

School of Life and Medical Sciences

Title of Programme: MSc Sustainable Planning

Programme Code: HHMSP

Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:
21 September 2020

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):
Dr Stefanie Schmeer

Signature



A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

Summary of amendments to the programme

Date	Section	Amendment
19/07/20	B	Reference to RTP1 learning outcomes included
19/07/20	C	For field trips and visits addition of "(held virtually online where necessary)"
19/07/20	D	Addition of "(online where necessary)" to attendance requirements
19/07/20	D	Reference to the RTP1 as accrediting body
19/07/20	G	Inclusion of ICAdmin email address

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email AQO@herts.ac.uk

Programme Specification MSc Sustainable Planning

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and Module Guides.

Section 1

Awarding Institution/Body	University of Hertfordshire
Teaching Institution	University of Hertfordshire
University/partner campuses	Hatfield College Lane
Programme accredited by	
Final Award (Qualification)	MSc
All Final Award titles (Qualification and Subject)	Sustainable Planning; Sustainable Planning and Transport; Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management
FHEQ level of award	7
Language of Delivery	English

A. Programme Rationale

The programme is designed to recruit students who wish to study planning to achieve sustainable communities and distinctive placemaking, equipping graduates for careers in planning, urban design, community development, regeneration, transport management and travel planning and other planning related careers. The course is also suitable for students who wish to carry out further research in planning at a university or with a public agency. The focus on sustainable communities and placemaking recognises the vital role of planners in achieving places that are sustainable in the short and longer term, minimising energy consumption and promoting natural resource efficiency in their construction and while in use, and also enabling social equality and equality of opportunity in their built form. The emphasis on distinctive placemaking addresses increasing concern for design quality, and social and cultural aspects to achieve places that have a clear identity and are appropriate to their locality. The programme will also foster in students the skills for sustainability in planning practice, enabling students to be well placed to work in a number of related planning careers including planning for renewable energy and climate change adaptation and mitigation, as a central challenge for planning. This programme is distinctive amongst Masters level provision in the UK as it specifically sets out to teach planning within the context of sustainable development at a range of spatial scales. The programme is structured to address sustainable planning at three scales: individual buildings; locally at neighbourhood level; and at the widest scale, regionally and nationally in the UK, but also drawing on international insights. Hertfordshire has a wealth of local examples of developing at wider spatial scales including Garden Cities, New Towns and urban extensions. Important lessons can be drawn from the successes and shortcomings of these developments, informing how we can build resilient communities for the future. Specialist issues in sustainable planning and placemaking are the focus of individual core modules (e.g. Sustainable Energy, Placemaking and Spatial Mediation) but throughout the course the overall approach is embedding practice to achieve sustainable communities. The course provides students with the key knowledge and expertise in core planning topics such as planning policy; urban design and conservation; place making and development viability, but these will be delivered within an overarching framework of achieving sustainable communities with high design quality. The practical and applied elements of the course build on the University's strong track record of developing courses that meet the needs of employers and use real world examples.

B. Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in [UPR TL03](#). It also reflects the learning outcomes required by the accrediting body, the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

Additionally this programme aims to:

- Focus on the role of planners in balancing social, economic and environmental factors to determine how land, as a finite resource, is allocated to different functions at the full range of spatial scales: individual developments; neighbourhoods; city regions; national; and international.
- Allow students to gain detailed knowledge of the main issues in sustainability and relate this to the roles and responsibilities of planning professionals. Students will understand the contested nature of sustainable development within a theoretical and political framework and how views and policies have shifted over time. Students will be expected to understand and participate in debates on the practical implementation of sustainable development.
- Promote the role of planners in the delivery of high-quality built environments to give places a unique identity and form. This includes high design standards that also incorporate sustainability features for individual buildings and featuring a mix of uses, layouts that support sustainable travel choices, renewable energy and green infrastructure, at the neighbourhood level.
- Encourage students to develop creative solutions to adapt the existing built environment to climate change including retrofitting green infrastructure and ‘sprawl repair’ strategies as alternatives to demolition and rebuilding.
- Develop the critical thinking that evidence based decision making in planning requires to achieve the best outcomes, balancing different stakeholder expectations. This entails an understanding of a range of choices available and of a framework of ethics and values that determine the most desirable set of outcomes.
- The MSc Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management enables students to gain specialist expertise in environmental policy and governance.
- The MSc Sustainable Planning and Transport aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills to equip them to understand the key concepts of transport planning within the context of sustainability.

C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2016) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design. The RTP1 guidance on planning education is an additional source for the development of learning outcomes. Please note that all aspects of the learning outcomes have been organised to be deliverable and achievable through online provision as necessary.

