



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

# PLANNING

## **LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Ranked 1st in the UK for Student Experience  
(Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019).

## **FIRST CLASS FACILITIES**

Dedicated design studios, computer labs and  
exhibition spaces.

## **WORK PLACEMENT PROGRAMME**

Second year work placement in professional  
planning organisation, enhancing student skills  
and employability.

**SHAPING A  
BETTER WORLD  
SINCE 1845**



**RTPI**

Accredited Planning Programme

# PLANNING



## Why study Planning?

Do you have what it takes to inspire the evolution of our cities, towns, villages, neighbourhoods and communities? Planning is about transforming and improving the places within which we live.

A planning degree will give you the knowledge and skills to influence how we live today and in the future, and to make decisions that shape the processes of growth and development.

Planning is an extremely exciting discipline to study, especially today, in the face of major challenges such as 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.

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 the places and spaces where we live and work function, and give you the skills to make decisions that shape how they grow and prosper.

This degree is not only an accredited pathway to the global planning profession, but you'll also develop a range of transferable skills, such as mediation, advocacy, communication and IT skills, which can be applied in a range of international careers.



**Course Director**  
MPlan: Dr Linda Fox-Rogers

## Who will be teaching you?

Queen's is a leader in planning research and our teaching is informed by the latest research on spatial, regional, neighbourhood and community planning. Our exceptional teaching is reflected in our subject rankings: we're positioned 2nd in the UK in the Guardian and joint 2nd in the National Student Survey.

and development management. At the end of the second year, BSc students can transfer to the MPlan.

Between the second and third year, you will have the opportunity to improve employability through a 12-week work placement. In the third year, BSc students will undertake an international field visit, while MPlan students benefit from study-based learning and a subsequent fourth year of study in a European partner university.

## Your study options

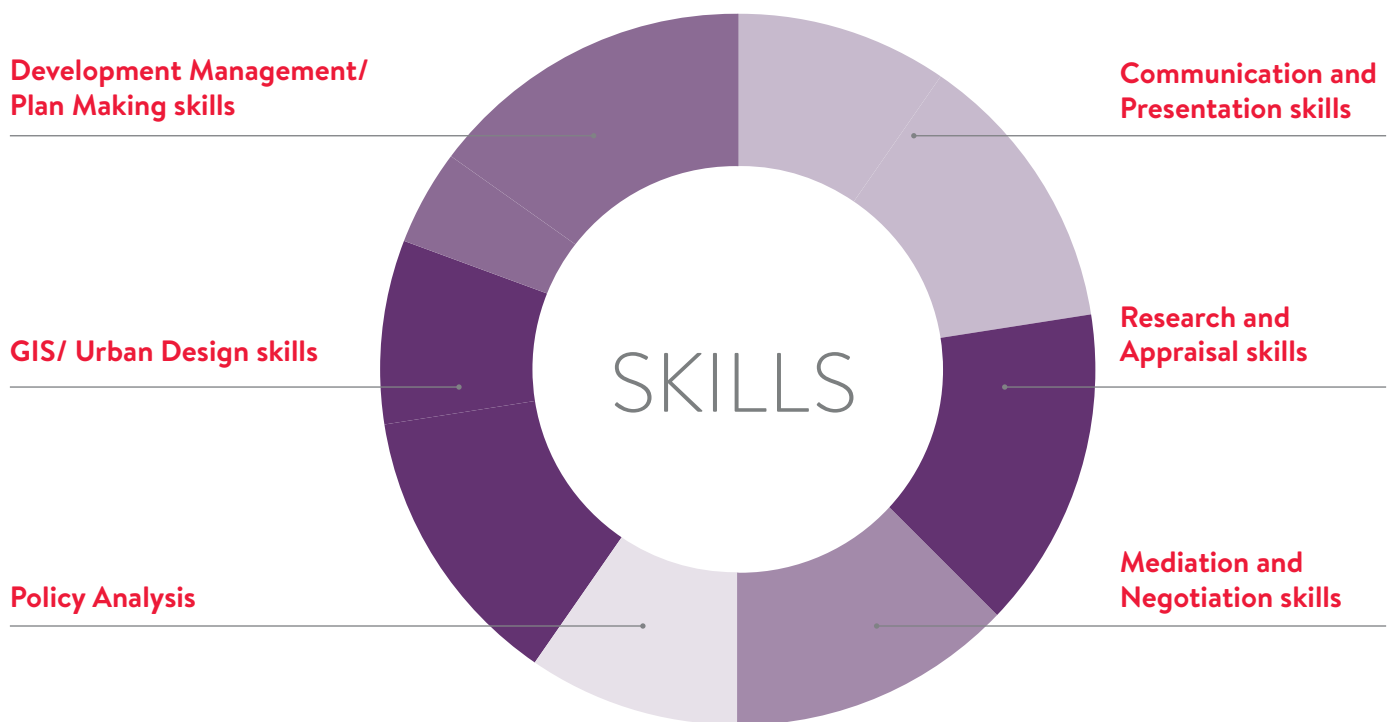
There are two course structures available: BSc Planning, Environment and Development, and MPlan European Planning. The BSc degree is a three-year programme of study, while the four-year MPlan programmes offers a professional planning education, with a specialisation in European Planning.

