



This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's up-to-date and relevant. Individual modules are occasionally updated or withdrawn. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers. In the event of any change we will inform students and take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.

### Programme Details

|                                                                                                              |                                                                                         |                                    |                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Programme title</b>                                                                                    | Urban and Regional Planning                                                             |                                    |                                    |
| <b>2. Award type</b>                                                                                         | Master of Science                                                                       |                                    |                                    |
| <b>3. Programme details</b>                                                                                  | <b>FHEQ Level:</b><br>7                                                                 | <b>Mode of Study:</b><br>Full time | <b>Duration:</b><br>1 year         |
| <b>4. Faculty</b>                                                                                            | Faculty of Social Sciences                                                              |                                    |                                    |
| <b>5. School</b>                                                                                             | <b>Owning:</b> School of Geography and Planning                                         |                                    |                                    |
| <b>6. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body</b>                                                         | Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)<br>Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) |                                    |                                    |
| <b>7. HECoS code</b><br><i>Select between one and three codes from the <a href="#">HECoS vocabulary</a>.</i> | <b>Code:</b> 100197<br><b>Percentage:</b> 100                                           | <b>Code:</b><br><b>Percentage:</b> | <b>Code:</b><br><b>Percentage:</b> |
| <i>Programme code (internal use)</i>                                                                         | GPLT005                                                                                 |                                    |                                    |

## 9. Programme aims

| The programme aims to: |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A1</b>              | Develop students' critical understanding of the nature of planning and its practice, including its administrative, institutional and legal framework.                                                      |
| <b>A2</b>              | Develop students' critical skills in understanding the different contexts and environments relevant to the practice of planning, including the political and economic environments in which planners work. |
| <b>A3</b>              | Provide students with research skills, the ability to analyse and synthesise knowledge and an understanding of the role of research in planning practice.                                                  |
| <b>A4</b>              | Develop professional and policy making skills needed to analyse complex planning problems, recommend appropriate courses of action, take decisions and communicate effectively to diverse audiences.       |
| <b>A5</b>              | Develop through specialised studies, a deeper knowledge of a selected aspect or aspects of planning.                                                                                                       |
| <b>A6</b>              | Develop in students a wide range of transferable skills, including reflective learning that will enable them to successfully engage with a variety of work environments.                                   |

## 10. Programme learning outcomes

| <b>Knowledge and understanding (K)</b>                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>K1</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | The theoretical and conceptual justifications for planning, intervention, the role and ethical obligations of the professional within this field and an awareness of the interdisciplinary dimensions to this work. |
| <b>K2</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | The economic, social, historic and environmental factors which shape places and an ability to identify the links between these factors.                                                                             |
| <b>K3</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | The political basis for planning and the surrounding administrative, institutional and legal framework.                                                                                                             |
| <b>K4</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | Plans and policies, the techniques, methodologies and forms of research which inform policy and plan making.                                                                                                        |
| <b>K5</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | The concept of sustainability and how it might shape responses to planning problems.                                                                                                                                |
| <b>K6</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | Substantive issues in specialised areas of planning, including urban design and real estate development.                                                                                                            |
| <b>Skills and other attributes (S)</b>                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <i>When considering the skills and attributes developed in this programme, please refer to the Sheffield Graduate attributes (SGAs). <a href="#">SGAs can be found here</a></i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>S1</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | Make links between theoretical positions and planning problems and to learn how theory may inform planning practice.                                                                                                |

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>S2</b> | Analyse and evaluate the economic, social, historic and environmental factors which shape places and influence planning responses.                                                                          |
| <b>S3</b> | Identify the impact of planning decisions at different scales.                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>S4</b> | Formulate policy responses to defined problems in a creative manner through the use of different sources of information and the employment of different techniques.                                         |
| <b>S5</b> | Communicate policy and planning decisions through the development of oral, written and graphic skills.                                                                                                      |
| <b>S6</b> | Undertake teamwork, reflective thinking, including team leadership as well as the ability to gain knowledge for themselves, critically assess this knowledge and relate this knowledge to practical action. |
| <b>S7</b> | Demonstrate skills in a specialist area of planning and relate specialist knowledge to the wider contexts in which knowledge and skills sit.                                                                |
| <b>S8</b> | Identify a research problem or problems, design research, carry it out and reflect on the effectiveness of research.                                                                                        |

**11. Learning and teaching methods** *(this should include a summary of methods used throughout the programme, including any unique features and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

