

# Town and Regional Planning MPlan

## COURSE DETAILS

- A level requirements: [ABB](#)
- UCAS code: K400
- Study mode: Full-time
- Length: 4 years

## KEY DATES

- Apply by: [29 January 2025](#)
- Starts: 22 September 2025

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## Course overview

The Town and Regional Planning MPlan programme is designed for those who wish to pursue a professional career in urban, regional and environmental planning. The MPlan offers two pathways with distinct specialisms in transforming cities and regions and spatial planning for environmental change.

## INTRODUCTION

Attention is focused on approaches to planning for the urban environment in a rapidly changing world. An interdisciplinary approach to study provides learning opportunities that draw upon the expertise of academics in Planning as well as academics in the Departments of Geography, Sociology and Architecture.

With major changes occurring in how we address transport infrastructure, housing and green belt development studying a degree in Planning from the University of Liverpool provides the practical skills, as well as, the theoretical understanding required to balance the needs of urban and rural development.

You will develop a broad overview of how our towns, cities and regions have developed and have an opportunity to specialise in environmental or urban regeneration issues. With a pioneering approach to planning and regeneration, Liverpool is an ideal location in which to study town and regional planning. Over the past 30 years Liverpool has been transformed economically, socially and environment. Staff and students from Planning at the University of Liverpool have been part of these changes as they have been observing, reflecting and helping local planners, developers and communities to shape these changes. This makes Liverpool an ideal urban laboratory to study how our world is changing.

The Town and Regional Planning (MPlan) programme is designed to satisfy the professional accreditation requirements of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and enables you to fast track into the planning profession. It is a combined programme that meets both spatial and specialist RTPI planning requirements.

You will have the opportunity, from year three onwards, to specialise in either Spatial planning and environmental change or Transforming cities and regions. The four year programme provides you with a more in-depth understanding of the practice-orientated nature of planning and its context than can be achieved in a one-year intensive masters programme.

### **Work experience opportunities**

You will have the opportunity to work with real practitioners as we work with local and international experts on projects and field trips. You are also encouraged to undertake internships or placements with planning agencies throughout your programme.

### **A flexible approach**

The Town and Regional Planning (MPlan) programme has been developed alongside our other planning programmes allowing you to transfer between programmes within the first two years should your interests or career aspirations change.

A number of the School's degree programmes involve laboratory and field work. Fieldwork is carried out in various locations, ranging from inner city to coastal and mountainous environments. We consider applications from prospective disabled students on the same basis as all other students, and reasonable adjustments will be considered to address barriers to access.

This programme also has a year abroad option, an incredible opportunity to spend an academic year at one of our partner universities. On the four-year integrated master's programme, you can go abroad either between years two and three (apply in year two), or between years three and four (apply in year three).

## **WHAT YOU'LL LEARN**

- An awareness and appreciation of the current planning profession
- A depth of knowledge and understanding of a particular aspect of the field of town and regional planning
- The development of sound practice skills in the methods and techniques of planning
- An understanding of the legal framework within which planning operates
- An awareness and appreciation of planning practice in other European countries
- The development of skills in analysis, synthesis, reasoned argument and communication
- Knowledge of the theoretical underpinnings of planning
- The development of research, teamwork and other professional skills of relevance to planning practice

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## **ACCREDITATION**

The programme is accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), providing combined spatial and specialist accreditation (dependent upon module selection in year three).



# Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

## YEAR ONE

Your first year of study introduces you to planning issues and the circumstances in which they arise. It provides an understanding of how planning powers, agencies and policies work to overcome the challenges that face cities and communities. You will also improve your oral, written and visual communication skills and engage in group-based problem solving and practical work with a residential field trip so you can put your newfound skills into practice in a real-life setting.

You will take the following compulsory modules and select two choices from the optional modules detailed below.

## COMPULSORY MODULES

### COMMUNITY PLANNING (ENVS102)

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

Planning is about providing good quality places for people to live in. This is an issue at different scales, from the global through the national to the local, and the community level. This module focuses on the latter; it investigates the factors which affect the quality of places at the neighbourhood scale and the role played by communities. The module features a mixture of interactive learning styles, including lectures, seminars and workshops. In the second half of the module, a real-life project is introduced, building on the skills developed in this and other modules.

