

Geography and Urban and Regional Planning BSc (Hons)



Urban and regional planning has a critical impact on the nature of the built environment. It helps to shape the nature, form and function of our towns and cities. Planners are involved in the making and shaping of place. Moreover, the planning system is in place to ensure that development takes place in the public interest and that there is a right balance between economic, environmental and social interests. It plays an essential role in ensuring that the places where we live and work are attractive, vibrant and well designed.

This popular combination of geography and planning explores some of the big issues facing today's and tomorrow's societies, including key issues such as urban regeneration, climate change, sustainable development, property development, community involvement and transport infrastructure. This programme particularly suits those geography students with a keen interest in human geography.

2014 National Student Survey "95% of students said that overall they were satisfied with the quality of our course"

[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)
(<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>)

Course fact file

UCAS code: LK74

Duration: 3 years

Places Available: 181 (all Planning Joint Honours courses)

Applications in 2012: 881

Typical Offer: ABB (**[More detailed entry requirements and the international qualifications accepted can be found in the course details \(? OpenSection=EntryRequirements\)](#)**)

Start date: September

Related courses

[Planning and Economics BSc \(Hons\) \(/undergraduate/courses/gees/planning-economics.aspx\)](/undergraduate/courses/gees/planning-economics.aspx)

[Spatial Planning and Business Management BSc \(Hons\) \(/undergraduate/courses/gees/spatial-planning-business.aspx\)](/undergraduate/courses/gees/spatial-planning-business.aspx)

[Planning and Social Policy BSc \(Hons\) \(/undergraduate/courses/gees/planning-social-policy.aspx\)](/undergraduate/courses/gees/planning-social-policy.aspx)

Contact

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Email: **[uggeographyadmissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk \(mailto:uggeographyadmissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:uggeographyadmissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk)**

[School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences \(/schools/gees/index.aspx\)](/schools/gees/index.aspx)

Details

Urban and regional planning lies at the heart of the major challenges that face existing and future generations. Decisions that are taken today can have a major impact on what happens to our towns and cities in the future, so it is important that we get those decisions right. Only by having an in-depth understanding of the way our towns and cities work can we hope to make informed decisions about the future of the built environment.

This unique degree course attempts to build this understanding by drawing on the academic strengths of one of the largest and most prestigious Geography departments in the UK, and the research and international reputation of the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) here at Birmingham. Based in the great planning laboratory that is Birmingham, you will be able to exploit fully the huge wealth of case study material available on your doorstep whilst interpreting these experiences in

an international context. This will hopefully bring to life the issues you are studying and set them in a real world context.

The programme has been specifically designed to enable you to develop a sound understanding of the challenges facing our towns and cities and how we deal with these.

[Download the Geography and Urban and Regional Planning BSc brochure \(PDF 799KB\) \(/Documents/colleges/gees/Courses/8348UGgeographyandurbanplanningAW.pdf\)](#)

Why study this course

All planning programmes benefit from the University of Birmingham's international teaching and research reputation within the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS). The research, consultancy and professional development links with a wide range of public, private and community organisations that have been developed by CURS over a period of time ensure that teaching on our courses is relevant, at the cutting-edge and led by our current research.

Modules

Year 1

- [Contemporary Human Geography \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/contemporary-human-geography.aspx\)](#)
- [Earth and Ecological Systems \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/earth-and-ecological-systems.aspx\)](#)
- [Tutorials and Fieldwork \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/tutorials-and-fieldwork.aspx\)](#)
- [Mapping the Midlands \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/mapping-the-midlands.aspx\)](#)
- [The Planning of the Built Environment \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/the-planning-of-the-built-environment.aspx\)](#)
- [Society, Space and Policy: An Introduction to Urban Studies \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/society-space-and-policy.aspx\)](#)
- [Economy, Space and Policy \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/economy-space-and-policy.aspx\)](#)
- [Planning Tutorial \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/planning-tutorial.aspx\)](#)

Year 2

Compulsory modules

- Research Methods for Dissertations
- [Statistical Methods for Geographers \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/statistical-methods-for-geographers.aspx\)](#)
- [Geomatics \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/geomatics.aspx\)](#)
- Fieldwork Techniques
- [The Urban and Regional Economy \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/the-urban-and-regional-economy.aspx\)](#)
- [Understanding Neighbourhood Poverty \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/understanding-neighbourhood-poverty.aspx\)](#)

Optional modules

- [Environmental Assessment and Management \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/environmental-assessment-and-management.aspx\)](#)
- [Reconstructing Quaternary Environments \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/reconstructing-quaternary-environments.aspx\)](#)
- [Hydroclimatology \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/hydroclimatology.aspx\)](#)
- [Geomorphological Processes \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/geomorphological-processes.aspx\)](#)
- [Ecological Systems \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/ecological-systems.aspx\)](#)
- [Environmental Transfer Processes \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/environmental-transfer-processes.aspx\)](#)
- [Cultural Geographies \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/cultural-geographies.aspx\)](#)
- [Social and Political Geography \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/social-and-political-geography.aspx\)](#)