Knowledge and Understanding:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
A1 the main ideas, theories, ethical debates and policies in sustainability and how these apply practically to planning A2 the key theoretical approaches, ideas and debates that underpin planning policy, research and practice. A3 the role of planners and the main sustainability issues at a range of	Acquisition of A1 is through lectures and workshops in Spatial Planning; lectures workshops and group activities in Planning Law, Policy and Practice and through individual research in the Sustainable Planning Dissertation. Acquisition of A2 is through lectures and workshops, in Spatial Planning; working through the stages of a planning application in	Knowledge and understanding are assessed through professional reports and essays (A1, A2, A3, A5, A8, A10, A11, A13, A14)

<p>spatial scales including: individual buildings; the neighbourhood; and wider areas such as town, sub-region, city region, national and international geospatial scales.</p>	<p>Planning Law, Policy and Practice; and lectures and workshops in Sustainable Energy, Urban Design and Conservation, and Placemaking.</p>	
<p>A4 the positive and proactive role of planning in shaping the future of our cities, towns and rural areas.</p>	<p>Acquisition of A3 is through a lecture and workshop introducing spatial scales in Spatial Planning, workshops and masterclasses in Urban Design and Conservation</p>	<p>A4 is assessed through a professional learning journal.</p>
<p>A5 the co-ordinating role that planning can take in linking decisions made in different sectors such as health, education, and housing to ensure successful policy outcomes, for example, in the provision of public space, community facilities, educational facilities and transport services.</p>	<p>addressing local to city wide issues; a wider European scale of planning is covered through lectures and site visits in Sustainable Communities (held virtually online where necessary), energy issues at different spatial scales are addressed through lectures and site visits (held virtually online where necessary), in Sustainable Energy.</p>	
<p>A6 the balance of social, economic and environmental factors to determine how space is allocated to different functions at the full range of spatial scales.</p>	<p>Acquisition of A4 is addressed through site visits (now held virtually online where necessary), to best practice European examples in Sustainable Communities; in lectures and on a site visit (held virtually online where necessary), in Placemaking and workshops, lectures and masterclasses in Urban Design and Conservation.</p>	<p>A6 is assessed through a viability report.</p>
<p>A7 the importance of creating sustainable communities and the role that planning can play in place-shaping and ensuring sustainable urbanism including the creation of high quality public realm.</p>	<p>Acquisition of A5 is through lectures and workshops in Planning Law, Policy and Practice; and through lectures and several site visits (held virtually online where necessary), to look at European approaches in Sustainable Communities.</p>	<p>A7 is assessed through an urban design report</p>
<p>A8 the positive role that planning can play in efficient energy use, conservation and generation including adaptation and mitigation for climate change.</p>	<p>Acquisition of A6 is through lectures and masterclasses in Urban Design; the economic aspects are mainly addressed in Development Viability through a mixture of viability workshops and guest lectures from practitioners.</p>	
<p>A9 the importance of conserving natural resources and efficient natural resource management in sustainable planning.</p>	<p>Acquisition of A7 is through practical urban design exercises in Urban Design; and lectures, workshops and a site visit (held virtually online</p>	<p>A9 is assessed through critical analysis of a development proposal, and related stakeholder negotiation exercise</p>
<p>A10 the institutional and legal framework within which the planning system operates and the role of planners within the decision making process.</p>	<p>Acquisition of A7 is through practical urban design exercises in Urban Design; and lectures, workshops and a site visit (held virtually online</p>	

<p>A11 democratic decision-making structures including local neighbourhood participation and other forms of community engagement.</p> <p>A12 the development control/ development management processes and the relationship between development decisions and local plans.</p> <p><i>Additionally the MSc in Sustainable Planning and Transport includes the following Learning Outcome</i></p> <p>A13 detailed concepts of transport planning within the context of sustainability.</p> <p><i>Additionally the MSc Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management includes the following Learning Outcome</i></p> <p>A14 environmental policy and governance and sustainable environmental management within the context of planning</p>	<p>where necessary), in Placemaking.</p> <p>Acquisition of A8 is through lectures, workshops, and a visit to UK exemplar sustainable housing development in Sustainable Energy; and lectures and site visits (held virtually online where necessary), to European examples of best practice in Sustainable Communities.</p> <p>Acquisition of A9 is through lectures and workshops in Spatial Planning; Sustainable Energy and Development Viability</p> <p>A10 is introduced in Spatial Planning through lectures and workshops; students' experience is taken further in Planning Law, Policy and Practice where they work through a case study of a live planning application. They also carry out in groups an analysis of planning policy implementation.</p> <p>Acquisition of A11 is lectures and workshop in Placemaking and in Planning Law, Policy and Practice.</p> <p>Acquisition of A12 is through lectures, workshops and a role-play in Spatial Planning; and working through a development control case study in Planning Law, Policy and Practice.</p> <p>Acquisition of A13 is through lectures from staff and visiting transport professionals in Transport Policy and in Transport Data, also from workshops and group work exercises in both modules</p> <p>Acquisition of A14 is introduced through lectures and workshops in Sustainability and Environmental Systems; and developed in lectures, workshops and group work exercises in Environmental Policy and Governance.</p>	<p>A 12 is assessed through a short report written in the style of a development control officer making recommendations to a planning committee.</p>
<p>Intellectual skills:</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods & strategies</p>	<p>Assessment</p>