### CONTEMPORARY TOWN PLANNING (ENVS152)

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This project-based module focuses on real-world planning projects set within a local context. It asks students to map out their subjective experiences of the urban realm, and to couple these with the kinds of thematic maps used in normative planning practice. Students then focus their attention on a specific site within these maps. By critically engaging with existing development proposals they will produce new insights and proposals.

## **ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION (ENVS157)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

The zone of life on earth, or the 'biosphere', is a highly dynamic system responding to external pressures including changing human activities. The biosphere obeys a numbers of simple natural principles, but these often interact to create complex and sometimes unexpected responses. Using a wide range of examples we will explore these interactions between organisms and the environment. We will examine how species organise into communities, and how energy and other resources flow through ecosystems. We will explore how ecosystems respond to change, including gradual environmental shifts, sudden disturbance events and the effects of human activities. We will also learn how the key principles of ecology can be applied to conservation. We will assess the current state of the biosphere, and evaluate the major current threats. We will also look towards the future of ecosystems, including whether we can restore degraded habitats, and recreate "natural" landscapes.

## **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING: AN INTRODUCTION (ENVS110)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Town and Country Planning: An Introduction is desgined to provide a gentle introduction into the world of urban planning. To achieve this the module covers three distinct elements. The first covers the history of the town planning movement in Britain from the Victorians through to the modern day. The second provides an overview of the workings of the current planning system. The third explores the practical applications of planning thinking, and provides some early ideas about the kinds of jobs a planner might do. The module is assessment through coursework and exam.

## **UNDERSTANDING PLACE (ENVS105)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: whole session**

This module provides an exciting introduction to the skills you need as a Planning student. In the first semester, students are introduced to core academic skills, including essay writing, academic referencing, and oral communication. In the second semester, students will undertake a careers and employability exercise, learning about career opportunities in urban and environmental planning and developing a personalised CV that can be used to pursue future career opportunities. Learning and teaching is delivered through lectures, small-group seminars, practical exercises and a residential field class.

## **URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS (ENVS155)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Economics affects every part of our daily lives. Using contemporary planning issues as our guide, we explore how urban and environmental economics shapes our world, for positive and negative. To do so we will explore the basic economic functions which govern urban thinking, and how economics is used to focus on some of the world's grand challenges. The module is assessed by coursework and examination.

## **OPTIONAL MODULES**

### **CONTEXT 1.1: HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE (ARCH171)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

History of architecture survey course.

### **HUMAN GEOGRAPHY THROUGH MERSEYSIDE (ENVS162)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

Liverpool has been described as 'the world in one city', and in this module we utilise this unique geographical location to introduce key concepts and practices of human geography. Through a combination of field excursions, lectures and practical exercises, we develop skills of data collection, interpretation and analysis through considering the history, politics and socio-demographic characteristics of the city. The module helps students understand the connection between geographical concepts and real-world examples and is assessed through data analysis practicals and a field-based portfolio exercise.

### **LIVING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE (ENVS119)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This module examines a number of global 'grand challenges' facing humans on the planet earth related to climate and environmental change. It will introduce students to core concepts of sustainability and human impacts upon the environment, as well as exploring the range of proposed solutions and mitigation strategies which are available to understand climate and environmental change. The module thus provides a core knowledge base for social and natural scientists who wish to understand environmental change.

### **NEW HORIZONS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (ENVS116)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This module introduces new aspects of geographical thought to the First-Year students which are unlikely to have been encountered via an A level geography syllabus. It also aims to enhance students' understanding and awareness of complex global issues, focusing on two sub-disciplinary themes in human geography. Exact content will vary each year to reflect changes in the discipline, but broadly, one area will focus on understanding human population changes and geographical data (e.g. health or population geographies), whilst another will explore social, cultural and political approaches to geography (e.g. geopolitics, borders and nation states).

## **RESEARCH FRONTIERS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (ENVS161)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Contemporary Human Geography is a diverse discipline which offers unique insights into many of the most pressing challenges facing the world in the 21st Century. Many of the issues that reach the headlines on a daily basis are inherently geographical and research within human geography makes important contributions to knowledge of a broad range of social, cultural, political, economic, environmental and development challenges. This module provides an introduction to cutting edge debates within contemporary human geography, highlighting the ways in which the discipline contributes to interdisciplinary knowledge production across the humanities and social sciences. Each week, module lectures will provide an introduction to a different sub-disciplinary field, which will be explored with the aid of specific worked examples which encourage students to apply the theoretical issues discussed to 'real world' issues. Assessment is by coursework (mid-term essay) and a written exam (end-of-term).

