, the knowledge and skills developed also enable them to develop careers in a wide range of other sectors both in the UK and abroad. Recently, for example, graduates have found employment in China, the USA and New Zealand.

Career sectors that have attracted our graduates in recent years include planning authorities (Northern Ireland, Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland), private planning practice, management, design consultants, housing authorities, health trusts, conservation and environmental organisations, teaching, countryside stewardship, software development and various graduate programmes.

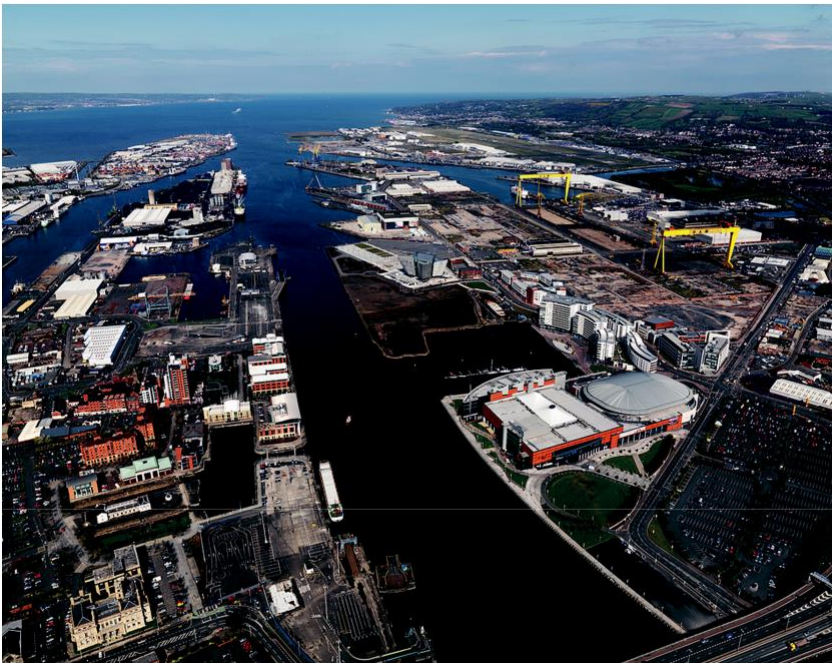
This degree is closely aligned to the requirements of the planning sector and draws on practitioners as guest lecturers. We regularly consult with employers, and links are further enhanced through formal partnership meetings with the bodies that accredit our courses (RICS and RTPI).

We have developed strong relationships with, for example, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Planning Division of the Department for Infrastructure, and the Department for Regional Development, and draw on such experts in the design of the degree.

Many of our graduates go on to one of our two Master's programmes to complete their RTPI accreditation, or other postgraduate training; see the School website for further information.

"A fantastic degree that provides students with knowledge and understanding of planning and opportunities of employment and further study both in the UK and Ireland."

Michelle Kane,
Co. Down - Planning Graduate,
currently on placement with Louth
County Council



95% of Queen's Planning students are satisfied with their teaching and assessment, ranking us 1st in the UK.

(National Student Survey 2023)

Entrance requirements

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Course information

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