

Planning Concepts, Context, and Governance

Module Descriptor

Module Code: PLN7PCG

Version: 3.00

Status: Final

Date: 27/08/2024

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Planning Concepts, Context, and Governance

Module Leader: Laird Ryan

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Autumn (UK)

Level: 7

Credits: 20

Learning Hours: 200

Contact & Study Hours

Directed Study Time: 60 hrs (30%)

Self-directed Study Time: 70 hrs (35%)

Assessment Study Time: 70 hrs (35%)

Assessment Type

Coursework: 100%

Computer Marked Assessment: 0%

Self-directed Research Project: 0%

Portfolio: 0%

Module Summary

This module requires students to develop and embed an understanding and insight into the origins, status, and objectives of land use planning in the UK, along with the formal mechanisms and thought processes that drive it forward at a time of constant change. Students will be asked to consider the importance of sustainable development as a strategic aim of planning, and how this is interpreted in different ways by the range of stakeholders who engage in the planning system.

Taken on which Programmes

MSc Urban Planning (C)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Module Aims

This module aims to offer students a critical understanding of:

- The legal and institutional structures that frame, inform and support the making of plans and taking of decisions within the UK planning system;
- How a spatial planning system has evolved and continues to evolve, as a means of designing, delivering and maintaining a sustainable built environment;
- The role of planning theory as an intellectual basis for crystallising ideas and solving problems that relate to the development of places and spaces; and
- The responsibilities, rights and freedoms exercised in the planning process by government, the private and community sectors in translating strategy and policy into sustainable outcomes.

Module Learning Outcomes

- LO1. To systematically and critically appraise the history of planning and theoretical principles behind the process of urbanisation and their impact upon the formation and evolution of the built environment.
- LO2. To demonstrate a detailed and critical knowledge of current UK policymaking and planning legislation and how it works in practice within the wider national, institutional, and legal frameworks.
- LO3. To articulate and critically analyse examples of different forms and types of spatial strategies in terms of plans, policies and implementation at different spatial levels for their sustainability.
- LO4. To comprehend how different tiers of government, often in partnership with a range of stakeholders, approach urban governance to facilitate spatial transformation within the complex and constantly evolving nature of cities.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- **The UK Planning Framework**
The matrix of laws, regulations and guidance that underpin the planning system in the UK. Students will consider how the planning process operates at various levels, from the global (e.g., United Nations and COP) scale, down to that of localities. As the starting point to their consideration of the English planning process, students will examine the role of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and their Statutory Development Plans (SDPs), comprising Local and Neighbourhood Plans. This will be complemented with a critical comparison of UK and selected international case studies.
- **Stakeholders in the Planning Process**
An analytical overview of how key institutions, organisations and individuals, notably central and local government, HM Planning Inspectorate, the chartered professions, the third sector and members of local communities play a statutory or influential role in policy making and decision taking. Consideration will also be given to how differing perspectives on the democratic context, the digitisation of the planning process,

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information gathering, community engagement and statutory consultation inform planning policies and outcomes.

- **Planning as a Catalyst for Development**

A consideration of how the planning system gives added value to policy and practice for housing, transport, enterprise, public services and other key users of land.

- **Sustainability as a Cross-Cutting Theme in Planning**

A critical exploration of how sustainable development, as a concept and a tangible outcome, is central to all aspects and levels of the planning process, drawing on case study examples from the UK and other countries.

- **Key Issues in the History and Evolution of Urban Planning**

The roots of urbanisation, urban systems and the evolution of town planning from early times to the present day, with a particular focus on the British Isles. It will introduce issues such as urban design, inner city decay and regeneration and past and current challenges to urban containment.

- **Theory and Critical Thought in Planning**

An introduction to key forms of planning theory and approaches to spatial problem solving, and how these relate to the politics and ethics of planning in practice.

This content will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the legal, moral, and financial changes in professional standards and practice.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting	Minimum assessment threshold
LO2, LO3	Assessment 1 Coursework (e.g., essay)	2,000	40%	50%
LO1, LO4	Assessment 2 Coursework (e.g., annotated, illustrated diagram)	3,000 maximum, including images	60%	50%

Module Pass Mark (each element is to be passed separately): 50%

Key Module Learning Resources

Core Sources and Texts

The core reading resources within each module will be provided via the specific Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) module pages and within the e-Library. Additional reference material and supplementary resources to support your studies are available through the UCEM e-Library.

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Module tools

Students will have access to study materials, dedicated academic support, student forums, and learning activities via an online learning platform (VLE).

The module page on the VLE is broken down into structured study weeks to help students plan their time, with each week containing a mixture of reading, case studies, videos/recordings and interactive activities to go through. Online lectures/seminars led by the Module Leader can be attended in real time and provide opportunities to consolidate knowledge, ask questions, discuss topics and work through learning activities together. These sessions are recorded to support students who cannot attend and to enable students to recap the session and work through it at their own pace. Module forums on the VLE provide further opportunities to discuss topics with other students, complete collaborative work and get extra help from the module team.

Professional online resources

The e-Library provides access to trusted, quality online resources, selected by subject specialists, to support students' study. This includes journals, industry publications, magazines, academic books and a dissertation/work-based library. For a list of the key industry specific and education resources available please visit [the VLE e-Library](#).

Other relevant resources

Access is also provided to further information sources that include the British Library and Open University UK catalogues, as well as providing a monthly current awareness service entitled, **Knowledge Foundations** - a compendium of news, research and resources relating to the educational sector and the Built Environment.

The module resource list is available on the module website and is updated regularly to ensure materials are relevant and current.