## **GLOBAL CHALLENGES: DEVELOPMENT, INEQUALITY, ALTERNATIVES (ENVS144)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This module is designed to appeal to students who would like to live in a better world and are interested in exploring and discussing critical approaches to inequality. Students on the module will gain understanding of the multiple and contested ways in which global challenges and international development are defined and studied. This will include critical attention to uneven processes of development over time and space, particularly related to global environmental change, inequality, and health. Similarly, the module provides a solid foundation and analysis of the historical, political, and economic forces related to globalisation. Students will therefore be critically informed about what globalisation produces for differing communities, cultures, and ecosystems. Students will also gain insight into how varying communities in different places are responding to development, globalisation, environmental injustices, and inequality through both resistance and building alternatives.

*Any optional modules listed above are illustrative only and may vary from year to year. Modules may be subject to minimum student numbers being achieved and staff availability. This means that the availability of specific optional modules cannot be guaranteed.*

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## **YEAR TWO**

Year two is when you develop your specialism for either transforming cities and regions or spatial planning for environmental change. You will be introduced to the social, economic, and environmental causes of urban and regional change and the concept of environmental sustainability and its connections with patterns of human development. Project work helps you develop an awareness of the issues that arise in the development of planning schemes while a field trip examines social, economic and environmental planning challenges in a rural setting.

You will take the following compulsory modules and select one choice from the optional modules detailed below.

## **COMPULSORY MODULES**

### **CITIES AND REGIONS (ENVS230)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Cities and regions have undergone tremendous changes over the past decades. In this module students will explore the process of urban restructuring from a social, economic and environmental perspective and its spatial manifestations, looking at the drivers, consequences and policy implications of urban and regional change. The module teaches students the concepts and methods to analyse change and current policy responses. This module will be delivered through lectures, each highlighting a specific theme of urban and regional change and through self-directed learning. The module is assessed through a seminar paper and a written exam.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ENVS218)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Environmental concerns have become increasingly pressing over the last few decades, covering pollution, resource depletion, loss of biodiversity and poor quality of life. Overarching all these concerns is the global challenge of climate change. We need to find new approaches to our way of life. This module explores the notion of environmental sustainability particularly from the point of view of urban planning. It is taught through lectures and assessed through an exam focusing on the principles and practices of environmental sustainability, and an individual project in which students develop their own imaginative idea for tackling a particular sustainability problem.

### **RURAL PLANNING (ENVS289)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This module explores the need to carefully think about the planning, development and change that affects our rural areas, particularly in terms of the goods and services they provide to a predominantly urban population. The module is taught through lectures and workshops and includes a compulsory residential field class to rural Britain.

### **GIS FOR PLANNERS (ENVS279)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

Through this module you will gain competence in the use of GIS for applications related to Planning. You will develop skills in the use of cutting edge software and analytical techniques through the exploration of real world case study applications. The module is delivered through guided practical classes and independent study, supported by programme of lectures and illustrative material.



## **PEOPLE AND PLACE (ENVS205)**

**Credits: 30 / Semester: whole session**

This year-long module focuses on the relationships between people and the places they live, work, study and relax in. Through reflecting upon these relationships, students continue to develop the skills they need to study and practice planning, including the ability to carry out independent research. Much of this work is done through exploring real-life issues in the city of Liverpool, its wider city region and neighbouring counties.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN MAKING (ENVS210)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Plans and policies are key instruments of the planner's toolkit. This module provides an introduction to the methods and techniques that are used in the preparation and implementation of strategic plans and policies and how these have evolved in time. The module will be delivered through interactive lectures focussing on the theory of plan making drawing on practical examples. The module is assessed through a more theory-focused short essay and a plan review reflecting on the practice of strategic plan making.

## **URBAN MORPHOLOGY AND PLACE-MAKING (ENVS256)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

In Urban Morphology & Place-Making various approaches to place-making are discussed in the light of social, aesthetic, functional and environmental aspects. The module introduces urban history and design theories, and you will be assessed on your working knowledge of these throughout the semester via mini quizzes. In hands-on lab and seminar-style sessions you will acquire basic urban design appraisal techniques as well as modelling and presentation skills, used by planners, urban designers and architects today. In small groups, you will undertake an appraisal of an area in central Liverpool. Independent site visits will allow you to evaluate the various qualities of the area. You will express your findings through professional-style plans, 3D models and site photographs and present these in seminar-style sessions.

