

BA (Hons)

Urban Planning

UCAS code K430

Entry requirements

A level: BBB

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

3 years

Apply by: **30 June 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

The Urban Planning programme provides you with the knowledge and the skills to understand and help address the challenges faced by urban areas today. You'll gain a rounded understanding of the factors and forces that are shaping the urban environment, the role that planning can play in developing and renewing urban areas, and reconciling competing and conflicting interests.

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 the Department of Geography and planning.

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 provide 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.

Our unique three year BA (Hons) programme in Urban Planning is designed for those who wish to pursue a broad planning related degree with an environmental or urban orientated theme. You will gain an understanding of factors influencing the changing features and the ever-increasing demands of modern society.

Field trips

You will also 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.

This programmes involves laboratory and fieldwork. The fieldwork is carried out in various locations, ranging from inner city to coastal and mountainous environments. We consider applications from disabled students on the same basis as to all other students, and reasonable adjustments will be considered to address barriers to access.

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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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 local field days 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
COMMUNITY PLANNING (ENVS102)	15
CONTEMPORARY TOWN PLANNING (ENVS152)	15
ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION (ENVS157)	15
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING: AN INTRODUCTION (ENVS110)	15
UNDERSTANDING PLACE (ENVS105)	15
URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS (ENVS155)	15

Optional modules	Credits
CONTEXT 1.1: HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE (ARCH171)	15
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY THROUGH MERSEYSIDE (ENVS162)	15
LIVING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE (ENVS119)	15
NEW HORIZONS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (ENVS116)	15
RESEARCH FRONTIERS IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (ENVS161)	15
GLOBAL CHALLENGES: DEVELOPMENT, INEQUALITY, ALTERNATIVES (ENVS144)	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.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CITIES AND REGIONS (ENVS230)	15

Compulsory modules	Credits
PLANNING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ENVS218)	15
RURAL PLANNING (ENVS289)	15
GIS FOR PLANNERS (ENVS279)	15
PEOPLE AND PLACE (ENVS205)	30
STRATEGIC PLAN MAKING (ENVS210)	15
URBAN MORPHOLOGY AND PLACE-MAKING (ENVS256)	15

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

Year three

Year three provides you with a more focused study of your specialism in order to gain greater knowledge and expertise of urban planning. You are required to take four modules associated with your specialism, made up of two core modules and two optional modules. You then choose a further four modules from a range of other optional modules. This could include a dissertation where you undertake a piece of independent research and international field class offering the opportunity to explore planning in a new context.

You will take the following compulsory modules and two additional optional modules that relate to your specialism – transforming cities and regions – and the remaining modules from the optional modules detailed below. You may be required to select a research module choice, for example dissertation.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
URBAN AND REGIONAL REGENERATION PROJECT (ENVS384)	15
URBAN AND REGIONAL REGENERATION (ENVS336)	15
INTERNATIONAL PLANNING STUDIES (ENVS378)	30
Optional modules	Credits
URBAN DESIGN STUDIES (ENVS312)	15
POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS325)	15
GEOGRAPHIC DATA SCIENCE (ENVS363)	15
BUILDING BETTER WORLDS (ENVS387)	15
CONTEMPORARY POPULATION DYNAMICS (ENVS311)	15
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVS345)	15
SOCIAL AND SPATIAL INEQUALITIES (ENVS357)	15
URBAN DESIGN PROJECT (ENVS359)	15
PLANNING LAW AND GOVERNANCE (ENVS348)	15
PLANNING AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT (ENVS369)	15
CIVIC DESIGN DISSERTATION (BA) (ENVS302)	30
ISSUES IN PLANNING RESEARCH (ENVS346)	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 Urban Planning programme is varied, interdisciplinary, and has a strong vocational focus, meaning that you enter a wide range of planning related careers in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

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 - £9,790

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £1,465 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £27,000

Year in industry fee - £1,955

Year abroad fee - £13,500 (applies to year in China)

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

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 could include expenses such as field clothing and sustenance (food and drinks) during fieldwork.

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.

A levels

BBB

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

If you don't meet the entry requirements, you may be able to complete a foundation year which would allow you to progress to this course.

Available foundation years:

- [Geography BSc \(Hons\) \(4 year route including a foundation year at Carmel College\)](#)
BSc (Hons)

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

DDD in relevant diploma.

International Baccalaureate

30 points overall with no score less than 4, or pass the IB Diploma plus 5,5,5 in three HL subjects.

European Bacculaureate

Overall 60% or better

Irish Leaving Certificate

H2, H2, H2, H3, H3, H3

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

Not accepted without Advanced Highers at grades BBB.

Welsh Bacculaureate Advanced

B in the Welsh Bacculaureate plus BB at A level.

Access

Pass Access to HE Diploma in a relevant subject with 45 Level 3 credits with 30 at Distinction and 15 at 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.

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.

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

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. 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 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

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 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 or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	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 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 5.5, for further details.

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