- B1 comprehend, contribute to, and apply advances in sustainable planning including awareness of emerging practices within the planning profession.
- B2 debate and address ethical issues in planning and address the role of planning in issues of social equality.
- B3 critically evaluate the rights of individuals and organisations proposing new developments and those affected by developments and plans, examining how planners mediate between different stakeholder rights and expectations.
- B4 acquire plan making skills that encompass local planning decisions and wider planning policy.
- B5 relate planning decisions to fiscal incentives which promote environmentally sound decision making.
- B6 critically explore means of adding value to the local community from new development through charges
- B7 use qualitative and quantitative research methods in order to carry out effective research and reach evidence based decisions and analyse how measurability can be applied to aspects of sustainability and whether it is appropriate to do so.

Additionally the MSc in Sustainable Planning and Transport includes the following Learning Outcome

- B8 critically evaluate transport plans & developments to enable decision making and managing change.

Additionally the MSc Sustainable Planning and

Acquisition of B1 begins in Spatial Planning in lectures and workshops; students see best practice examples on the Sustainable Communities field trip (held virtually online where necessary); and they contribute their own advances to the profession in the Sustainable Planning Dissertation.

Acquisition of B2 occurs through lectures and workshops in Sustainable Energy and Urban Design; a lecture and discussion about professional ethics is addressed in Placemaking.

Acquisition of B3 is through a workshop involving a real example of a planning application in Planning Law, Policy and Practice and lectures and seminars in Placemaking.

Acquisition of B4 is through lectures and a workshop on planmaking in Planning Law, Policy and Practice; and lectures, workshops and a site visit (held virtually online where necessary), in Placemaking.

Acquisition of B5 is through a lecture and workshop in Development Viability; and a lecture, field visit (held virtually online where necessary), and supporting learning materials in Sustainable Communities.

Acquisition of B6 is through lectures and workshops in Development Viability; and lectures and seminars in Placemaking.

Acquisition of B7 is first taught in the research methods module through lectures and workshops. It is implemented in the dissertation through a combination of tutorials and self-directed research.

Acquisition of B8 is through lectures and workshops in Transport Policy and Transport Data.

Acquisition of B9 is through lectures and workshops in Sustainability and Environmental Systems and

Intellectual skills are assessed through essays and professional reports (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B8, B9)

B6 is assessed through a viability report.

B7 is assessed through the Sustainable Planning dissertation and analytical reports in other modules that have an analytical report.

<p><i>Environmental Management includes the following Learning Outcome</i></p> <p>B9 synthesise and apply the concepts and theories associated with environmental management to practice</p>	<p>Environmental Policy and Governance.</p>	
<p>Practical skills:</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods & strategies</p>	<p>Assessment</p>
<p>C1 show an awareness and approach to spatial planning that embraces a strategic level of thinking and formulate and propose cogent policies, strategies and courses of action in response to spatial planning problems.</p> <p>C2 critically evaluate urban places and spaces in the context of sustainable development and sustainable urbanism and apply techniques including master planning, landscape analysis and morphological analysis.</p> <p>C3 analyse critically the economics of development and the standard approaches to project appraisal.</p> <p>C4 use tools and techniques relevant to sustainable planning issues including: EIA; SEA; Benchmarking; multicriteria evaluation; ecological footprinting and action research.</p>	<p>Acquisition of C1 occurs across a range of modules including lectures, workshops and field visits (held virtually online where necessary), in Spatial Planning, Sustainable Communities, Placemaking, and Urban Design.</p> <p>Acquisition of C2 is through lectures, masterclasses and urban design workshops in Urban Design, and through field visits (held virtually online where necessary), and lectures in Sustainable Communities.</p> <p>Acquisition of C3 is a combination of lectures and viability workshops in Development Viability, and through the European field trip (held virtually online where necessary) exploring approaches to project appraisal in Sustainable Communities.</p> <p>Acquisition of C4 - students are taught tools and techniques important for sustainable planning professionals in workshops in Sustainable Energy where they carry out a footprinting exercise in class, other tools and techniques are mainly introduced through lectures but followed up with workshops.</p>	<p>C1 is assessed through essays and reports.</p> <p>C2 is assessed through an urban design report</p> <p>C3 is assessed through a viability report.</p> <p>C4 is assessed through a practical spatial analysis exercise</p>
<p>Transferable skills:</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods & strategies</p>	<p>Assessment</p>
<p>D1 communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, a range of ideas and apply skills in negotiation,</p>	<p>Transferable skills in D1 in communicating in writing are supported throughout the programme, and particular</p>	<p>D1. Students give individually assessed presentations in Community Engagement and group</p>