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## **YEAR THREE**

In your third year of study, you will select your specialist pathway, either transforming cities and regions or spatial planning for environmental change. You will also take three compulsory modules.

## **COMPULSORY MODULES**

### **PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (ENVS369)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

The module provides students with an introduction to the principles of real estate valuation before going on to pose and answer a series of questions about how the state might regulate built environment outcomes. Having completed this module students will have acquired an in-depth understanding of how real estate developers evaluate site viability and how government's work with developers to ensure consented development is accompanied by the requisite infrastructure. The module is evaluated by a piece of coursework centred around the evaluation of development proposal and an unseen written examination.

### **PLANNING LAW AND GOVERNANCE (ENVS348)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Understanding how the different parts of the planning system relate to each other and to the legal and constitutional framework which underpins that system is a critical part of planning education. This module aims to provide that understanding from both theoretical and practical perspectives, by bringing in practitioners to deliver different sessions and by asking students to research different aspects of planning law and governance in theory and practice.

### **INTERNATIONAL PLANNING STUDIES (ENVS378)**

**Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 2**

Planning has a long-standing international dimension. Today globalisation and challenges such as climate change and other global policy agendas, focus attention on how planning addresses ecological, social, economic and cultural questions in different parts of the world. On this module you will learn about how planning systems can be characterised; the purposes of comparative planning study; how 'learning from other countries' might be approached in a meaningful way; the rise of a 'global agenda' for planning through international initiatives such as the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; different forms of cross border and transnational spatial planning in Europe and other global regions; and, how key planning challenges are being addressed through planning in different places. The module draws on the diverse international experience and expertise of planning staff at Liverpool and features an international residential field class. Assessment is by two individual assignments and one group assignment.

## **OPTIONAL MODULES**

### **URBAN DESIGN STUDIES (ENVS312)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This module is designed as a follow-on to ENVS256 'Urban Morphology & Place-Making'. Here you will explore some of the themes of urban design and place-making in further depth. Topics covered in this context include health, site planning, inclusive design, sustainability and public realm design. You will develop your design skills and will learn about concepts such as 'social' and 'healthy' places. You will learn to develop positive design responses and acquire a range of analytical, design and presentational skills required for urban design projects. Assessments are based on, and closely linked to, the knowledge and skills developed in the classroom. You will prepare a contextual study in a small group. Also, as an individual piece of work you will prepare an indicative masterplan for a smaller part of the area. This interactive module is delivered through illustrated lectures, guest talks, design workshops, IT lab sessions, tutorials and a design crit.

### **POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS325)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Increasingly recognition of the environmental threats that we all face means that responding to this crisis affects the decisions we all make at a variety of different scales. This module explores the extent to which environmental concerns are taken into account in various decision-making processes involving the public (government), private and third sectors at a variety of different scales, global, European, national and local. The module is assessed by an essay and an open-book exam, which provides students with significant choice to explore those parts of the module they find most interesting.

### **MARINE PLANNING THEORY AND PRACTICE (ENVS341)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Marine planning is a new approach to the management of the seas and oceans, in the interests of marine nature conservation and the sustainable use of the seas for shipping, energy, fishing, minerals extraction, tourism, etc. It is developing as a means of organising the use of national sea space around the world. This module introduces the theoretical and practical aspects of marine planning for students with interests in spatial planning or marine science and management through a series of lectures. Assessment is by two assignments: a presentation and an essay.

## **GEOGRAPHIC DATA SCIENCE (ENVS363)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This module will introduce students to the nascent field of Geographic Data Science (GDS), a discipline established at the intersection between Geographic Information Science (GIS) and Data Science. The course covers how the modern GIS toolkit can be integrated with Data Science tools to solve practical real-world problems. Core to the set of employable skills to be taught in this course is an introduction to programming tools for GDS in R and Python. The programme of lectures, guided practical classes and independent study illustrate how and why GDS is useful for social science applications.

