

Programme Specification

MPlan Planning and Geography

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

UCAS Code: K4L7

UFPLXGGM

UFPLXGMSY

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	4 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	MPlan Planning and Geography with Year Abroad - 5 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Association of Advanced Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS)
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Town and Country Planning Geography 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 sustainable 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.
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.
Part 4:	Offers you the opportunity to deepen your knowledge with a focus on planning. Areas covered include planning policy, theory and governance; sustainable urban design and site planning; planning law, negotiation and ethics; as well as process and viability. Optional modules will enable you to explore further and develop complementary skills and knowledge.

Programme Learning Outcomes - MPlan 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:

	Learning outcomes
1	Synthesise a range of evidence and knowledges to develop planning and policy frameworks that set out a positive vision for the future of a place, including the diverse range of groups within it.
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 theories about why and how we plan, including for citizen involvement, balancing between conflicting obligations to clients, politicians and the public interest 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 the importance of ethical practice, 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	Systematically evaluate scenarios within the context of planning law, political arenas, decision making processes, and negotiation with relevant stakeholders, including using professional judgement to generate clear recommendations.

8	Demonstrate in-depth, specialist knowledge of a chosen theme(s) in planning, geography and/or development.
9	Apply the principles of good placemaking and high-quality urban design to generate creative proposals, incorporating considerations including environmental, social and economic sustainability.
10	Analyse different influences on the built environment and evaluate their impacts on the outcomes for the development process, including financial viability, social makeup and politics.

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:

Study Abroad

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.			
Part 1 Modules:			
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
Part 2 Modules:			
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
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Remaining credits (20) will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Sciences (Geography and Environmental Sciences).

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).

Part 4 modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
REMP56	Planning 1 - Policy, Theory and Governance	20	M
REMP57	Planning 2 - Law, Negotiation and Ethics	20	M
REMP61	Development 1: Sustainable Urban Design and Site Planning	20	M
REMP62	Development 2: Process and Viability	20	M

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

Placement opportunities

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement 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 placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Placement Opportunities

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. This four-year programme (MPlan) is also accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). Students who exit with a BSc (Planning and Geography) award are not eligible for RTPI accreditation.

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.

The adopted marking ranges are given in detail in Section 10 of Assessment Handbook.

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 from 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 of a specific integrated master's programme, a student must achieve a threshold performance at Part 2; and obtain an overall weighted average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 2 (of which not less than 100 credits should normally be at level 5 or above).

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.

Students who achieve threshold performance, but who do not meet the progression requirements of a specific integrated master's programme may transfer to Part 3 of BSc Real Estate Development and Planning if suitably qualified.

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.

Part 3

In order to progress from Part 3 to Part 4, a student must achieve a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 3, with 80 credits with a mark of at least 40%, and with no marks below 30%.

Any student who does not qualify at Part 3 for the Integrated Master's or does not wish to pursue Part 4, can transfer off the Integrated Master's and qualify with a BSc Real Estate Development and Planning if qualified.

The classification for the BSc programme will be based on one third of the overall weighted average in Part 2 and two-thirds of the overall weighted average in Part 3.

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:

Integrated Master's Programmes (MEng, MMath, MChem etc.)

Part 2: 20%

Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: 40%

Part 4: 40%

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.

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

23 June 2026

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