Year 3

Compulsory modules

- [Geography Dissertation \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/geography-dissertation.aspx\)](#)
- [Contemporary Issues in Urban Development and Planning \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/contemporary-issues-in-urban-development-and-planning.aspx\)](#)
- [Regenerating Urban Communities \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/regenerating-urban-communities.aspx\)](#)

Optional modules

- [Climates of the Past \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/climates-of-the-past.aspx\)](#)
- [Environment and Landscape Change \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/environment-and-landscape-change.aspx\)](#)
- [Wetland Environments \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/wetland-environments.aspx\)](#)
- [Weather Climate and Society \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/weather-climate-and-society.aspx\)](#)
- [Restoration of Freshwater Ecosystems \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/restoration-of-freshwater-ecosystems.aspx\)](#)
- [Landscape and Urban Ecology \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/landscape-and-urban-ecology.aspx\)](#)
- [Applied Micrometeorology \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/applied-micrometeorology.aspx\)](#)
- [Biodiversity and Conservation Management \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/biodiversity-and-conservation-management.aspx\)](#)
- [Gender, Body and Performance \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/gender-body-and-performance.aspx\)](#)
- [Professional Placement for Geographers \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/professional-placement-for-geographers.aspx\)](#)

- [War and Peace in the Middle East \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/war-and-peace-in-the-middle-east.aspx\)](/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/war-and-peace-in-the-middle-east.aspx)
- [Environmental Justice \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/environmental-justice.aspx\)](/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/environmental-justice.aspx)
- [Environmental Protection \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/environmental-protection.aspx\)](/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/environmental-protection.aspx)
- [Environmental Governance \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/environmental-governance.aspx\)](/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/environmental-governance.aspx)
- [Remote Sensing of the Cryosphere \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/remote-sensing-of-the-cryosphere.aspx\)](/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/remote-sensing-of-the-cryosphere.aspx)
- [River Processes, Deposits and Environments \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/river-processes-deposits-and-environments.aspx\)](/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/environmental-science/river-processes-deposits-and-environments.aspx)
- [Geographies of Incarceration \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/geographies-of-incarceration.aspx\)](/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/geographies-of-incarceration.aspx)
- [Welfare, Work and Wealth \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/welfare-work-and-wealth.aspx\)](/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/welfare-work-and-wealth.aspx)
- [Network Geographies \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/network-geographies.aspx\)](/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/network-geographies.aspx)
- [Alternative Economies \(/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/alternative-economies.aspx\)](/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/alternative-economies.aspx)

Fees and funding

Standard fees (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/fees/standard>) apply

Learn more about **fees and funding** (</undergraduate/fees/loans.aspx>)

Scholarships

Learn more about our **scholarships and awards** (</undergraduate/fees/funding/index.aspx>)

Entry requirements

Number of A levels required: 3

Typical offer: ABB

Required subjects and grades: Grade C in each of GCSE English and Maths.

General Studies: We do not accept General Studies, Critical Thinking, Citizenship Studies, or World Development.

Additional information:

Unconditional offers will be made to high-quality applicants who are predicted AAA or above at A level. For details see the **Unconditional Offer Scheme 2015** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/unconditional-offer-scheme-2015.aspx>).

Unconditional offers are based on:

- A Level predictions of AAA +
- AS results of at least ABB
- 5 GCSEs at grade A including English, Maths and a Science
- 2 GCSEs at grade B
- Academic reference
- Personal statement

Other qualifications are considered – see **entry requirements** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements>) for full details.

International students:

International Baccalaureate Diploma: 34 points with 6 in HL Geography and two other HL subjects with 5 points in each. Minimum of 5 in SL English and Maths if not offered at GCSE or equivalent.

Learn more about **international entry requirements** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements/international>)

Depending on your chosen course of study, you may also be interested in the Birmingham Foundation Academy, a specially structured programme for international students whose qualifications are not accepted for direct entry to UK universities. Further details can be found on the **foundation academy web pages** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/Pathways/index.aspx>).

How to apply

Apply through UCAS at www.ucas.com (<http://www.ucas.com/>)

Learn more about **applying** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/apply>)

Key Information Set (KIS)

Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of information about full- or part-time undergraduate courses and are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students.

All KIS information has been published on the Unistats website and can also be accessed via the small advert, or 'widget', below. On the **Unistats website** (<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk>) you are able to compare all the KIS data for each course with data for other courses.

The development of Key Information Sets (KIS) formed part of HEFCE's work to enhance the information that is available about higher education. They give you access to reliable and comparable information in order to help you make informed decisions about what and where to study.

The KIS contains information which prospective students have identified as useful, such as student satisfaction, graduate outcomes, learning and teaching activities, assessment methods, tuition fees and student finance, accommodation and professional accreditation.

Learning and teaching

As a Birmingham student you are part of an academic community and will learn from both academics and place-based specialist practitioners. From the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner, and we want you to be challenged and to think for yourself.

As a student you will be exposed to a variety of learning and teaching methods including lectures, small group teaching sessions, seminars, student-led workshops and tutorials. There will also be a variety of assessments that you will have to complete including essays, project-based work, posters and formal examinations.