## **BUILDING BETTER WORLDS (ENVS387)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

This module is designed for students seeking nuanced understandings of the drivers of various struggles for social change and environmental justice, as well as ways in which resistance, contestation, and alternatives are practised. Readings will provide a critical overview of the historical and sociopolitical forces that continue to generate inequality, damage the environment, escalate the climate crisis, and impact the world. Students will examine the complex dynamics and contentious politics that emerge across differing environmental, political, and economic conflicts, as well as evaluate the role of social movements, mutual aid, and collective action in advancing transformative change. Content will also cover various activist strategies, tactics, and forms of protest, revolt, and rebellion.

## **CONTEMPORARY POPULATION DYNAMICS (ENVS311)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This course explores contemporary population dynamics across Europe. Students will explore fertility, mortality and migration dynamics across selected countries in Europe; review explanations for population change; and examine the policy challenges posed by such population change. Students will also explore these debates in a local context through a digital field walk in Liverpool, blending traditional approaches with expanded potentials via technology.

## **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVS345)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

Green Infrastructure planning is essential in supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially in the global context of climate change. The module introduces the field of Green Infrastructure and green space planning by addressing its principles, values, utility, and its multiscale implementation within environmental planning from theoretical and practical perspectives through a series of lectures and guest talks. Students will understand the interconnection between greening and human beings with support from a series of qualitative and quantitative methods. Students will undertake tasks that mirror real-world professional practices, which helps them to learn and practically use the skills they may require to evaluate the role and multiple benefits of Green Infrastructure in real-world planning scenarios. Assessment is through an essay and a project poster.

## **SOCIAL AND SPATIAL INEQUALITIES (ENVS357)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This module provides insight into social and spatial inequalities, and their inter-relations. The module will consider how and why inequalities might have persisted over time, how social inequalities have specific geographies, and the implications of this unevenness for those who are marginalised. The module is structured through four major themes: for example, inequalities and the labour market; ethnicity and inequalities; spatial understandings of poverty; and theories about inequality. The difficulties in defining and measuring social and spatial inequalities, and how such definitions may relate to broader theories, perspectives or frameworks of relevance are issues covered in the module, as well as how these terms are interpreted and (mis-)represented. The module draws on empirical evidence, theoretical approaches and policy responses. The module provides insight into government responses that aim to combat social and spatial inequalities and related issues in the UK, at the regional and sub-regional level.

## **URBAN DESIGN PROJECT (ENVS359)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

Problem solving, critical thinking and creativity are at the heart of this module. You will be provided with an opportunity to take part in a client-based design project and to engage first hand with local communities. The aim of this studio-based module is to lead you through the process of analysing a large site, carrying out necessary contextual studies and preparing an urban design framework and a physical model by means of a realistic design brief. With the help of design professionals, you will learn to understand the inter-relationship of economic feasibility and the urban design development potential of a site. You will work in small teams and on your own to explore a range of design scales. Lectures on specific design aspects and skills will be given at key project stages. Weekly tutorials will give you the guidance and support needed to successfully complete this module, which will be concluded by an exhibition day.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE - A CRITICAL REVIEW (ENVS389)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This module examines climate change impacts on humans and ecosystems. The module is designed to give the student a good overview of the strength and weaknesses of climate modelling approaches. Elements of the global carbon cycle are discussed.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (ENVS329)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

Environmental Assessment is applied throughout the world in the preparation of policies, plans, programmes and projects several 10s of 1,000s of times each year. Whilst specific requirements differ between different countries, underlying conceptual and procedural ideas are similar in all contexts. This module introduces the environmental assessment process and applied methods and techniques as practiced both, nationally and internationally. The module forms part of IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) accreditation. IEMA accreditation is a key requirement for those aiming at working in an environmental assessment consultancy. Obtaining it through this and the associated ENVS360 modules means a future employer will save a considerable amount of money and time they would otherwise need to spend to ensure there is accreditation. This gives graduates a competitive advantage.

## **URBAN AND REGIONAL REGENERATION (ENVS336)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

What should planners do when things go wrong? What happens to places that have experienced decline? Who is responsible for responding to this decline? The module discusses a broad range of urban issues related to regeneration (e.g. housing, community, health, economies) and equips students with an in-depth understanding of the theory and international case studies of urban regeneration and the ability of planners to generate effective policy responses to areas of decline.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT PROJECT (ENVS360)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

This is a client-led module, which is based upon the execution of a mini-project that is carried out in groups by students. The project allows the students to apply their knowledge of Environmental Assessment and Management (EAM) in practice and gain experience of being engaged with a real life client. This module essentially delivers authentic assessment. The project experience offered within the module helps in developing skills of analysis, interpretation and policy prescription within the context of EAM. They are well grounded in the Department's own research activities and draw upon established links with a number of local authorities and other public bodies.

