

**University College Dublin  
An Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath**

**National University of Ireland, Dublin  
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Baile Átha Cliath**

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Planning and  
Environmental Policy

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**Session 2005/06**

## Contents

<i>Introduction:</i> .....	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
<b>Master of Regional and Urban Planning.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Admission Requirements and Procedures .....	3
Examinations.....	3
<b><i>MRUP Course Curriculum.....</i></b>	<b>4</b>
First Year Modules (Semesters 1 and 2) .....	5
Second Year Modules (Semesters 3 and 4).....	7
Admission Requirements and Procedures .....	9
Examinations.....	9
<b><i>Master's degree in Planning Policy and Practice - Course Curriculum.....</i></b>	<b>11</b>
Modules .....	12
<b>Degree of Master of Science (Planning) (MSc) .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>Degree of Master of Science (Environmental Policy) (MSc) .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<b>Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).....</b>	<b>17</b>

## **Degree of Master of Planning and Environmental Policy**

The Master of Regional and Urban Planning degree is a full-time postgraduate course extending over four semesters. This course is intended to give planners the necessary understanding of the processes of planning and to develop in them the capacity to co-operate with professionals in related disciplines. It provides an understanding of the physical, social and economic aspects of the human environment, and of the systems of government and organisations of society which affect its condition. Emphasis is placed on the development of professional skills for identifying, analysing and solving a variety of planning problems and to develop transferable skills which can be utilised by graduates in a wide range of areas.

The course content is subject to continuous review to facilitate response to changing academic and professional requirements at the national, European and international scales.

The programme leads to a professional qualification which is recognised for planning practice in Ireland, Great Britain and internationally.

### **Admission Requirements and Procedures**

Candidates for admission to the programme, leading to the Degree of Master of Regional and Urban Planning, must have an honours degree in geography, economics, business studies, commerce, public policy and politics, architecture, architectural science, engineering, law, surveying, or some other qualification approved by the College. The number of places is limited.

Candidates seeking admission should obtain an application form from the:

School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy  
University College Dublin  
Richview,  
Clonskeagh  
Dublin 14

Telephone: +353-1-7162711; Fax: +353-1-7162788; e-mail: gpep.postgrad@ucd.ie  
Applicants may be required to satisfy an interview board as to their suitability and their interest in planning before being allowed to enter on the course. They must also supply the names of academic referees and confirm the results of their undergraduate studies.

### ***Examinations***

Examinations may be held either at the end of each semester or at the end of each year. Candidates will be required to complete a planning research project in the fourth semester.

## ***MRUP Course Curriculum***

The course covered during the first year of the MRUP programme (semesters 1 and 2) includes:

Research Methods  
Economics and Spatial Planning  
Planning and Environmental Law  
Public Policy and Planning  
Transport and the Environment  
Rural Development and Planning  
Placemaking: Urban and Rural Design  
Planning, Society and Diversity  
Planning Practice Studio: Development Planning  
Planning Practice Studio: Urban Design

The course content of the second year (semesters 3 and 4) is:

Planning Practice  
Research Project

### **MRUP Course Structure**

The programme is undertaken through a series of lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, planning exercises (projects), and the preparation of an individual planning research project.

The major focus of study throughout the course is on the planning of change in the physical environment to meet the needs of society, and all other subjects are considered in relation to this central theme. In each field of knowledge, a balance is sought between the theoretical and the practical to ensure a broadly-based education which is directly related to professional practice.

There are three major components within the course of studies – knowledge, skills and values/attitudes. Within this framework, the objectives for each year may be summarised as follows :

#### **Year 1 (Semesters 1 and 2)**

1. To provide an understanding of the political nature of planning and its location as part of a complex governance system as well as providing a detailed knowledge of the legal operation of the Irish planning system
2. To provide an understanding that sustainability is a core unifying theme in spatial planning
3. To introduce students to the complex economic drivers which spatial planning must mediate and to provide an understanding of the imperatives of the property development sector

4. To provide an understanding of the complexity and dynamism of societies and the need for planning to be an inclusive practice
5. To provide understand the importance of transport and mobility and its necessary integration with land use and the environment
6. To develop an understanding of the drivers and dynamics which mediate space and make place at regional and urban scales and in rural areas and the interdependencies between these
7. To learn the importance of design outcomes at various spatial scales
8. To provide students with knowledge of a range of planning methodologies and the ability to formulate plans, understand layout and design, and understand the development control system

**Year 2 (Semesters 3 and 4)**

1. To provide students with practical insights and experience of the planning system
2. To enable students to undertake specialist modules and options and to learn how to use relevant information technology
3. To enable students to learn how to undertake research and to use it for the purposes of evidence-based policymaking.
4. To enable students to select an area for concentrated project research which allows each student both to specialise and to develop particular interests.