<p>engagement, mediation, and advocacy.</p> <p>D2 work effectively within an interdisciplinary team, integrating a sustainable approach to spatial planning with other specialist areas of expertise.</p> <p>D3 take responsibility for time management and develop an independent approach to learning encouraging initiative and self-reflection.</p>	<p>support is provided in Research Methods and through the Sustainable Planning Dissertation. Oral and written communication skills are developed in Study Skills, and Study Skills-Part-Time, by the submission of a video of a student presentation, and by completing written assignments. Advancing students' skills in negotiation and mediation is covered in Sustainable Energy through a negotiation workshop.</p> <p>D2 is addressed in a team working project during Sustainable Communities supported by teaching staff; and in a team working project with Environmental Management students during Sustainable Energy.</p> <p>D3 is embedded in the programme and is taught through a combination of lectures and seminars in Research Methods; and through tutorials and self-directed research in the Dissertation. Time management, independent learning and reflection skills are developed in Study Skills and Study Skills-Part-Time by the submission of a critical reflection on the use of text matching software eg Turnitin, and the submission of a written assignment requiring independent research skills.</p>	<p>presentations in Urban Design and Conservation. They are assessed on their negotiation skills in Sustainable Energy. Communicating effectively in writing forms the basis of most assessments.</p> <p>D2. Is assessed through an entry in the learning journal in Sustainable Communities and students are marked on their negotiation performance in Sustainable Energy.</p> <p>D3 Time management is assessed in particular through the Sustainable Planning Dissertation but is an important consideration in most other assessments.</p>
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D. Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits

The programme is offered in full-time (1 year for September intakes or 15 months for January intakes) and part-time (24 months for September intakes and 26 months for January intakes) mode and leads to the award of an MSc Sustainable Planning; MSc Sustainable Planning and Transport; or MSc Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management. Students admitted onto the programme will normally have an undergraduate honours degree in a cognate discipline, with a minimum of a lower second class award. Intakes occur in Semester A and Semester B. The maximum time of study for the part-time award is five years.

Attendance (online where necessary) on block teaching days is compulsory for both full-time and part-time students except in exceptional documented circumstances. Attendance on additional weekday Research Methods tutorials, and Study Skills module sessions is compulsory for full-time students. Part-time students are enrolled on the Study Skills-Part-Time module and access online teaching resources and assessment materials through the virtual learning environment Studynet/Canvas, with the exception of one in-class GIS practical session. Part-time students are also invited to attend the Research Methods tutorials, and are able to access

Research Methods tutorial teaching materials online.

Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

The Royal Town Planning Institute is the accrediting body for the course.

Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes

Not applicable.

Programme Structure

The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) is provided for the award. Any interim awards are identified in Table 1b. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 identifies where each learning outcome is assessed.

Table 1a Outline Programme Structure

Entry point: All students who start the programme in Semester A and Semester B begin their studies with Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies 7LMS0254. All students must enrol on either the Study Skills 7LMS0235 module for full-time students, or the Study Skills- Part-Time 7LMS0250 module for part-time students in their first semester.

MSc Sustainable Planning

Mode of study: All modules are compulsory and 180 credit points must be passed for the MSc award. All students begin their studies with Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies 7LMS0254. All students must enrol on either the Study Skills 7LMS0235 module for full-time students, or Study Skills- Part-Time 7LMS0250 module for part-time students in their first semester. For full-time study, a student studies 180 credit points within 1 year for September intakes, or 15 months for January intakes. Part-time students must complete the same programme of modules with the exception of the Study Skills- Part-Time 7LMS0250 module. Part-time students normally take 90 credits for each year of study, over 24 months for September intakes, or over 26 months for January intakes. At induction, in discussion with the Programme Leader, part-time students confirm which modules they will take in their first and second year of their studies.

Full-time mode of study

Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies	7LMS0254	15	English	0%	100%	0%	A&B
European Planning Practice	7LMS0253	15	English	0%	100%	0%	C
Research Methods	7LFS1029	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB,BC
Placemaking and Spatial Mediation	7LFS1013	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Planning Law, Policy and Practice	7LFS1015	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB
Urban Design & Conservation	7LFS1016	15	English	0%	100%	0%	B
Sustainable Planning Dissertation	7LFS1025	30	English	0%	100%	0%	CAB, ABC
Sustainable Energy	7LFS1032	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Development Viability	7LFS1024	15	English	0%	90%	10%	AB
Study Skills	7LMS0235	0	English	0%	100%	0%	ABC, BCA
Community Engagement and the Planning process	7LFS1009	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB

Spatial Analysis for Sustainable Planning	7LFS1014	15	English	0%	70%	30%	BC
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The award of an MSc requires 180 credit points, including at least 150 at level 7 and including the Sustainable Planning Dissertation. Full-time students must pass the Study Skills module 7LMS0235 in order to achieve the award.