## **URBAN AND REGIONAL REGENERATION PROJECT (ENVS384)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2**

You will work on a real-world urban regeneration site, responding to the needs of a client organisation (e.g. local authority or developer) to create a plan that responds to decline and the needs of local residents. The module builds on the previous Urban Regeneration modules to provide a reflective and hands on experience of project work. Your group will identify evidence of regeneration need, consider international best practice examples of regeneration and undertake a planning exercise to design a regeneration plan or policy.

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## **YEAR FOUR**

Year four focuses on professional planning practice and includes a major project in the module spatial planning in action; coverage of planning theory and ethical questions in planning practice. This year also includes an assessed work placement for a minimum of three weeks working with a planning-related agency. Previous students have undertaken their placement in Merseyside, elsewhere in the UK or overseas, for example in Denmark, Poland, and Hong Kong.

You will take the following compulsory modules.

### **COMPULSORY MODULES**

#### **MPLAN DISSERTATION (ENVS494)**

**Credits: 30 / Semester: whole session**

The dissertation is a key part of your studies during this final year. It is the equivalent of two standard modules and spans two semesters. It is also the part of your studies that demands the most in terms of personal initiative and organisation. Students will select their own topic and work through an individual research project that culminates in the dissertation itself. It is also the part of your studies that allows you to develop a personal specialism to the fullest extent which you can highlight in your CV and which can therefore be a very rewarding and fulfilling exercise.

The module is primarily assessed through a 10,000 word dissertation which evidences your ability to conduct independent primary research. You will also have the opportunity to develop and shape your ideas by submitting drafts of a literature review and an overall research plan.

#### **PLANNING IN PRACTICE (ENVS426)**

**Credits: 30 / Semester: whole session**

This whole-year module is designed to help you move into the world of planning practice through the engagement of practitioners in delivering the module, both as a client and in providing insights and advice concerning the range of opportunities for embarking on a career in planning. The module can be divided into two parts with a client-based project in semester one and a series of interactive lectures largely with guest lectures related to contemporary planning practice. The module is assessed by means of a group project, individual portfolio and an open-book exam.

## **SPATIAL PLANNING AND DESIGN PROJECT (ENVS467)**

**Credits: 30 / Semester: semester 2**

The module provides an opportunity for students to apply knowledge gained in other aspects of their studies to a plan-making exercise. In this project-based module, students will work with a client on the development of a strategy for the improvement of a selected area. Student will work in groups on a project brief that will allow them to address issues that are both relevant for the local client and reflect relevant planning debates (e.g. on urban sustainability, climate change, etc.)

## **THEORY, POWER AND ETHICS (ENVS432)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

The focus of this module is on the institutional perspective on planning across different spatial scales and the different strands of theories that are relevant to the understanding of the role and purposes of planning.

## **PLANNING PRACTICE PLACEMENT (ENVS448)**

**Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1**

The module integrates the taught elements of the MPlan programme with real world experience in planning practice. The module is delivered via an introductory lecture and a placement. The module provides opportunities for students to work for a client agency through a professional placement to gain experience of real-world planning related work. Students are also introduced to the Royal Town Planning Institute guidance for the Assessment of Professional Competence which forms the basis for a portfolio which is submitted at the end of the module.

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## **HOW YOU'LL LEARN**

Planning education has an important vocational focus and in Liverpool we consider a real world connection to be extremely important. Our students gain a broad understanding of planning, from the ways in which towns and cities have evolved and are being reshaped to meet the challenges of the 21st century to the effects of planning on the environment and planning's role in urban regeneration.

To do this we have designed varied programmes of study with a range of teaching styles. You will learn by doing through place-based projects and field classes as well as be introduced to real-life examples from around the world.

Our programmes also include specialised training in geographic information systems, mapping and urban design. Together these approaches ensure that you gain valuable transferable skills whilst studying with us.