Exercises are conducted, where possible, in real situations, in co-operation with planning authorities or interest groups.

**First Year Modules (Semesters 1 and 2)**

**Research Methods**

**PEPP301**

Advances in planning knowledge rest heavily upon a continuing improvement in the understanding planners have of the methods of social inquiry. The module provides an introduction to research methodology and some of the basic techniques that allow researchers to undertake investigations. This module aims to equip students with skills in both quantitative and qualitative techniques.

**Economics and Spatial Planning**

**PEPP302**

This is a foundation module which provides students with a knowledge of economics necessary for a career in planning. The module examines the causes of planning problems using economic analysis and explores the role that economic instruments can play in planning policy either as a substitute or a complement to traditional regulatory instruments. It also examines the dynamics of the property development sector and its relationship with planning.

**Planning and Environmental Law**

**PEPP303**

This module aims to familiarise students with the general law under which planners and planning authorities operate. Specifically the module aims to: provide an introduction to the principles of the common law and to Irish and British legal structures; explore the conflict between constitutionally protected property rights and the public interest; examine the law relating to administration, with particular emphasis on local government and to give students the skills and confidence to read and understand legislation through a detailed study of the Irish planning acts and regulations. The focus will be on the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and its associated regulations.

**Public Policy and Planning**

**PEPP304**

Planning is an inherently political activity, involving value judgements, professional ethics and the distribution of major resources such as land and environmental quality. Planning's political role does not stand alone, but is part of the political system which incorporates central government, local authorities, interest groups and individual citizens. This module aims to give a broad introduction to the institutional landscape of public policy and administration in Ireland, the framework within which planning is carried out.

**Transport and the Environment**

**PEP P305**

This module introduces students to the concept of integrating land use planning with transportation planning both through theory and practice, and in particular, examines the relationship between transport and the environment. The characteristics of transportation supply and demand are addressed while modelling of urban transportation systems will be discussed in detail. The issues associated with sustainability within transportation will be addressed, with focus being placed on the need to travel and a reduction in this need via transport demand management methods.

**Rural Development and Planning**

**PEP P306**

Rural areas are changing fast: the economic base of rural areas is diversifying; farming is under pressure; there is a growing concern for the environment; and some rural communities are under intense pressure from urbanisation, while other areas continue to decline. The aim of this module is to give students a clear understanding of contemporary issues in rural planning and development in Ireland, and accordingly seeks to take a holistic view of the activities, policies and planning initiatives that are currently shaping rural areas.

**Place Making: Urban and Rural Design**

**PEP P307**

The purpose of this module is to develop the prospective planner's abilities to critically understand, organise, and manage urban and rural environments through an understanding of the centrality of design, and to appreciate its influence on the daily experience of its inhabitants. The structure of the module is intended:

- To improve appreciation of the form and character urban areas and architecture.
- To provide a basic understanding of the principles of urban design and design in the rural landscape.
- To present the basic principles of architecture.

- To outline key principles of architectural conservation

**Planning, Society And Diversity**

**PEP P308**

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the theoretical and socio-spatial context of planning. The module explores processes at work in society, such as globalisation, economic restructuring and social polarisation, which have implications for space, place and people. Also, within this module key planning theories are introduced and debated in relation to their ability to provide a framework for understanding the role planning can play in mediating these processes.

**Planning Practice Studio: Development Planning**

**PEP P309**

The aim of this module is to equip students with the skills necessary to explore the physical, social, economic and environmental facets which create unique places (villages, towns, or regions), and to provide innovative sustainable ideas and policies to help shape and guide the future development of these areas. It is a specific objective of this module for students to prepare a plan that is based on principles of sustainable development. Students are encouraged to achieve a type of plan that may be different to the traditional type of development plan prepared by planning authorities.

