

Programme Specification: International Planning and Sustainable Development (and pathways) MA

Course record information

Name and level of final award	• Master of Arts - International Planning and Sustainable Development • Master of Arts - International Planning and Sustainable Development (Spatial Planning) • Master of Arts - International Planning and Sustainable Development (Urban Resilience) • Postgraduate Diploma - International Planning and Sustainable Development • Postgraduate Certificate - International Planning and Sustainable Development The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards	• Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - International Planning and Sustainable Development • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - International Planning and Sustainable Development
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Town and Country Planning
Professional statutory or regulatory body	RTPI (Royal Town Planning Institute): The Spatial Planning and Urban Resilience MA Pathways each have full RTPI accreditation as a 'Combined Planning Programme'.

Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	• MA International Planning and Sustainable Development FT, Full-time, September start - 1 year standard length • MA International Planning and Sustainable Development PT, Part-time day/evening, September start - 2 years standard length • MA International Planning and Sustainable Development (Spatial Planning) FT, Full-time, September start - 1 year standard length • MA International Planning and Sustainable Development (Spatial Planning) PT, Part-time day/evening, September start - 2 years standard length • MA International Planning and Sustainable Development (Urban Resilience) FT, Full-time, September start - 1 year standard length • MA International Planning and Sustainable Development (Urban Resilience) PT, Part-time day/evening, September start - 2 years standard length • PG Diploma International Planning and Sustainable Development FT, Full-time, September start - 1 year standard length • PG Diploma International Planning and Sustainable Development PT, Part-time day/evening, September start - 2 years standard length • PG Certificate International Planning and Sustainable Development PT, Part-time day/evening, September start - 2 years standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2026/7

Additional Course Information

Course module options

The particular combination of options chosen by individual students will be agreed with the Course Leader during Induction and/or the initial Personal Development Plan meeting.

Timetable clashes may constrain a particular combination of options and some options may only be available to students on the PG Diploma or PG Certificate.

Other combinations through the MA programme may be possible and, with the agreement with the Course Leader, options on any of the courses may be chosen from other postgraduate courses offered in the School, College or University. Learning outcomes must meet the aims of the course, which may include requirements relating to accreditation, as advised by the Course Leader.

Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Awards

To qualify for the award of **MA International Planning and Sustainable Development (Spatial Planning)**, **MA International Planning and Sustainable Development (Urban Resilience)** or **MA International Planning and Sustainable Development** a student must have obtained 180 credits at Level 7.

To qualify for the award of **Postgraduate Diploma International Planning and Sustainable Development**, a student must have:

- a) Obtained a minimum of 120 credits at Level 7 and
- b) Passed two of the following: 7PLAN011W Planning in a Globalizing World, 7PLAN020W Sustainable Neighbourhood Development, or 7PLAN006W International Spatial Planning Practice (20 credits each).
- c) Passed 7PLAN019W Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods, Urban Form or 7PLAN010W Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience (20 credits each), and
- d) Passed a further 60 credits in option modules (from all modules offered across the Postgraduate International Planning and Sustainable Development programme with the prior approval of the Module Leader concerned).

To qualify for the award of **Postgraduate Certificate International Planning and Sustainable Development**, a student must have:

- a) Obtained a minimum of 60 credits at Level 7 and
- b) Passed two of the following: 7PLAN011W Planning in a Globalizing World, 7PLAN006W International Spatial Planning Practice, 7PLAN020W Sustainable Neighbourhood Development, or 7PLAN019W Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods (20 credits each), and
- c) Passed a further 20 credits in option modules (from all modules offered across the Postgraduate International Planning and Sustainable Development programme with the prior approval of the Module Leader concerned).

Exit awards from accredited pathways will be the same as the non-accredited intermediate awards and not carry the pathway name.

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here:

<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply>.

