



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Planning Process, Practice and Leadership

Module Descriptor

Module Code: PLN7PPL

Version: 1.00

Status: Final

Date: 15/04/2024

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Planning Process, Practice and Leadership

Module Leader: Laird Ryan

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Spring (UK)

Level: 7

Credits: 20

Learning Hours: 200

Contact and 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 introduces students to the real-world dynamics of the planning process in England, through a critical review of the prescribed stages of plan-making and decision-taking at a full range of strategic levels and spatial contexts. A central focus here will be the role of Statutory Development Plans (SDPs), and their integral components, Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Consideration will be given to how a full range of cross-sector stakeholders come to define an agreed spatial vision for their areas and determine individual development proposals in relation to that vision, as well as the practical and ethical qualities required of the different players in the planning process. Students will be encouraged to recognise conflicts that arise in the delivery of sustainable development and how effective leadership can help to ameliorate the process.

Taken on which Programmes

MSc Urban Planning (C)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Module Aims

This module aims to enable students to:

- Progress a knowledge and critical understanding of how the regulatory frameworks of the planning system operate in practice across a range of strategic levels and geographic locations;
- Develop an ability to navigate the UK's constantly changing planning framework and to identify the appropriate level and focus for applying policies in a manner that best promotes sustainable development;
- Foster a recognition of, and critically analyse, the main policy responses to current and emerging planning issues, in order to present appropriate, place-specific solutions; and
- Explore how concepts of effective leadership and management of organisations, people, and projects are applied to the planning system, and evaluate which approaches are most appropriate in a range of different contexts.

Module Learning Outcomes

To demonstrate critical comprehension of the principles and processes involved in spatial planning policy and the way it can be used to create a vision to deliver sustainable development, infrastructure provision, regeneration, urban design and placemaking for communities.

- LO1. To identify and appraise the wide-ranging issues, interrelationships and professional competencies that promote sustainable development and that underscore the design and delivery of Statutory Development Plans (SDPs).
- LO2. To appraise the statutory and extra-statutory practices and procedures for determining planning applications, including stakeholder consultations, enforcement and appeals, and demonstrate an understanding of the related, necessary professionalism and ethical approaches.
- LO3. To critically analyse the spatial planning factors that influence management, strategic decision-making and leadership within the context for delivering sustainable development by and for sustainable communities.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- **Spatial Planning Challenges**
A consideration of the conflicts facing planners when trying to deliver sustainable development in diverse social, economic and environmental contexts; the role of spatial planning in managing development pressures while protecting the built and natural environment; exploring different planning responses to address and reconcile these competing interests.
- **An Introduction to statutory plan-making**
A critical overview of plan-making procedures at the national, regional and local levels in the UK at a time of rapid change - e.g., the National Planning Policy Framework; National Policy Statements; Statutory Development Plans, comprising Local and Neighbourhood Plans; Supplementary Planning Documents; and other

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forms of official planning guidance, drawing on a wide range of representative case studies.

- **An introduction to the principles and practice of development management**
Procedures for making and determining planning applications; permitted development; planning appeals; planning enforcement; the role of HM Planning Inspectorate and the courts; and a consideration of the necessary related skills and inputs of the various stakeholders, drawing on a wide range of representative case studies.
- **A developer-focused approach to planning conditions and planning gain**
Assessing how and why the planning system imposes conditions on planning approvals and regimes for developers to make financial or in-kind contributions to mitigate the impacts of developments; and the rights and duties of developers in such circumstances. Critically evaluating the scope of developers to negotiate solutions that maximise viability, while conforming to the principle of sustainable development.
- **Stakeholder engagement and management in the planning process**
Exploring the concepts, statutory requirements and practice of stakeholder engagement and management from a developer's, consultee's and decision maker's point of view; methods for mapping out and proactively engaging with stakeholders, leveraging, and managing their input; and meeting the challenge of building consensus in a planning and development context.

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
LO1, LO2	Assessment 1 Coursework (e.g., essay)	2,000	40%	50%
LO3, LO4	Assessment 2 Coursework (e.g., briefing paper/ presentation)	3,000	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 webinars/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.