Part-time mode of study

Compulsory Modules MSc Sustainable Planning Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies	7LMS0254	15	English	0%	100%	0%	A&B
European Planning Practice	7LMS0253	15	English	0%	100%	0%	C
Research Methods	7LFS1029	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB,BC
Placemaking and Spatial Mediation	7LFS1013	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Planning Law, Policy and Practice	7LFS1015	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB
Urban Design & Conservation	7LFS1016	15	English	0%	100%	0%	B
Sustainable Planning Dissertation	7LFS1025	30	English	0%	100%	0%	CAB, ABC
Sustainable Energy	7LFS1032	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Development Viability	7LFS1024	15	English	0%	90%	10%	AB
Study Skills- Part-Time	7LMS0250	0	English	0%	100%	0%	ABC, BCA
Community Engagement and the Planning process	7LFS1009	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB
Spatial Analysis for Sustainable Planning	7LFS1014	15	English	0%	70%	30%	BC

The award of an MSc requires 180 credit points, including at least 150 at level 7 and including the Sustainable Planning Dissertation. Part-time students must pass the Study Skills-Part-Time 7LMS0250 module in order to achieve the award.

MSc Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management

Mode of study: All modules are compulsory and 180 credit points must be passed for the MSc award. All students begin their studies with Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies 7LMS0254. All students must enrol on either the Study Skills 7LMS0235 module for full-time students, or Study Skills- Part-Time 7LMS0250 module for part-time students in their first semester. For full-time study, a student studies 180 credit points within 1 year for September intakes, or 15 months for January intakes. Part-time students must complete the same programme of modules with the exception of Study Skills- Part-Time 7LMS0250 module. Part-time students normally take 90 credits for each year of study, over 24 months for September intakes, or over 26 months for January intakes. At induction, in discussion with the Programme Leader, part-time students confirm which modules they will take in their first and second year of their studies.

Full-time mode of study

Compulsory Modules MSc Sustainable Planning & Environmental Management Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies	7LMS0254	15	English	0%	100%	0%	A&B
European Planning Practice	7LMS0253	15	English	0%	100%	0%	C
Research Methods	7LFS1029	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB,BC
Placemaking and Spatial Mediation	7LFS1013	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Planning Law, Policy and Practice	7LFS1015	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB
Urban Design & Conservation	7LFS1016	15	English	0%	100%	0%	B
Sustainable Planning Dissertation	7LFS1025	30	English	0%	100%	0%	CAB, ABC
Sustainable Energy	7LFS1032	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Development Viability	7LFS1024	15	English	0%	90%	10%	AB
Study Skills	7LMS0235	0	English	0%	100%	0%	ABC, BCA
Sustainability & Environmental Systems	7LFS1028	15	English	0%	100%	0%	A&B
Environmental Management: Policy & Governance	7LFS1033	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB

The award of an MSc requires 180 credit points, including at least 150 at level 7 and including the Sustainable Planning Dissertation. Full-time students must pass the Study Skills module 7LMS0235 in order to achieve the award.

Part-time mode of study

Compulsory Modules MSc Sustainable Planning & Environmental Management Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies	7LMS0254	15	English	0%	100%	0%	A&B
European Planning Practice	7LMS0253	15	English	0%	100%	0%	C
Research Methods	7LFS1029	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB,BC
Placemaking and Spatial Mediation	7LFS1013	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Planning Law, Policy and Practice	7LFS1015	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB
Urban Design & Conservation	7LFS1016	15	English	0%	100%	0%	B
Sustainable Planning Dissertation	7LFS1025	30	English	0%	100%	0%	CAB, ABC
Sustainable Energy	7LFS1032	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Development Viability	7LFS1024	15	English	0%	90%	10%	AB
Study Skills- Part-Time	7LMS0250	0	English	0%	100%	0%	ABC, BCA
Sustainability & Environmental Systems	7LFS1028	15	English	0%	100%	0%	A&B
Environmental Management: Policy & Governance	7LFS1033	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB

The award of an MSc requires 180 credit points, including at least 150 at level 7 and including the Sustainable Planning Dissertation. Part-time students must pass the Study Skills-Part-Time 7LMS0250 module in order to achieve the award.

