University of Birmingham

Planning and Economics 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 combination of urban planning and economics 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 provides the opportunity for students to combine an interest in economics with a focus on urban planning and the built environment. The average starting salary for someone graduating from this course is £21,000, which is above the national average for graduates.

2012 National Student Survey "98% 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)

Course fact file

UCAS code: KL41

Duration: 3 years

Places Available: 181 (across all Geography and Planning courses)

Applications in 2014: 981

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

Geography and Urban and Regional Planning BSc (Hons) (/undergraduate/courses/gees/geography-urban-joint.aspx)

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

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

Contact

Admissions Tutor: Dr Mike Beazley
Tel: +44 (0)121 414 3278
Email: **Planning Admissions (mailto:m.j.beazley@bham.ac.uk)**

General admissions enquiries:
Student Recruitment Team
Tel: +44 (0)121 414 6162
Email: **uggeographyadmissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk (mailto:uggeographyadmissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk)**

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

Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) (/schools/gees/departments/curs/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 Business Schools in the UK, and the

research and international reputation of the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) that is located in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Science at the University of 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 Planning and Economics BSc brochure (PDF 789KB) (/Documents/college-les/gees/Courses/ug-planning-economics-leaflet.pdf)

Why study this course

The Planning/Economics programme at the University of Birmingham is part of a suite of joint honours planning programmes that we offer that are well established and enjoy an excellent reputation. All our planning degrees build on the University's international and research reputation in this area. The department's research and professional development links with a wide range of public, private and community-led organisations are a particular strength of the programme and ensure that our teaching is relevant and is at the cutting edge of the latest developments in the planning world.

Modules

Year 1

Core modules (planning)

- **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)**
- **Mapping the Midlands (/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/mapping-the-midlands.aspx)**

Core modules (Economics)

- **Principles of Economics A (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/first-year/principles-economics-ab.aspx)**
- **Principles of Economics B (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/first-year/principles-economics-ab.aspx)**
- **Applied Economics and IT Skills A (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/first-year/applied-economics-it-skills.aspx)**
- **Applied Economics and IT Skills B (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/first-year/applied-economics-it-skills.aspx)**

Students without A-Level Mathematics, or A-Level grade C or below should choose this linked module:

- **Introductory Quantitative Methods A (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/first-year/introductory-quantitative-methods.aspx)**
- **Introductory Quantitative Methods B (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/first-year/introductory-quantitative-methods.aspx)**

Students with A-Level Mathematics grades A*, A, B or equivalent must choose this linked module:

- **Advanced Quantitative Economic Methods A (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/first-year/advanced-quantitative-economic-methods.aspx)**
- **Advanced Quantitative Economic Methods B (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/first-year/advanced-quantitative-economic-methods.aspx)**

Year 2

Compulsory modules

- **The Urban and Regional Economy (/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/the-urban-and-regional-economy.aspx)** **or** Housing and Communities
- **Understanding Neighbourhood Poverty (/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/modules/geography-and-planning/understanding-neighbourhood-poverty.aspx)**
- Introduction to Social Research
- **Microeconomics A (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/microeconomics-a.aspx)**
- **Microeconomics B (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/microeconomics-b.aspx)**

Optional modules

- **Contemporary Issues in UK Economy (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/contemporary-issues-uk-economy.aspx)**
- **Micro-foundations of Macroeconomics (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/microfoundations-macroeconomics.aspx)**
- **Introductory Econometrics A (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/introductory-econometrics.aspx)**
- **Environmental Economics A (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/environmental-economics.aspx)**
- **Economic Development A (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/economic-development.aspx)**
- **Optimization for Economists (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/optimization-economists.aspx)**
- **Statistics for Economists (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/statistics-for-economists.aspx)**
- **Introductory Econometrics B (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/introductory-econometrics.aspx)**
- **Regulatory Framework of Banking (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/regulatory-framework-banking.aspx)**
- **Economics of Corporate Finance (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/economics-corporate-finance.aspx)**
- **The Economics of Public Expenditure (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/economics-public-expenditure.aspx)**
- **Environmental Economics B (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/environmental-economics.aspx)**
- **Economic Development B (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/economic-development.aspx)**
- **Decision Theory and Games (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/second-year/decision-theory-games.aspx)**

Year 3

Compulsory modules

- **Extended essay** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/extended-essay.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)
- **Topics of Economic Theory and Practice A** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/topics-economic-theory-practice-a.aspx)
- **Topics of Economic Theory and Practice B** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/topics-economic-theory-practice-b.aspx)

