

## Programme Specification

### BSc Planning and Geography

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

UCAS Code: KL47

UFPLXGGB

UFPLXGGBSY

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

|                                                |                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Awarding Institution                           | University of Reading                                                                                     |
| Teaching Institution                           | University of Reading                                                                                     |
| Length of Programme                            | 3 years                                                                                                   |
| Length of Programme with placement/year abroad | BSc Planning and Geography with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)                            |
| Accreditation                                  | Association of Advanced Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)<br>EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS) |
| QAA Subject Benchmarking Group                 | Town and Country Planning<br>Geography<br>Land, Construction, Real Estate and Surveying                   |

### Programme information and content

This programme equips students with interdisciplinary knowledge and practical skills essential for a successful career in planning and geography-related fields. It offers a solid foundation for understanding and addressing a broad range of contemporary global challenges, enabling students to critically engage with development processes across both built and natural environments. Emphasising interdisciplinary collaboration, the curriculum integrates perspectives from planning, environmental science, human and physical geography, and policy studies. Graduates are well-prepared to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development and climate resilience across diverse geographic contexts.

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Part 1: | Introduces you to the fundamental principles of key subject areas in the planning and geography of cities and societies, encompassing economics, contemporary issues such as climate change, skills in geography and environmental science, property, law, rights and institutions, as well as ethics and sustainability development.                                                                                                |
| Part 2: | Deepens your understanding of planning theories, practices, and implementation tools, critically evaluating their effectiveness through case studies while considering the impacts on built and natural environments and various stakeholder interests. They will gain practical skills in collecting and analysing field-based social and environmental data, applying economic theory to urban dynamics, and demonstrating project |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                              | planning, teamwork, and communication skills. Optional modules will enable you to explore further and develop complementary skills and knowledge, including in Geographic Information Systems and data analysis.                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Placement/Study abroad year: | A year abroad provides the opportunity for students to broaden both their academic and cultural awareness.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Part 3:                      | Develops advanced knowledge of urban design and real estate development, focusing on key themes such as master planning, design quality, financial viability, and institutional roles. A dissertation enables in-depth research and real-world application, while optional modules allow you to tailor your learning to specific interests with both Geographic and Planning themes. |

### **Programme Learning Outcomes - BSc Planning and Geography**

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

|   | <b>Learning outcomes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Analyse a range of evidence and knowledges to understand the consequences of real estate development and planning for a range of different geographies                                                                                  |
| 2 | Demonstrate effective research and appraisal skills through data collection, quantitative and qualitative analysis, weighing evidence to reach sound conclusions and the ability to communicate these conclusions in a variety of ways. |
| 3 | Demonstrate the implications of different principles for why and how we plan, including for citizen involvement and the implications of planning decisions for multiple geographical and time scales.                                   |
| 4 | Evaluate what it means to be a built environment professional in multiple settings, including independent professional judgement and working collaboratively with a diversity of other professionals.                                   |
| 5 | Critically assess human impacts on the natural environment, including the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the complex impacts of environmental damage on different groups.                                  |
| 6 | Recognise the need for continuing professional learning and development, including an ability to autonomously reflect on future self-development needs and possible career paths within geography, planning and real estate.            |
| 7 | Consider a range of issues within the context of legal frameworks, political arenas, decision-making processes, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including using professional judgement to generate clear recommendations. |
| 8 | Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a chosen theme(s) in planning, geography and/or real estate development.                                                                                                                              |
| 9 | Demonstrate the skills and qualities of a professional, including reflexivity, communication and the ability to work collaboratively.                                                                                                   |

|    |                                                                                                                                                   |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | Evaluate ethical practice challenges including balancing between conflicting obligations to clients, politicians and society and the environment. |
| 11 | Compare planning and geography related career paths that are open to them.                                                                        |