MSc Sustainable Planning and Transport

Mode of study: All modules are compulsory and 180 credit points must be passed for the MSc award. All students begin their studies with Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies 7LMS0254. All students must enrol on either the Study Skills 7LMS0235 module for full-time students, or Study Skills- Part-Time 7LMS0250 module for part-time students in their first semester. For full-time study, a student studies 180 credit points within 1 year for September intakes, or 15 months for January intakes. Part-time students must complete the same programme of modules with the exception of Study Skills- Part-Time 7LMS0250 module. Part-time students normally take 90 credits for each year of study, over 24 months for September intakes, or over 26 months for January intakes. At induction, in discussion with the Programme Leader, part-time students confirm which modules they will take in their first and second year of their studies.

Full-time mode of study

Compulsory Modules MSc Sustainable Planning and Transport Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies	7LMS0254	15	English	0%	100%	0%	A&B
European Planning Practice	7LMS0253	15	English	0%	100%	0%	C
Research Methods	7LFS1029	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB,BC
Placemaking and Spatial Mediation	7LFS1013	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Planning Law, Policy and Practice	7LFS1015	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB
Urban Design & Conservation	7LFS1016	15	English	0%	100%	0%	B
Sustainable Planning Dissertation	7LFS1025	30	English	0%	100%	0%	CAB, ABC
Sustainable Energy	7LFS1032	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Development Viability	7LFS1024	15	English	0%	90%	10%	AB
Study Skills	7LMS0235	0	English	0%	100%	0%	ABC, BCA
Transport Policy and Travel Planning	7LFS1026	15	English	0%	100%	0%	B
Transport Data Collection and Analysis	7LFS1027	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC

The award of an MSc requires 180 credit points, including at least 150 at level 7 and including the Sustainable Planning Dissertation. Full-time students must pass the Study Skills module 7LMS0235 in order to achieve the award.

Part-time mode of study

Compulsory Modules MSc Sustainable Planning and Transport Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies	7LMS0254	15	English	0%	100%	0%	A&B
European Planning Practice	7LMS0253	15	English	0%	100%	0%	C
Research Methods	7LFS1029	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB,BC
Placemaking and Spatial Mediation	7LFS1013	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Planning Law, Policy and Practice	7LFS1015	15	English	0%	100%	0%	AB
Urban Design & Conservation	7LFS1016	15	English	0%	100%	0%	B
Sustainable Planning Dissertation	7LFS1025	30	English	0%	100%	0%	CAB, ABC
Sustainable Energy	7LFS1032	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC
Development Viability	7LFS1024	15	English	0%	90%	10%	AB
Study Skills- Part-Time	7LMS0250	0	English	0%	100%	0%	ABC, BCA
Transport Policy and Travel Planning	7LFS1026	15	English	0%	100%	0%	B
Transport Data Collection and Analysis	7LFS1027	15	English	0%	100%	0%	BC

The award of an MSc requires 180 credit points, including at least 150 at level 7 and including the Sustainable Planning Dissertation. Part-time students must pass the Study Skills-Part-Time 7LMS0250 module in order to achieve the award.

Table 1b Final and interim awards available

The programme provides the following final and interim awards:

Final Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of (normally):	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
MSc	Sustainable Planning;	180 credit points including at least 150 at level 7 including the Sustainable Planning Dissertation	3 Semesters full time	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, C1, C2, C3, C4, D1, D2, D3
	Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management;		6 semesters part time	<i>Additionally the MSc in Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management includes the following Learning Outcomes: A14, B9</i>
	Sustainable Planning and Transport.			<i>Additionally the MSc in Sustainable Planning and Transport includes the following Learning Outcomes: A13, B8</i>

Interim Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of (normally):	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Postgraduate Certificate	Sustainable Planning	60 credit points, including at least 45 at level 7	1-2 Semesters full time, 3-4 semesters part time	A1, A2, A3, A5, A7, A9, A10, A11, A12, B1, B3, B4, B7, C1, C4, D1, D2
Postgraduate Diploma	Sustainable Planning; Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management; Sustainable Planning and Transport.	120 credit points, including at least 90 at level 7	2-3 Semesters full time, 4-6 semesters part time	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, C1, C2, C3, C4, D1, D2 <i>Additionally the Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management includes the following Learning Outcomes: A14, B9</i> <i>Additionally the Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Planning and Transport includes the following Learning Outcomes: A13, B8</i>

Masters and Diploma awards can be made "with Distinction" or "with Commendation" where criteria as described in [UPR AS14](#), Section D and the students' handbook are met.

Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme is compliant with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS12/UPR AS13](#) (*delete as applicable*) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been specifically approved by the University:

Course Code	Award Title	Modules (child instance codes and Title)	Must be included in Award degree algorithm
HHMSP	MSc Sustainable Planning	7LFS1025 Sustainable Planning Dissertation	Yes
HHMSP	MSc Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management	7LFS1025 Sustainable Planning Dissertation	Yes
HHMSP	MSc Sustainable Planning and Transport	7LFS1025 Sustainable Planning Dissertation	Yes

Further points of clarification and interpretation relevant to this specific programme are given below:

- The Sustainable Planning Dissertation 7LFS1025 must be passed for an MSc award.
- All students must enrol on either the Study Skills module 7LMS0235, or the Study Skills-Part-Time module 7LMS0250 in their first semester.
- Students must pass either the Study Skills module 7LMS0235, or the Study Skills- Part-Time module 7LMS0250 in order to achieve the award.

E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning

Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

- Dean of School
- An Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality)
- A Head of Department
- A Head of Subject Group
- A programme leader who is responsible for the day-to-day programme management
- An admissions tutor with specific responsibility for recruitment and selection
- A programme administrator to deal with the day-to-day administration of the programme
- Module co-ordinators who are responsible for individual modules
- A programme committee, the membership of which includes staff and student representatives

Support

Students are supported by:

- A programme leader
- A dissertation supervisor
- Student representatives on the programme committee
- A programme administration team
- Induction sessions at the start of the taught programme
- A GIS laboratory
- Overseas Orientation
- Access to the collection of digital and print information resources
- The modern study environment in the Learning Resource Centres
- A Student Centre where students can get advice on issues including finance, University regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international students support etc
- Office of Dean of Students including the Chaplaincy, Counselling and Nursery
- The Medical Centre
- University Disability Advisor
- The Students Union
- Supporting learning materials on Canvas module sites
- A Careers, Enterprise and Employment service for all current students and graduates
- A University bus service

F. Other sources of information

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A Programme (or Student) Handbook;
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module
- A Module Guide for each constituent module.
- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) IEMA Associate Membership Standard - Learning Outcomes, Assessment Criteria and Prescribed Content <http://www.iema.net/iema>

The [Ask Herts](#) website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/>. In particular, [UPR SA07](#) 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/>. Furthermore, the OfS has judged that the University of Hertfordshire delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK. Consequently, the University received a Gold award in the 2018 Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes (TEF) exercise. This award was made in June 2018 and is valid for up to 3 years. The TEF panel's report and conclusions can be accessed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/provider/10007147>.

G. Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

An honours degree in a cognate discipline, for instance geography, normally with a minimum classification of second-class (2.2) or higher. Graduates with an honours degree in any discipline who have otherwise demonstrated potential to succeed at postgraduate level will be considered for admission.

All international students are required to demonstrate an English Language capability of IELTS 6.5 or equivalent English language qualification.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in [UPR SA03](#)), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact:
Student Administration: ICAdmin@herts.ac.uk

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest Programme Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report (AMER) and/or the External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to aqo@herts.ac.uk

MSc Sustainable Planning

Table 2: Development of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

MSc Sustainable Planning		Knowledge & Understanding												Intellectual Skills							Practical Skills				Transferable Skills		
Module Title:	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	A11	A12	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3
Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies	7LMS0254	x	x	x						x	x		x	x							x						
European Planning Practice	7LMS0253			x	x	x			x					x				x			x	x	x			x	
Research Methods	7LFS1029	x	x											x						x	x				x		x
Placemaking and Spatial Mediation	7LFS1013		x		x			x				x			x	x	x		x		x			x			
Planning Law, Policy and Practice	7LFS1015	x	x			x					x	x	x			x	x				x						
Urban Design & Conservation	7LFS1016		x	x	x		x	x							x						x	x				x	
Sustainable Planning Dissertation	7LFS1025	x	x											x						x	x				x		x
Sustainable Energy	7LFS1032		x	x					x	x					x					x				x	x	x	
Development Viability	7LFS1024						x			x						x		x	x				x				
Study Skills or Study Skills- Part-Time	7LMS0235 or 7LMS0250																								x	x	x
Community Engagement and the planning process	7LFS1009										x	x				x	x			x				x	x	x	
Spatial Analysis for Sustainable Planning	7LFS1014			x		x														x	x						

