

## MSc/PGDip Spatial Planning

This professionally accredited postgraduate programme has been carefully designed as a 'fast-track' conversion course for graduates of any discipline who wish to make a career in planning or in related fields. It aims to broaden students' appreciation of planning and urban theory whilst providing them with the necessary skills to engage in critical and creative problem solving. The course focuses primarily on the tradition and current practices of city and regional planning in the United Kingdom.



## Overview

The programme delivers an initial planning education that enables people entering the profession to think critically about space and place as the basis for action or intervention. The programme aims to provide a platform for critical thinking that extends beyond regulatory considerations, and instead embraces wider social, economic, environmental and political concerns, with a focus on interrelationships and cultural identity. Place is seen as an arena for a range of physical, social and economic outcomes affecting the experiences of people and communities.

Although situated as appropriate in their global and European contexts, the focus for the course is primarily the UK, and particularly London. London is a complex setting that provides the natural and most accessible laboratory for BSP students.

An emphasis on understanding the social and physical world will lead onto a greater appreciation of how action or intervention shapes place. But at the same time, there is a concern with ethical issues as a framework for planned intervention.

The programme provides:

- An opportunity to acquire a broad range of skills and knowledge, whilst setting foot on the path towards specialisation;
- A programme of study which draws on University College London's position as a leading research-led university;
- An integrated programme, with a broad, critical view of the subject matter;
- A principle and theory driven programme, which gives students both conceptual understanding, and the skills needed to tackle practical problems;
- A spatially focused programme dealing with real places and the role of planning in place-making which helps students understand the UK's planning systems and cultures.

## Structure/Content

The programme can be completed in either 1 year of full-time study or in 2 to 5 years of modular/flexible study (which can be structured around your employment). Students study a series of compulsory modules and then pick from a choice of seven specialisms (pairs of theory and project modules). The programme includes lecture and seminar modules, project work, site visits, field trips and the preparation of a dissertation.

Further details on all modules are provided in the directory at the rear of this brochure. The compulsory modules for Spatial Planning are:

- BPLN0037 Spatial Planning: Concepts and Context \* (15 credits)
- BPLN0047 Spatial Planning: Critical Practice \* (15 credits)
- BPLN0042 Urban Design: Place-making \* (15 credits)
- BPLN0043 From Strategic Vision to Urban Plan \* (15 credits)
- BPLN0002 Pillars of Planning (30 credits)
- BPLN0039 Dissertation in Planning (60 credits)

The specialisms are (students pick one specialism, which comprises two linked modules of 15 credits each:

- Governance for Sustainability and Inclusion (BENVGPLL + BPLN0049 **OR** BENVGPLL + BPLN0054)
- Housing (BPLN0044 + BPLN0045)
- Infrastructure Planning (BPLN0024 + BPLN0027)
- Smart Cities Theory and Practice (CASA001 + CASA008)
- Urban Design (BPLN0056 + BPLN0057)
- Urban Regeneration (BPLN0065 + BPLN0063)
- Historic Cities (BPLN0067 + BPLN0068)

## Field Trips

All students joining the Spatial Planning MSc will participate in two field trips. In Term 1, there is a short overnight (two day) field trip to a British city outside London. In Term 2, there is a week-long field trip to a European city outside the UK, for example Copenhagen or Delft/Amsterdam. The trips will cover a range of spatial planning themes, linking directly to the Master's programme. Part-time students will need to be available to attend the trips during their first year of study.

## Entry Qualifications

Applicants must have obtained a minimum of a good second-class Bachelor's degree or other qualification of equivalent standard (preferably 2.1 or higher, but 2.2 with appropriate experience or equivalent will also be considered). Some practical experience in addition to academic qualifications is welcomed but not required (the course is designed for graduates of all disciplines and those with no planning background at all, as well as welcoming those with some experience).

A high level of competence in both spoken and written English is also required. Overseas students whose first language is not English will be asked to provide evidence of competency in English. A minimum overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each of the sub-tests is required.

## Careers

Graduates have been very successful in gaining subsequent employment, including core public and private sector planning careers (such as local government and local, national and international consultancies), as well as the housing and transport sectors; planning, urban regeneration and environmental agencies; public and private utility companies; think tanks and public policy organisations; environmental campaign groups; and teaching and research.

Term 1 Oct-Dec	Term 2 Jan-Mar	Term 3 Apr-May	Summer Jun-Sep
BPLN0037 (PT yr 1) Spatial Planning: Concepts and Context	BPLN0047 (PT yr 1) Spatial Planning: Critical Practice	BPLN0039 (PT yr 2) Dissertation in Planning	
BPLN0042 (PT yr 1) Urban Design: Place-making	BPLN0043 (PT yr 1) From Strategic Vision to Urban Plan		
BPLN0002 (PT yr 2) Pillars of Planning			
(PT yr 2)			
Specialism Part 1 (PT yr 2)	Specialism Part 2 (PT yr 2)		
(PT yr 2)			

(\*Part-time students wishing to complete in two years study those modules indicated with an asterisk in the first year and the rest in the second year. It is usually possible for part-time students to have all taught modules on one day per week during the first year, and depending on the choice of specialism, either one full day or two half-days per week during the second year)