**Planning Practice Studio: Urban Design**

**PEP P310**

This module focuses on exploring urban design in a local context, looking at the relationship between master planning, the production of design guidelines and the regulation of individual buildings. There are two major components of the module, the first focuses on the production of an Urban design framework plan or masterplan for a site, urban block, neighbourhood or precinct, together with a set of design guidelines for the chosen area. The second part focuses on the development control process.

## **Second Year Modules (Semesters 3 and 4)**

**Planning Practice**

**PEP P311**

The primary purpose of this module is to provide practical planning experience for students. This may involve a combination of workshops given by planning practitioners, some work experience and the provision of specialist material such as advanced information technology applications.

**Research Project**

**PEP P312**

The aim of the module is to give students in-depth experience of formulating and executing a research project and in so doing to strengthen their skills in undertaking independent planning research. It is a specific aim of the module that students make a contribution, through their research project, to policy and practice in planning.

**Regulations**

The regulations that apply are set out in Marks and Standards and are available from the School upon request.

**Student Requirements**

Students will be expected, at their own expense, to provide drawing materials and equipment, typed papers, and to participate in all organised study tours.

**Study Tours**

Each year the study tour is related to aspects of local and European planning problems and practice.

## **Master's Degree in Planning Policy and Practice**

The Masters's degree in Planning Policy and Practice degree is a 12 month full-time postgraduate course. This degree is intended to give planners the necessary understanding of the processes of planning and to develop in them the capacity to co-operate with professionals in related disciplines. It provides an understanding of the physical, social and economic aspects of the human environment, and of the systems of government and organisations of society which affect its condition. The degree awarded is a MSc (Planning and Public Policy)

## **Admission Requirements and Procedures**

Candidates for admission to the programme, leading to the Masters's degree in Planning Policy and Practice, must have an honours degree in geography, economics, business studies, commerce, public policy and politics, architecture, architectural science, engineering, law, surveying, or some other qualification approved by the College. The number of places is limited.

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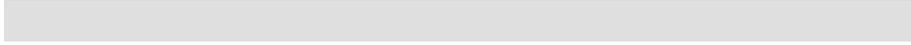
Telephone: +353-1-7162711; Fax: +353-1-7162788; e-mail: [gpep.postgrad@ucd.ie](mailto:gpep.postgrad@ucd.ie)

Applicants may be required to satisfy an interview board as to their suitability and their interest in planning before being allowed to enter on the course. They must also supply the names of academic referees and confirm the results of their undergraduate studies.

## ***Examinations***

Examinations may be held either at the end of each semester or at the end of each year. Candidates will be required to complete a planning research project.

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## ***Master's degree in Planning Policy and Practice - Course Curriculum***

The degree includes the following modules:

Research Methods  
Economics and Spatial Planning  
Planning and Environmental Law  
Public Policy and Planning  
Transport and the Environment  
Rural Development and Planning  
Placemaking: Urban and Rural Design  
Planning, Society and Diversity  
Planning Practice Studio: Development Planning  
Planning Practice Studio: Urban Design  
Research Project

### **Master's degree in Planning Policy and Practice- Course Structure**

The programme is undertaken through a series of lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, planning exercises (projects), and the preparation of an individual planning research project.

The major focus of study throughout the course is on the planning of change in the physical environment to meet the needs of society, and all other subjects are considered in relation to this central theme. In each field of knowledge, a balance is sought between the theoretical and the practical to ensure a broadly-based education which is directly related to professional practice.

There are three major components within the course of studies – knowledge, skills and values/attitudes. Within this framework, the objectives for each year may be summarised as follows :

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5. To provide understand the importance of transport and mobility and its necessary integration with land use and the environment

6. To develop an understanding of the drivers and dynamics which mediate space and make place at regional and urban scales and in rural areas and the interdependencies between these
7. To learn the importance of design outcomes at various spatial scales
8. To provide students with knowledge of a range of planning methodologies and the ability to formulate plans, understand layout and design, and understand the development control system
9. To enable students to learn how to undertake research and to use it for the purposes of evidence-based policymaking.