Aims of the course

The aims of the course are:

- To give a theoretical grounding in sustainable development, an understanding of different national institutional and policy contexts, and a critical basis on which to explore new approaches to good practice in spatial planning in both developing and developed world contexts.
- To update planning and other built environment professionals in current international good practice in spatial planning, urban regeneration and sustainable urban and regional development.
- To provide students with the opportunities to explore ideas, international perspectives and debates in depth and, through the dissertation where this is being taken as part of the award, in one distinct area of planning and urban and regional development.
- To bring together expertise in spatial planning for sustainable development from a wide range of professional fields and equip students with an understanding of a range of methods and collaborative inter-disciplinary practice.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. career/employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

Graduates for this course can expect to find employment as planners or in a related specialism in private companies, local and national government, or in the non- governmental sector in their own country or internationally, including in international development agencies.

Most students on the course will be in an existing position in a relevant built environment profession. Overseas students may be receiving a government bursary. Graduates from the course may secure promotion within their existing or new, related area of work or move onto more responsible positions within 18 months of completing their studies. This may include management posts or the responsibility for project or policy development. It is expected that graduates will enhance their potential to be considered for development positions outside their home country.

Course learning outcomes

A greater in-depth understanding of any of the following areas of knowledge and understanding or specific skills will be achieved through undertaking the Dissertation/Major Project module. This relates to the Masters award pathways and optionally the PG Diploma, where the Dissertation/Major Project is undertaken as part of the required complement of core modules.

Modules taken on non-accredited intermediate awards (including target PG Diploma and PG Certificate awards) will cover following learning outcomes as far as they are in line with the core and option modules that are selected as part of the course.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements of what successful students have achieved as a result of learning.

These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)

Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)

Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)

Cognitive Skills, are learning outcomes that help build conceptual understanding that is necessary to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems and comment on research.

Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Upon successful completion of the the programme, students will have acquired the requisite knowledge and understanding to:

- 001 Place management: an in-depth and systematic understanding of making and managing places in a range of international, regional, country and urban contexts. (Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods; International Spatial Planning Practice; The Dynamic City: Urban Form, Scale and Movement; Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management; Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (KU)
- 002 Spatial planning and land governance: a comprehensive understanding of the methodologies and techniques of spatial planning and the role of spatial planning as a vehicle for the coordination and integration of policies for delivering sustainable development and an understanding of related land governance issues. (Planning in a Globalising World; International Spatial Planning Practice; Research Methods in the Built Environment, Planning Skills and Research Methods, Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (KU)
- 003 Sustainable development: an in-depth and systematic understanding of different theoretical and practical discourses of sustainable development internationally, including the range of built environment concerns with the natural environment. (Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods; Planning for Risk and Resilience; International Spatial Planning Practice; Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management; Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (KU)
- 004 Planning and local governance: a comprehensive understanding of the role of planning and its place as a tool for local governance and urban and regional management in the sustainable and socially inclusive delivery of development and local services. (Planning in a Globalising World; International Spatial Planning Practice; Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods; Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management, Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (KU)
- 005 Social and economic interests in development: an in-depth and critical understanding of the interests and role of communities, civil society, government and the private sector in city development and management and of the role of partnerships and public participation in the process. (Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods; Planning in a Globalising World; Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management; The Dynamic City: Urban Form, Scale and Movement, Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (KU)
- 006 Related specialisms: a comprehensive understanding of the paradigms, methodologies and techniques of one of the designated specialisms relating to the broader sphere of international planning and sustainable development. (Planning for Risk and Resilience; Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). Professional practice: awareness and ability to manage ethical dilemmas and work proactively with others to formulate solutions; thorough understanding of professional ethics and obligations and knowledge of professional roles, interests, and associations in the relevant national and international contexts. (International Spatial Planning Practice; Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management, Planning Skills and Research Methods, Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (KU)
- 007 Relationship between specialisms (RTPI): mature understanding of the relationship within a multidisciplinary context of a particular area of specialism to other specialist areas of expertise. (All core modules; Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (KU)
- 008 RTPI accredited pathways: a critical awareness of the complexity of interrelated forces shaping spatial development, the key challenges that surround current trajectories of development across diverse contexts and scales, and the role of planning in addressing them. (KU)
- 009 RTPI accredited pathways: an understanding of the historical and theoretical foundations of spatial planning, its context, purpose, and scope, as well as different planning roles in public, private and voluntary sectors. (KU)
- 010 RTPI accredited pathways: in-depth knowledge of key aspects and dimensions of sustainable development and spatial planning's contribution to the creation (and maintenance) of sustainable communities and places. (KU)
- 011 RTPI accredited pathways: practical understanding of the plan-making and planning decision-making process and knowledge of, and expertise in, skills, techniques, strategies and methods essential for effective working in planning practice and related professions. (KU)
- 012 RTPI accredited pathways: an understanding of the values and ethics of working as a professional in the field of planning and develop students' ability to exercise critical thinking and independent judgement. (KU)
- 013 RTPI accredited pathways: an appreciation of the qualities of a reflective practitioner who sees the acquisition of knowledge and skills as a lifelong process and is able to respond – and adapt – to changing roles and contexts within the profession. (KU)
- 014 RTPI accredited pathways: An in-depth understanding of ideas, perspectives and debates to a considerable degree of depth in one distinct area of planning. (KU)
- 015 International urban and regional analysis: with critical awareness of the complexity of the issues and context, and informed by knowledge of international good practice, can apply appropriate theory and models to make comparisons between countries and their political and governance systems, cultural contexts, social and economic policies and urban