Key: Learning Outcome which is assessed as part of the module ☒

MSc Sustainable Planning and Transport

MSc. Sustainable Planning and Transport		Knowledge & Understanding													Intellectual Skills								Practical Skills				Transferable Skills			
Module Title:	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	A11	A12	A13	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	
Spatial Planning: Theories and Strategies	7LMS0254	x	x	x						x	x		x		x								x							
European Planning Practice	7LMS0253			x	x	x			x						x					x			x	x	x				x	
Research Methods	7LFS1029	x	x												x							x	x					x		x
Placemaking and Spatial Mediation	7LFS1013		x		x				x			x				x	x	x			x		x				x			
Planning Law, Policy and Practice	7LFS1015	x	x			x					x	x	x					x	x				x							
Urban Design & Conservation	7LFS1016		x	x	x		x	x								x							x	x						
Sustainable Planning Dissertation	7LFS1025	x	x												x							x	x					x		x
Sustainable Energy	7LFS1032		x	x					x	x						x						x					x	x	x	
Development Viability	7LFS1024						x			x								x		x	x					x				
Study Skills or Study Skills- Part-Time	7LMS0235 or 7LMS0250																											x		x
Transport Policy and Travel Planning	7LFS1026	x	x	x					x					x								x	x	x						
Transport Data Collection and Analysis	7LFS1027													x								x	x				x			

Key: Learning Outcome which is assessed as part of the module ☒

KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. Examine critically the main ideas, theories, ethical debates and policies in sustainability and how these apply practically to planning
- A2. Explore the key theoretical approaches, ideas and debates which underpin planning policy, research and practice.
- A3. Appraise the role of planners and the main sustainability issues at a range of spatial scales including: individual buildings; the neighbourhood; and wider areas such as town, sub-region, city region, national and international geospatial scales.
- A4. Assess the positive and proactive role of planning in shaping the future of our cities, towns and rural areas.
- A5. Assess critically the co-ordinating role that planning can take in linking decisions made in different sectors such as health, education, and housing to ensure successful policy outcomes, for example, in the provision of public space, community facilities, educational facilities and transport services.
- A6. Balance social, economic and environmental factors to determine how space is allocated to different functions at the full range of spatial scales
- A7. Evaluate the importance of creating sustainable communities and the role that planning can play in place shaping and ensuring sustainable urbanism including the creation of high quality public realm.
- A8. Examine critically the positive role that planning can play in efficient energy use, conservation and generation including adaptation and mitigation for climate change
- A9. Explain the importance of conserving natural resources and efficient natural resource management in sustainable planning
- A10. Examine the institutional and legal framework within which the planning system operates and the role of planners within the decision making process.
- A11. Evaluate democratic decision-making structures including local neighbourhood participation and other forms of community engagement.

Practical Skills

- C1. Show an awareness and approach to spatial planning that embraces a strategic level of thinking and formulate and propose cogent policies, strategies and courses of action in response to spatial planning problems
- C2. Critically evaluate urban places and spaces in the context of sustainable development and sustainable urbanism and apply techniques including master planning, landscape analysis and morphological analysis.
- C3. Analyse critically the economics of development and the standard approaches to project appraisal.
- C4. Use tools and techniques relevant to sustainable planning issues including: EIA; SEA; Benchmarking; multicriteria evaluation; ecological footprinting and action research.

A12. Assess the development control/ development management processes and the relationship between development decisions and local plans.

A13. Assess critically key concepts of transport planning within the context of sustainability

A14. Develop specialist expertise in environmental policy and governance

Intellectual Skills e.g.

- B1. Comprehend, contribute to, and apply advances in sustainable planning including awareness of emerging practices within the planning profession.
- B2. Debate and address ethical issues in planning and address the role of planning in issues of social equality.
- B3. Critically evaluate the rights of individuals and organisations proposing new developments and those affected by developments and plans, examining how planners mediate between different stakeholder rights and expectations.
- B4. Acquire plan making skills that encompass local planning decisions and wider planning policy
- B5. Relate planning decisions to fiscal incentives which promote environmentally sound decision making
- B6. Critically explore means of adding value to the local community from new development through charges
- B7. Use qualitative and quantitative research methods in order to carry out effective research and reach evidence based decisions and analyse how measurability can be applied to aspects of sustainability and whether it is appropriate to do so.
- B8. Critically evaluate transport plans & developments to enable decision making and managing change
- B9. Synthesise and apply the concepts and theories associated with environmental management to practice

Transferable Skills

- D1. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, a range of ideas and apply skills in negotiation, engagement, mediation and advocacy.
- D2. Work effectively within an interdisciplinary team, integrating a sustainable approach to spatial planning with other specialist areas of expertise.
- D3. Take responsibility for time management and develop an independent approach to learning encouraging initiative and self-reflection.

Section 2

Programme management

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements

Type of programme

Date of validation/last periodic review

Date of production/ last revision of PS

Relevant to level/cohort

Administrative School

Town and Country Planning 2008 for Undergraduate study. No postgraduate benchmark for planning has been produced.

Taught postgraduate

December 18

July 2020

Level 7 entering September 2020 and January 2021

School of Life and Medical Sciences

Table 3 Course structure

Course details		
Course code	Course description	HECOS
HHMSP	MSc Sustainable Planning; MSc Sustainable Planning and Environmental Management; MSc Sustainable Planning and Transport	100197