## **HOW YOU'RE ASSESSED**

Assessments are designed around developing skills and styles of communication that will be relevant to future employers. So, in addition to exams and essays, you will also undertake assessments that include computer-based exercises, oral presentations, policy briefs, poster presentations, field projects, research reports, design work, group work, seminar presentations and papers. Students complete a compulsory dissertation or project module in the final year on a topic of your choice. This is your opportunity to develop skills as an independent academic researcher, supported on a one-to-one basis by an expert in the field.

## **LIVERPOOL HALLMARKS**

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

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# Careers and employability

Our Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) accredited programmes ensure that you are fully qualified to enter this dynamic profession on graduation.

If you wish to continue your education beyond your undergraduate degree we also offer a range of postgraduate degrees, including our RTPI accredited Master of Civic Design.

We also offer a series of specialist postgraduate programmes including:

- MSc Marine Planning and Management (RTPI accredited)
- MSc Environmental Assessment and Management (IEMA accredited)
- MA Town and Regional Planning.
- Further PhD study.

Career paths taken by our recent graduates:

- Planning and environmental consultants
- Transport planning and urban regeneration
- Economic development
- Environmental management
- GIS and data science specialists
- Social housing.

Our recent graduates have found employment with the following:

- Consultancy: Atkins, Arup, Indigo, Savills
- Local Authority: Islington Borough Council, Lancashire County Council
- Public bodies: Transport for London (TFL), Natural England, Environment Agency, National Parks Authorities
- Non-governmental organisations: Liverpool Vision, Council for the Protection of Rural England, RSPB
- Advocacy: Housing associations, social enterprise, economic development.

**90%** OF GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING STUDENTS ARE IN WORK AND/OR FURTHER STUDY 15 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION.

*Discover Uni, 2018-19.*

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# Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

## TUITION FEES

<b>UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)</b>	
Full-time place, per year	£9,535
Year in industry fee	£1,850
Year abroad fee	£1,385

<b>International fees</b>	
Full-time place, per year	£26,600
Year in industry fee	£1,850
Year abroad fee	£13,300

*The UK full-time tuition fee, international course fee and fee for the year abroad for international students shown are correct for 2025/26 entry. We are currently awaiting confirmation of whether the year abroad fee for UK students, as well as the year in industry fee will change, so the fees shown are for 2024/25. Please note that the year abroad fee also applies to the year in China.*

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about fees and funding.](#)

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## ADDITIONAL COSTS

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This

may include a laptop, books, or stationery. Additional costs for this course could include field class and project costs.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES**

We offer a range of scholarships and bursaries that could help pay your tuition and living expenses.

We've set the country or region your qualifications are from as United Kingdom. [Change it here](#)

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### **UNDERGRADUATE GLOBAL ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

- [International students](#)

[If you're a high-achieving international student starting an undergraduate degree with us from September 2024, you could be eligible to receive a fee discount of up to £5,000. You'll need to achieve grades equivalent to AAA in A levels. Most of our undergraduate degrees are eligible, with the exception of clinical programmes in Medicine and Dental Surgery.](#)

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### **THE LIVERPOOL BURSARY**

- [Home students](#)

[If you're a UK student joining an undergraduate degree and have a household income below £35,000, you could be eligible for a Liverpool Bursary worth up to £2,000 for each year of undergraduate study.](#)

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### **ASYLUM SEEKERS SCHOLARSHIP**

- [Home students](#)

[Apply for an Asylum Seekers Scholarship and you could have your tuition fees paid in full and receive help with study costs. You'll need to have applied for asylum in the UK, or be the dependant of an asylum seeker, and be joining an eligible undergraduate degree.](#)

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### **CARE LEAVERS' OPPORTUNITY BURSARY**

- [Home students](#)

[If you've spent 13 or more weeks in Local Authority care since age 14, you could be eligible for a bursary of £3,000 per year of study. You'll need to be a UK student joining an eligible undergraduate degree and be aged 28 or above on 1 September in the year you start.](#)

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### **COWRIE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

- [Home students](#)

[Are you a UK student with a Black African or Caribbean heritage and a household income of £25,000 or less? You could be eligible to apply for a Cowrie Foundation Scholarship worth up](#)

[to £8,000 for each year of undergraduate study.](#)

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### **ESTRANGED STUDENTS BURSARY**

◦ [Home students](#)

[If you're a UK student identified as estranged by Student Finance England \(or the equivalent UK funding body\), you could be eligible for a bursary of £1,000 for each year of undergraduate study.](#)

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### **GENESYS LIFE SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP**

◦ [Home students](#)

