



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MPlan

Town and Regional Planning

UCAS code K400

Entry requirements

A level: ABB

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

4 years

Apply by: **29 January 2025**

Starts on: **22 September 2025**

About this course

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).

Accreditation in detail

Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment

RTPI

The [Royal Town Planning Institute](#) works in partnership with universities to develop and accredit professional planning qualifications to put graduates on track to become a Chartered Town Planner.

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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.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>COMMUNITY PLANNING (ENVS102)</u>	15
<u>CONTEMPORARY TOWN PLANNING (ENVS152)</u>	15
<u>ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION (ENVS157)</u>	15
<u>TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING: AN INTRODUCTION (ENVS110)</u>	15
<u>UNDERSTANDING PLACE (ENVS105)</u>	15
<u>URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS (ENVS155)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>CONTEXT 1.1: HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE (ARCH171)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>HUMAN GEOGRAPHY THROUGH MERSEYSIDE (ENVS162)</u>	15
<u>LIVING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE (ENVS119)</u>	15
<u>NEW HORIZONS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (ENVS116)</u>	15
<u>RESEARCH FRONTIERS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (ENVS161)</u>	15
<u>GLOBAL CHALLENGES: DEVELOPMENT, INEQUALITY, ALTERNATIVES (ENVS144)</u>	15

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

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.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>CITIES AND REGIONS (ENVS230)</u>	15
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ENVS218)</u>	15

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>RURAL PLANNING (ENVS289)</u>	15
<u>GIS FOR PLANNERS (ENVS279)</u>	15
<u>PEOPLE AND PLACE (ENVS205)</u>	30
<u>STRATEGIC PLAN MAKING (ENVS210)</u>	15
<u>URBAN MORPHOLOGY AND PLACE-MAKING (ENVS256)</u>	15

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

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.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (ENVS369)</u>	15
<u>PLANNING LAW AND GOVERNANCE (ENVS348)</u>	15
<u>INTERNATIONAL PLANNING STUDIES (ENVS378)</u>	30

Optional modules	Credits
<u>URBAN DESIGN STUDIES (ENVS312)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS325)</u>	15
<u>MARINE PLANNING THEORY AND PRACTICE (ENVS341)</u>	15
<u>GEOGRAPHIC DATA SCIENCE (ENVS363)</u>	15
<u>BUILDING BETTER WORLDS (ENVS387)</u>	15
<u>CONTEMPORARY POPULATION DYNAMICS (ENVS311)</u>	15
<u>GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVS345)</u>	15
<u>SOCIAL AND SPATIAL INEQUALITIES (ENVS357)</u>	15
<u>URBAN DESIGN PROJECT (ENVS359)</u>	15
<u>CLIMATE CHANGE – A CRITICAL REVIEW (ENVS389)</u>	15
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (ENVS329)</u>	15
<u>URBAN AND REGIONAL REGENERATION (ENVS336)</u>	15
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT PROJECT (ENVS360)</u>	15
<u>URBAN AND REGIONAL REGENERATION PROJECT (ENVS384)</u>	15

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

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.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>MPLAN DISSERTATION (ENVS494)</u>	30
<u>PLANNING IN PRACTICE (ENVS426)</u>	30
<u>SPATIAL PLANNING AND DESIGN PROJECT (ENVS467)</u>	30
<u>THEORY, POWER AND ETHICS (ENVS432)</u>	15
<u>PLANNING PRACTICE PLACEMENT (ENVS448)</u>	15

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

Teaching and assessment

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.

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

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:

- MA Housing and Community Planning (RTPI accredited)
- Urban Design and Planning MCD (RTPI accredited)
- MSc Environmental Assessment and Management (IEMA accredited)
- MA Sustainable Urban 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.

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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 – £9,535

Year in industry fee – £1,905

Year abroad fee – £1,430 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £26,600

Year in industry fee – £1,905

Year abroad fee – £13,300 (applies to year in China)

The tuition fees shown are correct for 2025/26 entry. 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 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 may include a laptop, books, or stationery. Additional costs for this course could include field class and project costs.

Project/dissertation costs

The School of Environmental Sciences will provide a budget of up to £200 for field/lab-based projects. Desk-based projects receive no budget.

Field classes

Core costs for compulsory field classes are covered.

Year three optional field classes:

- Option A: One-week residential field class in Europe (e.g. Paris). Students meet travel and subsistence costs
- Option B: Two-week residential field class in China (Shanghai). Students meet full costs.

[Find out more about additional study costs.](#)

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Entry requirements

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

A levels

ABB

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **BBB** with **A** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about [how we make reduced grade offers](#).

T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject.

Applicants should contact us by [completing the enquiry form on our website](#) to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

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 least Merit.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the University of Liverpool International College, in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

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 5.5

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

TOEFL Paper

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

LanguageCert

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

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 no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 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 5.5, for further details.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- If you are returning to learning, have had a disrupted education or are switching career pathways, 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.

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