A variety of teaching and learning methods are employed to support your development throughout the programme. These methods are carefully designed to build your core knowledge, critical thinking, and professional competence, preparing you for practice in the planning field. The programme begins by establishing a solid foundation in planning theory, policy, and context, primarily through lectures and seminars. As the programme progresses, increasing emphasis is placed on the application of this knowledge through project work, group activities, and independent study. This progression supports the development of practical skills, reflective learning, and a deeper understanding of real-world planning challenges. Throughout the programme, you will engage with the following methods:

**Lectures** provide the foundation for your core knowledge of planning. They ensure that students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds develop a shared understanding of planning concepts, systems, and contexts. Lectures are particularly important for conveying key theoretical and policy frameworks and are designed to complement other forms of learning.

**Seminars** offer opportunities to explore critical issues in planning in a small-group setting. These sessions are designed to promote discussion, develop your theoretical understanding, and support the integration of different strands of planning knowledge. Seminars also help to build communication and analytical skills and are closely linked to key learning outcomes.

**Project Work and Group Work** are essential components of your learning experience. Projects run across both semesters and enable you to apply core knowledge to practical scenarios. They help you explore the economic, environmental, historical, and social dimensions of planning in real-world contexts. Through collaboration, analysis, and critical reflection, you will develop essential professional skills, including teamwork, problem-solving, and decision-making. Group work also fosters interpersonal and negotiation skills, which are highly valued in planning practice.

**Workshops** are focused sessions that develop specific skills related to research, analysis, and decision-making. You will gain experience using quantitative methods, spatial analysis tools, and design techniques to inform planning responses. Workshops offer a hands-on environment in which you can test

ideas, apply methodologies, and refine your communication and technical skills in relation to project work.

**Independent Study** is a vital aspect of postgraduate learning and supports your development as a self-directed learner. You will be encouraged to take ownership of your learning through guided research, critical reading, and reflective practice. Independent study becomes increasingly important throughout the programme and culminates in your final dissertation, where you will investigate a topic of personal and professional interest in depth

**Site Visits** are embedded within the programme to enhance your understanding of place and context. These visits provide direct engagement with planning issues in real environments, allowing you to observe and analyse how planning theory is implemented in practice. They also help you develop spatial awareness and a contextual understanding of planning challenges and solutions.

**12. Assessment and feedback methods** *(this should include the range of types of methods used and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

A wide variety of assessment methods are used throughout the programme to support and evaluate your development. These are carefully structured to align with the progression of your learning, enabling you to build knowledge, apply planning concepts, and demonstrate key skills at each stage. Assessments are not only used to measure achievement but also to enhance your ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and work both independently and collaboratively.

**Essays** are used to assess your understanding of core planning concepts, systems, and contexts. They are particularly effective in developing your ability to construct clear, well-reasoned arguments and communicate ideas fluently in written form.

**Reports** allow you to apply your learning to specific planning scenarios. Through these assessments, you will demonstrate skills in research, analysis, decision-making, and policy formulation. Reports also assess your ability to communicate findings and recommendations clearly and professionally. Both group and individual reports are used: group reports reflect collaborative work, while individual reports allow you to highlight your personal contribution and independent thinking.

**Graphic Presentation** is used to evaluate your ability to communicate planning ideas visually. This includes the presentation of research findings, spatial analysis, and design proposals in graphical formats - an essential skill for planning professionals.

**Numerical Data and Analysis** are assessed through assignments that require the application of quantitative methods and digital tools. These assessments test your ability to interpret and present data clearly, supporting evidence-based planning and decision-making.

**The Dissertation** represents the culmination of your learning and provides an opportunity to demonstrate advanced knowledge and specialist skills, the dissertation allows you to define a research problem, design and carry out an independent study, and present your findings in a clear and critical manner.

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| Version Number: | Purpose / Change: | Cohort affected:<br>(academic year<br>and level) | Date change<br>approved: |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1               |                   |                                                  | March 2016               |

|   |                 |       |                |
|---|-----------------|-------|----------------|
| 2 |                 |       | March 2019     |
| 3 |                 |       | February 2020  |
| 4 |                 |       | March 2021     |
| 5 |                 |       | January 2022   |
| 6 |                 |       | December 2022  |
| 7 |                 |       | September 2024 |
| 8 | Major Amendment | 26/27 | October 2025   |

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