



MA

Sustainable Urban Planning

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Designed for graduates with previous limited knowledge in this field, this master's course will provide you with knowledge of various aspects of town and regional planning.

Introduction

There are three pathways available for the programme so you can choose which area you'd like to specialise in; whether it be spatial planning, urban design or spatial modelling.

Regardless of which pathway you choose, you'll be able to develop specialised knowledge of the field through a range of optional modules that cover a wide range of subjects relevant to town and regional planning.

You will build the knowledge and skills which you will need as a town and regional planning professional; not only the practical skills prized by employers in the industry but also the values and ethical considerations needed for sustainable and conscientious planning.

Who is this course for?

This programme is best suited for you if you plan to practise outside of the UK as it isn't accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institution. If you're looking for an accredited course, take a look at our Town and Regional Planning MCD.

What you'll learn

- A critical appreciation of challenges facing modern society in terms of the need to reconcile economic growth and development with protecting and conserving the environment
 - An understanding of the diversity of planned interventions at a variety of spatial scales, which are designed to produce effective and implementable solutions to policy dilemmas
 - A range of analytical skills and techniques that are designed to develop appropriate and implementable solutions to a range of complex problems
 - You'll get the opportunity to apply their knowledge, skills and understanding to the achievement of feasible solutions to real-life problems
 - The ability to appreciate the need to adopt strong professional values and ethics, recognise the diversity of interests that planning serves
 - You'll also have an opportunity to begin to explore ideas, perspectives and debates in one specialised area of planning.
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Accreditation

This programme is not accredited – if you are looking for a programme accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institution see Town and Regional Planning MCD.

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Course content

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

Spatial planning

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
THEORY, POWER AND ETHICS (ENVS432)	15
TRENDS, OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS (ENVS469)	15
MAKING PLANS (ENVS427)	15
DISSERTATION MCD/MA/MSC PLANNING (ENVS491)	60
SPATIAL PLANNING AND DESIGN PROJECT (ENVS467)	30

Optional modules	Credits
MAKING PLACES (ENVS439)	15
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (ENVS529)	15
SPATIAL PLANNING CHALLENGES (ENVS411)	15
APPLIED GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE (ENVS609)	15

Optional modules	Credits
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT PROJECT (ENVS560)	15
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVS545)	15
IMPLEMENTING AND MANAGING CHANGE (ENVS459)	15
SPATIAL PLANNING AND DESIGN PROJECT (ENVS467)	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Urban design

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
THEORY, POWER AND ETHICS (ENVS432)	15
URBAN DESIGN: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE (ENVS420)	15
URBAN DESIGN STUDIO (ENVS463)	15
DISSERTATION MCD/MA/MSC PLANNING (ENVS491)	60
SPATIAL PLANNING AND DESIGN PROJECT (ENVS467)	30

Optional modules	Credits
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (ENVS529)	15
SPATIAL PLANNING CHALLENGES (ENVS411)	15
TRENDS, OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS (ENVS469)	15
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT PROJECT (ENVS560)	15
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVS545)	15
IMPLEMENTING AND MANAGING CHANGE (ENVS459)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

You'll learn through a combination of teaching, learning and assessment methods in line with the varied nature of the programme.

You'll attend lectures, seminars and tutorials and take part in practical sessions, such as project work and field visits. You are encouraged to take a proactive approach to their learning.

You will plan and organise your studies both on an individual basis and working in groups, take an active role in seminars, class discussions, library and IT studies and make practice contacts and site visits associated with coursework submissions.

How you're assessed

You'll be assessed through a combination of coursework, such as essays, reports, seminar presentations and examinations. Essays, reports, seminars and discussion papers enable you to explore particular components of the course in-depth and present coherent arguments using a range of writing styles, suitable for different audiences.

Seminar presentations provide opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate your ability in presenting and defending your arguments. Group projects enable you to demonstrate, through verbal presentations, written reports or design work, your ability to work as part of a team to resolve large and complex problems. Examinations test knowledge, understanding and critical reflection on a range of materials covered in a module.

You will also take part in a final project based on a topic associated with your specialism. You'll work independently to develop and demonstrate research skills and apply knowledge to a specific research problem. You'll be specifically assessed on your initial presentation, your research outline, and your dissertation.

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.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

After completing this programme, most graduates take up planning-related employment with public and private sector organisations outside of the UK.

Many students have found that the programme enables them to specialise in areas of planning where there is a steady demand for graduates, as well as providing them with a UK perspective on planning practice.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

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

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

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 could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

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

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution.

This degree can be in any subject discipline.

Non-graduates with very extensive professional experience and/or other prior qualifications may also be considered.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

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 [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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