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

| Additional learning outcomes                                                                                                                                                                |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Study Abroad</b>                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution. |  |

| Module information                                                                                                                                                              |                                                 |         |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.                                     |                                                 |         |       |
| <b>Part 1 Modules:</b>                                                                                                                                                          |                                                 |         |       |
| Module                                                                                                                                                                          | Name                                            | Credits | Level |
| GV1GC                                                                                                                                                                           | Global Challenges: a Planet in Crisis           | 20      | 4     |
| GV1GIM                                                                                                                                                                          | Geographical Imaginaries                        | 20      | 4     |
| IC103                                                                                                                                                                           | Introductory Economics for Business and Finance | 20      | 4     |
| RE1ESD                                                                                                                                                                          | Ethics and Sustainable Development              | 20      | 4     |
| RE1ISS                                                                                                                                                                          | Contemporary Issues in Real Estate and Planning | 20      | 4     |
| RE1PLRI                                                                                                                                                                         | Property, Law, Rights and Institutions          | 20      | 4     |
| <b>Part 2 Modules:</b>                                                                                                                                                          |                                                 |         |       |
| Module                                                                                                                                                                          | Name                                            | Credits | Level |
| GV2EPG                                                                                                                                                                          | Encountering Political Geographies              | 20      | 5     |
| GV2FCP                                                                                                                                                                          | Geography and Planning Field Class              | 20      | 5     |
| GV2STP                                                                                                                                                                          | Skills Training and Project Design              | 20      | 5     |
| RE2ECON                                                                                                                                                                         | Real Estate and Urban Economics                 | 20      | 5     |
| RE2PTP                                                                                                                                                                          | Planning Theory and Practice                    | 20      | 5     |
| Remaining credits (20) will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Sciences (Geography and Environmental Sciences). |                                                 |         |       |

**Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):**

| Module | Name              | Credits | Level |
|--------|-------------------|---------|-------|
| MM200  | Study Abroad Year | 120     | 5     |

Students undertaking a study abroad year as part of a three-year degree programme will take 120 credits in Study Abroad. The study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

**Part 3 Modules:**

| Module | Name                                    | Credits | Level |
|--------|-----------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| RE3DIS | Dissertation                            | 40      | 6     |
| RE3DPR | Development Process                     | 20      | 6     |
| RE3UDP | Urban Design in the Development Process | 20      | 6     |

Remaining credits (40) will be made up of optional modules available in the Henley Business School (Real Estate and Planning) and the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Sciences (Geography and Environmental Sciences).

**Placement opportunities****Study Abroad:**

If you undertake a Study Abroad during your Programme, this is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad. If you undertake a Study Abroad, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

**Work Placements:**

The Department of Real Estate and Planning does not provide a sandwich course. However, if you secure an opportunity for summer employment between Part 2 and Part 3, you may be able to enrol onto an optional work-based learning module in Semester 1, which allows you to reflect on your work experience and develop your career management skills. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, as well as the suitability of the employment opportunity.

**Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which

they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, tutorials and seminars, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

### **Accreditation details**

Henley Business School is accredited by the EQUIS and AACSB.

### **Assessment**

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests) and oral examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

### **Progression**

#### *Part 1*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for

progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

### *Part 2*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### *Professional/Placement year*

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

## **Classification**

### **Bachelor's degrees**

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

| Mark       | Interpretation         |
|------------|------------------------|
| 70% - 100% | First class            |
| 60% - 69%  | Upper Second class     |
| 50% - 59%  | Lower Second class     |
| 40% - 49%  | Third class            |
| 35% - 39%  | Below Honours Standard |
| 0% - 34%   | Fail                   |

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

*Three year programmes:*

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

*Four year programmes, including Study abroad*

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

### **Additional costs of the programme**

During your programme of study, you may incur some additional costs.

Subject to your module choice, you may be required to purchase sundry materials (i.e., printing). Many students find it helpful to have their own personal computing facilities though there are central facilities available.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

BSc Planning and Geography for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28

23 June 2026

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