In each of the three years there is an emphasis on applied, real world study, ensuring you gain those essential skills valued by all employers, including group and project work, IT skills, presentations and report writing skills.

You will have access to a comprehensive support system throughout your time at Birmingham that will assist and encourage you, including personal tutors and welfare tutors who can help with both academic and welfare issues. In the induction week you will be allocated a Personal Tutor who will oversee your academic and personal progress during the degree. During the first year you will have a formal transition review to check on your progress and offer you help for any particular areas where you need support. You will have regular meetings with your tutor to help you develop your skills and to plan your personal development.

Assessment methods

We use a number of different teaching and assessment methods including lectures, essays, group and individual work and formal examinations, culminating in an extended essay in Year three. Throughout the degree you will receive personalised support from a dedicated team of academic and support staff.

Studying at degree-level is likely to be very different from your previous experience of learning and teaching. You will be expected to think, discuss and engage critically with the subject and find things out for yourself. We will enable you to make this transition to a new style of learning, and the way that you are assessed during your studies will help you develop the essential skills you need to make a success of your time at Birmingham.


You'll be assessed in a variety of ways, and these may be different with each module that you take. You will be assessed through a combination of essays, group and individual work, and formal examinations, culminating in an extended essay in year three.

At the beginning of each module, you'll be given information on how and when you'll be assessed for that particular programme of study. You'll receive feedback on each assessment within four weeks, so that you can learn from and build on what you have done.

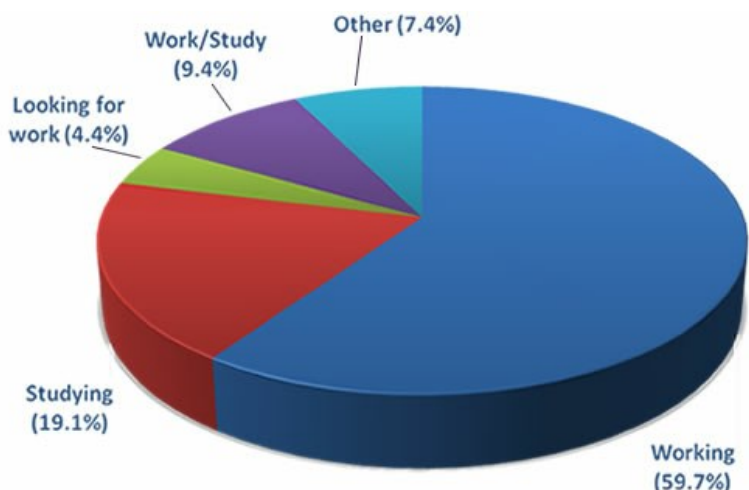
Employability

In studying urban and regional planning at Birmingham you can be confident that you will graduate with a well recognised degree, in which many of the modules which have been designed with the needs of employers in mind. You will be well placed to develop a career within planning field, either in the public or private sector. In both areas, the demand for qualified graduates is always there. The good news is that as our towns and cities are constantly evolving there will always be a need for planning as an activity.



 94% of our Geography and Planning students feel that they have improved their career prospects 2014 National Student Survey

Past experience has shown that this degree opens doors to a wide variety of lucrative careers in the built environment. Potential career opportunities in Britain and overseas include town and country planning, inner-city regeneration, sustainable development, housing and conservation, property development or estates management, planning in developing and transitional countries, management traineeships in the public or private sectors, and teaching. Other students continue in education with further postgraduate study.



Geography and Planning - undergraduate destinations 2012/13

[Find out more about career opportunities in Geography and Planning](#)

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/careers/careers-geog-env-sci.aspx>

You will leave with a range of skills relevant to careers beyond planning and its related fields. Our graduates are welcomed by a range of employers including central and local government; government agencies; property consultancies; planning and urban design consultancies; broader built environment consultancies; private companies and utilities; and developers. Actual recent career destinations for our students have included the Environment Agency, Homes and Community Agency, Birmingham City Council; Wyre Forest District Council; Redditch Borough Council; National Grid; King Sturge; Turley Associates; Lambert Smith Hampton; CBRE; Pegasus Planning Group to name a few.

The majority of employers will expect candidates to have an undergraduate degree in planning as a minimum. To become a chartered town planner (which is recommended for increased career prospects and to enter a job at a higher point in the pay scale) you will need to have completed a **Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)** (<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/>), accredited degree. You can do this at the University of Birmingham by undertaking our **RTPI accredited Masters Course in Urban and Regional Planning** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/taught/gees/urban-regional-planning.aspx>).

Our unique careers guidance service is tailored to your academic subject area, offering a specialised team in the College who can give you expert advice. Our team source exclusive work experience opportunities to help you stand out amongst the competition, with mentoring, global internships and placements available to you. Once you have a career in your sights, one-to-one support with CV's and job applications will help give you the edge. If you make the most of the wide range of services you will be able to develop your career from the moment you arrive at Birmingham.

94% Students agreed staff are good at explaining things

To see more details and compare with other courses

Visit **UNISTATS** ▶

Official data collected by HEFCE

BSc (Hons) Geography and Urban and Regional Planning
Full time

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