The first two years of the MPlan are shared with the BSc, during which you will explore themes such as the economic, social and political context within which planning operates and develop professional skills necessary to work in the broad field of planning practice



**Course Director**  
BSc: Richard Waldron

# WHAT YOU'LL LEARN



## Our subject areas

**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.

**Level 3:** Level 3 develops a greater theoretical understanding of planning. You 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.

In the third year, MPlan students begin to concentrate on aspects of European planning, including specialised language training, with a week-long field trip to Europe (recent destinations have included Amsterdam, Barcelona and Krakow). In the fourth year there are additional opportunities to spend time at a partner university in France, Sweden, The Netherlands and Turkey, focussing on Advanced European Studies, and to complete an independent research project.

**Field work:** From the beginning of year one you will be involved in getting out there on field trips of one day or longer. For example, a project in year one will include a visit to a local town in order to develop a design brief. Such learning will enable you to apply your existing knowledge and research skills to a live-project setting.

## Work Placement

We are delighted to offer a 12-week work placement between Level 2 and Level 3. As a result of a placement, you'll gain invaluable skills of working in a professional environment prior to graduation, thus improving your employability and advancing career progression. On top of this, you'll develop your skills learned on the first two years of the course, and further deepen your insight into the discipline of Planning.



# OUR PEOPLE



“On the MPlan degree programme I enjoyed the ability to learn about planning both in and out of the classroom, with a range of local and international trips allowing for a great social aspect to learning. I would recommend the programme, particularly for the opportunity to study fourth year abroad. This was the highlight of my university experience, allowing me to get to know and learn from other planning students around the world.”

**Kim Burgess, MPlan**



“Studying BSc Planning, Environment and Development has been a truly fantastic learning experience. Lecturers and teaching staff are passionate, always willing to help, friendly and approachable. Studying Planning at Queen’s University Belfast has actively allowed me to develop vital skills for a future career within the sector or indeed elsewhere. Most importantly, the course is interesting, challenging and hands on, with both independent learning and group work being widely incorporated throughout the curriculum. The course addresses relevant topics such as city design and climate change with course material always being widely accessible online. I would highly recommend studying this course at Queen’s.”

**David Maze, BSc**

## Our industry links

Our courses are closely aligned to the requirements of the planning sector and draw on practitioners as guest lecturers, while a wide range of potential employers are also involved in student projects and career events. We have developed strong relationships with, for example, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Planning Division of the Department for Infrastructure, local councils and private planning consultancies, and these experts are involved in the design of the degree.

We regularly consult with employers, and our industry links are further enhanced by formal partnership meetings with the bodies that accredit our courses: 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).

## Your career prospects

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 (particularly geography), countryside stewardship, software development and various graduate programmes.

Many of our graduates go on to complete their RTPI accreditation with our Masters programme in City Planning and Design, or other postgraduate training, including PhD study; see the School website for further information.





# AT A GLANCE



## Why study Planning

Planning is concerned with making a difference in the world around us – it's about creating a vision of the future and shaping healthy places for people to live, work and play. A degree in urban planning provides students with strong problem-solving and analytical skills and an ability to think critically about challenges facing the urban and rural environment, such as promoting economic growth, protecting the environment and addressing issues of development related to climate change, housing, energy and transportation.

Our degrees are recognised pathways to the planning profession and accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), meaning that they meet the standards set by the planning profession.

**To discuss your options in more detail  
or if you have any questions contact:**



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FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR PLANNING COURSES:

**<http://go.qub.ac.uk/ug-planning>**

Follow us on Twitter @planQUB



## CONTACT US

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