[Joining a School of Biosciences degree and have a household income of less than £25,000? If you're a UK student, you could apply to receive £4,500 per year for three years of your undergraduate course.](#)

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### **GRADUATE ASSOCIATION HONG KONG & TUNG UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

◦ [International students](#)

◦ [Hong Kong](#)

[If you're an undergraduate student from Hong Kong who can demonstrate academic excellence, you may be eligible to apply for a scholarship worth £10,000 in partnership with the Tung Foundation.](#)

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### **KAPLAN DIGITAL PATHWAYS EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP**

◦ [International students](#)

[Completed a Kaplan Digital Pathways Foundation Certificate? We're offering a £5,000 fee discount off the first year of undergraduate study for a maximum of two high achieving students joining one of our non-clinical degrees from an online Kaplan Foundation Certificate.](#)

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### **NOLAN SCHOLARSHIPS**

◦ [Home students](#)

[Do you live in the Liverpool City Region with a household income of £25,000 or less? Did neither of your parents attend University? You could be eligible to apply for a Nolan Scholarship worth £5,000 per year for three years of undergraduate study.](#)

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### **RIGBY ENTERPRISE AWARD**

◦ [Home students](#)

[Are you a UK student with a household income of £25,000 or less? If you've participated in an eligible outreach programme, you could be eligible to apply for a Rigby Enterprise Award worth £5,000 per year for three years of your undergraduate degree.](#)

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## **ROLABOTIC SCHOLARSHIP**

- Home students

Are you a UK student with a household income of £25,000 or less? Did neither of your parents attend University? You could be eligible to apply for a ROLABOTIC Scholarship worth £4,500 for each year of your undergraduate degree.

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## **SPORT LIVERPOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME**

- Home and international students

Apply to receive tailored training support to enhance your sporting performance. Our athlete support package includes a range of benefits, from bespoke strength and conditioning training to physiotherapy sessions and one-to-one nutritional advice.

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## **TECHNETIX BROADHURST ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP**

- Home students

Joining a degree in the School of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Computer Science? If you're a UK student with household income below £25,000, you could be eligible to apply for £5,000 a year for three years of study. Two awards will be available per academic year.

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## **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP**

- International students

Completed a Foundation Certificate at University of Liverpool International College (UoLIC)? We're offering a £5,000 fee discount off the first year of undergraduate study to some of the highest achieving students joining one of our non-clinical degrees from UoLIC.

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## **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE FIRST CLASS SCHOLARSHIP**

- International students

We're offering a £1,000 fee discount for years 2 and 3 of undergraduate study to eligible students progressing from University of Liverpool International College. You'll need to be studying a non-clinical subject and get an average of 70% or above in year 1 of your degree.

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## **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE IMPACT PROGRESSION SCHOLARSHIPS**

- International students

If you're a University of Liverpool International College student awarded a Kaplan Impact Scholarship, we'll also consider you for an Impact Progression Scholarship. If selected, you'll receive a £3,000 fee discount off the first year of your undergraduate degree.

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## **YOUNG ADULT CARER'S (YAC) BURSARY**

- Home students

If you're a young adult and a registered carer in the UK, you might be eligible for a £1,000 bursary for each year of study. You'll need to be aged 18-25 on 1 September in the year you start your undergraduate degree.

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# Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Your qualification	Requirements <a href="#">About our typical entry requirements</a>
A levels	ABB Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is <b>BBB</b> with <b>A</b> in the EPQ. You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our <a href="#">contextual offers scheme</a> .
GCSE	4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma	D*DD in relevant diploma.
International Baccalaureate	33 points, with no score less than 4.
Irish Leaving Certificate	H1, H2, H2, H2, H3, H3
Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher	Not accepted with out Advanced Highers at grades ABB.
Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced	Accepted at grade B, including two A levels at AB.
Access	Access - 45 Level 3 credits in graded units in a relevant Diploma, including 30 at Distinction and a further 15 with at



<b>Your qualification</b>	<b>Requirements</b> <a href="#">About our typical entry requirements</a>
	least Merit.
International qualifications	Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the <a href="#">University of Liverpool International College</a> , means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

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## ALTERNATIVE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- Aged 20+ and without formal qualifications? The one-year [Go Higher](#)

- [diploma](#) qualifies you to apply for University of Liverpool arts, humanities and social sciences programmes
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