## **Modules**

### **Research Methods**

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**Research Project**

**PEPP312**

The aim of the module is to give students in-depth experience of formulating and executing a research project and in so doing to strengthen their skills in undertaking independent planning research. It is a specific aim of the module that students make a contribution, through their research project, to policy and practice in planning.

**Regulations**

The regulations that apply are set out in Marks and Standards and are available from the School upon request.

**Student Requirements**

Students will be expected, at their own expense, to provide drawing materials and equipment, typed papers, and to participate in all organised study tours.

## **Degree of Master of Science (Planning) (MSc)**

The Master of Science (MSc) degree in the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy is directed at those wishing to conduct research into planning and public policy issues. The normal time for completion of the degree is one academic year. The number of places on offer is limited. Studentships may be available which cover fees and provide a stipend.

In addition to engaging in research, Candidates are required to take such courses as prescribed by the Programme Director. The courses normally comprise:

PEPP908 Introduction to Quantitative and Qualitative Research Techniques  
PEPP909 Research Methods  
PEPP910 Project Management for Research  
PEPP911 Communication and Presentation Skills

However, exemptions may be granted by the Programme Director if, in his/her view, the Candidate has completed equivalent courses satisfactorily or has equivalent experience. All courses are completed on a Pass/Fail basis.

The MSc (Planning) degree is awarded or withheld based on the presentation by the candidate of a major thesis that tests an original hypothesis. An oral examination may be held if the examiners so decide.

### **Admission Procedure**

Applications must be made to the Director of Research Degrees, School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy. If the School is satisfied as to the applicant's general suitability to undertake the programme, the School shall forward the candidate's application to the College Principal for consideration by the College.

### **Entry Requirements**

Normally, candidates will hold a minimum of a second class honours degree in a subject relevant to planning or public policy, such as social sciences, economics, geography, architecture, architectural science, law, surveying, commerce, public policy, engineering, environmental studies, transportation.

## ***Degree of Master of Science (Environmental Policy) (MSc)***

The Master of Science (MSc) degree in Environmental Policy is directed at those wishing to conduct research into the economics and policy of environmental issues. It is the only such degree available in Ireland. Candidates are required to prepare a major thesis in a minimum period of one year. Prior to beginning the thesis, candidates attend short courses in environmental economics and research methods. The number of places on offer is limited. Studentships may be available which cover fees and provide a stipend.

ENVSP905	Research Methods and Presentation Skills in Environmental Economics and Policy
ENVSP906	Topics in European Environmental Economics and Policy
ENVSP907	Resource and Environmental Economics in a European Context
ENVSP908	Advanced Environmental Economics and Policy
ENVSP909	European Union Environmental Policy in a Global Context
ENVSP910	Statistical Computing Methods in Environmental Economics and Policy

However, exemptions may be granted by the Programme Director if, in his/her view, the Candidate has completed equivalent courses satisfactorily or has equivalent experience. All courses are completed on a Pass/Fail basis.

The MSc (Environmental Policy) degree is awarded or withheld based on the presentation by the candidate of a major thesis that tests an original hypothesis. An oral examination may be held if the examiners so decide.

**Admission Procedure**

Applications must be made to the Head of School. If the Head of School is satisfied as to the applicant's general suitability to undertake the programme, the School shall forward the candidate's application to the College Principal for consideration by the College.

**Entry Requirements**

Normally, candidates will hold a minimum of a second class honours degree in economics or a related subject.

## **Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

Candidates must have permission of the College to enter the above course. The degree is awarded or withheld based on the presentation by the candidate of a major thesis that tests an original hypothesis and makes a substantial contribution to the field of planning and public policy. In addition, Candidates are required to take such courses as prescribed by the Programme Director. The courses normally comprise:

PEPP901 Introduction to Quantitative and Qualitative Research Techniques  
PEPP902 Research Methods  
PEPP903 Project Management for Research  
PEPP904 Communication and Presentation Skills

However, exemptions may be granted by the Programme Director if, in his/her view, the Candidate has completed equivalent courses satisfactorily or has equivalent experience. All courses are completed on a Pass/Fail basis.

The PhD degree is awarded or withheld. In order to be awarded the degree the Candidate must pass an oral examination and the work must be considered worthy of publication by the examiners, in part or as a whole, as a work of serious scholarship.

For details regarding presentation and examination of PhD theses, please see the *UCD Postgraduate Prospectus*.