interventions. (Planning in a Globalising World; International Spatial Planning Practice; Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management, Planning for Risk and Resilience, Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (SS)

- 016 Spatial planning: can generate imaginative strategies, plans and programmes for spatial development that are capable of being implemented; can analyse socio- spatial issues and problems, set objectives, visualise and evaluate spatial strategies and the means of implementing them at a local, urban and regional scale; with critical awareness, can synthesise information in a manner that may be innovative, utilising knowledge from the forefront of the discipline. (International Spatial Planning Practice; Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods, Planning for Risk and Resilience, Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (SS)
- 017 Spatial data management and analysis: has technical expertise to draw on basic statistical and ICT methods to map, represent, model, store and analyse spatial data; is able to adapt skills and procedures to unfamiliar contexts effectively and precisely. (International Spatial Planning Practice; Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management; The Dynamic City: Urban Form, Scale and Movement; Planning Skills and Research Methods; Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (SS)
- 018 Graphic presentation: has technical expertise to draw on and use graphic techniques – diagrams, graphs, tables, maps and plans – including basic three- dimensional representations and illustrative material to communicate spatial development concepts and propositions effectively and precisely. (International Spatial Planning Practice Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods; The Dynamic City: Urban Form, Scale and Movement; Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods; Planning for Risk and Resilience, Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (SS)
- 019 Development appraisal: has technical expertise to evaluate the economic, financial implications and social and environmental impacts of alternative development strategies precisely and effectively; is able to adapt skills and procedures to unfamiliar contexts. (Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods; Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (SS)
- 020 Employ a range of planning tools: has technical expertise to carry out and produce surveys, stakeholder analyses, appraisals, impact assessments, capacity studies, structure and master plan frameworks, visions, briefs, policy and design statements, planning guides and reports in the appropriate context; is able to adapt skills and procedures to unfamiliar contexts. (International Spatial Planning Practice; Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management; Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods; Urban Design and Development Planning Skills; Planning Skills and Research Methods, Option modules, Dissertation/Major Project). (SS)
- 021 Professional practice: can exercise initiative and personal responsibility in professional practice; can draw on a critical awareness of and apply standards in particular areas of professional expertise. (International Spatial Planning Practice; Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management; The Dynamic City: Urban Form, Scale and Movement; Planning Skills and Research Methods). (SS)
- 022 Specialist skills – engage in debate (RTPI): can engage in theoretical and practical debate at the forefront of the area of specialism. (All modules). (SS)
- 023 Specialist skills – employers' requirements (RTPI): can offer potential employers the type and quality of initial skills that might reasonably be expected of a graduate from this specialism undertaking the practice experience period of the 'Assessment of Professional Competence' (APC). (All modules). (SS)
- 024 Group working: can work effectively as a member of a group, able to contribute ideas and respect the contribution of others, including those from different national, cultural and ethnic backgrounds; can use conflict management; mediation and negotiation skills. (All modules). (KTS)
- 025 Autonomy: is an independent and self-critical learner, guiding the learning of others and managing own requirements for continuing professional development; can prepare a personal development plan, monitor and evaluate progress; can set targets, manage time and resources, work to deadlines and balance conflicting demands; monitor and evaluate progress. (All modules). (KTS)
- 026 Self-evaluation: is reflective on own and others' functioning in order to improve practice; can apply reflective skills to professional practice and research activity; critically examine personal values, assumptions and practice through a process of self-evaluation. (All modules). (KTS)
- 027 Communications: can engage confidently in academic and professional communication with others, reporting on action clearly, autonomously and competently; shows awareness and can employ research and communication methods that are sensitive to cultural and geographical diversity and promote a participatory approach; can write clear and accurate English to a high professional standard; effective verbal communication and listening skills. (All modules). (KTS)
- 028 Professional development and problem solving: has independent learning ability required for continuing professional study, making professional use of others where appropriate; identification of problem essentials; creative and critical thinking; decision making. (All modules). (KTS)
- 029 Application: can demonstrate initiative and originality in problem solving. Can act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level, making decisions in complex and unpredictable situations. (All modules). (KTS)
- 030 Learning resources and information management: is able to use full range of learning resources, including use of