Optional modules

- **Econometric Theory** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/econometric-theory.aspx)
- **General Equilibrium and Welfare** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/general-equilibrium-welfare.aspx)
- **International and European Monetary Issues** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/international-european-monetary-issues.aspx)
- **Introduction to International Trade** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/introduction-international-trade.aspx)
- **Monetary Policy** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/monetary-policy.aspx)
- **International Trade Theory and Policy for Europe** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/international-trade-theory-policy-europe.aspx)
- **Applied Econometrics** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/applied-econometrics.aspx)
- **Open Economy Macroeconomics** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/open-economy-macroeconomics.aspx)
- **Game Theory** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/game-theory.aspx)
- **History of Economic Thought A** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/history-economic-thought.aspx)
- **History of Economic Thought B** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/history-economic-thought.aspx)
- **Economics of Uncertainty and Information** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/economics-uncertainty-information.aspx)
- **Economics of Financial Markets** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/economics-financial-markets.aspx)
- **Applied Economics of European Community A** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/applied-economics-european-community.aspx)
- **Applied Economics of European Community B** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/applied-economics-european-community.aspx)
- **The Theory of Industrial Organisation** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/theory-industrial-organisation.aspx)
- **Economics of Banking** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/economics-banking.aspx)
- **Political Economy and Economic Policy** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/political-economy-economic-policy.aspx)
- **The Russian Economy: From Plan to Market A** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/russian-economy-a.aspx)
- **The Russian Economy: From Plan to Market B** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/russian-economy-b.aspx)
- Professional Development Module
- **Labour Economics: Theory and Applications** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/labour-economics.aspx)
- **Health Economics** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/health-economics.aspx)
- **Behavioural and Experimental Economics** (/undergraduate/courses/econ/undergraduate-modules/third-year/behavioural-and-experimental-economics.aspx)

* Module details are for guidance only and are subject to change

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 A in GCSE Maths and grade C in GCSE English.

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, 5, 5 at HL. Minimum of 5 in SL English and Maths if not offered at GCSE or equivalent.

Standard English language requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements/english) apply

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

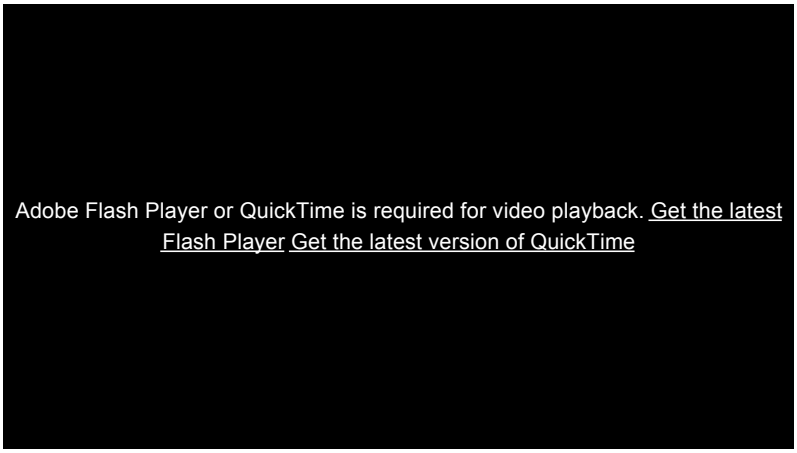
Depending on your chosen course of study, you may also be interested in the Birmingham Foundation Academy, a specially structured programme for international students whose qualifications are not accepted for direct entry to UK universities. Further details can be found on the **foundation academy web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

How to apply

Apply through the **UCAS website (http://www.ucas.com/)** using code **KL41**.

The below video is a step-by-step guide on applying through the UCAS process.

UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) is a UK organisation responsible for managing applications to university and college.



View further advice on '**How to apply for undergraduate courses (/undergraduate/courses/apply/how-to-apply-for-ug-courses.aspx)** ', including advice for UK, EU and overseas applicants.

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.

Related links

Undergraduate degree courses (BA, BSc, MSci) - School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences (/schools/gees/courses/undergraduate/index.aspx)

UG Planning and Economics brochure (PDF 2MB) (/Documents/college-les/gees/Courses/ug-planning-economics-leaflet.pdf)

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.

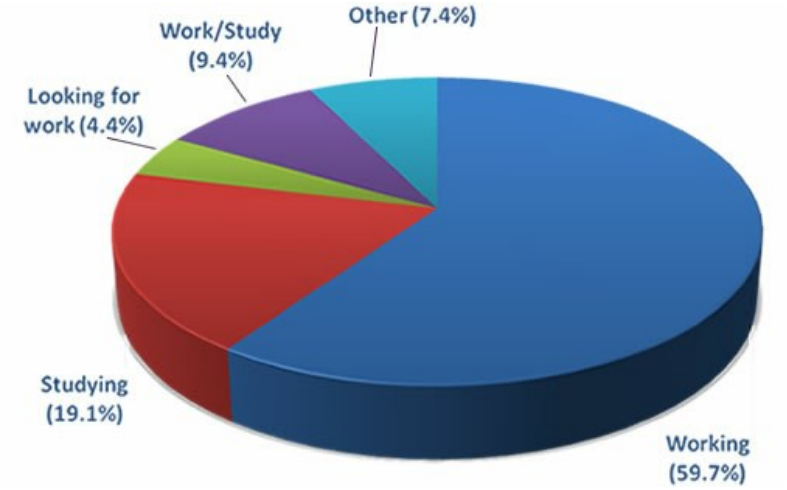
At the beginning of each module, you'll be given information on how and when you'll be assessed for that particular programme of study. You'll receive feedback on each assessment within four weeks, so that you can learn from and build on what you have done.

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.

88% Students in work / study six months after finishing

BSc (Hons) Planning and Economics
Full time

To see more details and compare with other courses
Visit UNISTATS
Official data collected by HEFCE

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