information technology; is able to use basic software packages for word processing, spreadsheet analysis and, where necessary, spatial analysis and graphical representation. (All modules). (KTS)

- 031 Career management skills: self-awareness; exploring and creating opportunities; action planning; networking, political awareness; coping with uncertainty and change; self-confidence. (All modules). (KTS)
- 032 RTPI accredited pathways: Detailed knowledge of analytical and research skills and the ability to apply them in practice. (KTS)
- 033 RTPI accredited pathways: Detailed knowledge of verbal and written communication as well as presenting and negotiation skills and the ability to apply them in practice. (KTS)
- 034 RTPI accredited pathways: Detailed knowledge of project and self-management skills (e.g. setting targets, managing time and resources, working to deadlines and balancing conflicting demands) and the ability to apply them in practice. (KTS)
- 035 RTPI accredited pathways: Detailed knowledge of skills of reflective practice and the ability to apply them in practice. (KTS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

The course will draw upon a variety of teaching, learning and assessment strategies, which combine a robust theoretical conception of the subject area with a strong emphasis on interprofessional working, cross national comparison and personal contextualisation. To bring together and balance what students bring to the course as experienced practitioners and the theoretical and analytical challenges of spatial planning for sustainable development, there will be a strong emphasis on structured practical, hands-on learning throughout the course.

Teaching methods

The taught programme places a priority on facilitating interaction between students within class teaching and hands-on, project and case study-based learning. Teaching combines lectures, seminars and workshops with individual and group tutorials. Students are supported by tutors and supervisors throughout their course, and tutorials are a key element of the learning process. Lecture series give background information supplemented with structured reading from a variety of theoretical sources and case study material. The dissertation/major project gives students the space to study a specialist topic in depth and develop their research skills.

Assessment methods

Assessment is 100% course work. Theoretical work and discussion of key issues will be explored in seminar papers, group discussions, workshops and essays. Seminars, workshops, game, role play and team-based exercises will be used in comparative international analysis and case study work. Additionally, students will be set projects undertaken individually and in groups applying their theoretical knowledge and skills to addressing common planning and development challenges in a range of international regional, country and urban contexts, and drawing from the range of appropriate planning tools. Some UK case studies may be used to develop survey skills and explore live issues. Students will have the option to explore other European case studies if they chose appropriate option modules from the range of Specialisms.

The course delivery encourages reflective and critical thinking in helping students to extend existing skills and competencies. Projects are supported by individual tutorials and group seminars. Throughout each student's learning they are required to maintain a portfolio that demonstrates their reflections on what they learn to their personal community work practice.

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

MA International Planning and Sustainable Development (Spatial Planning)

Level 7

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7PLAN051W	Dissertation / Major Project	Core	40	20
7PLAN005W	International Planning Field Trip	Core	0	0
7PLAN006W	International Spatial Planning Practice	Core	20	10
7PLAN011W	Planning in a Globalising World	Core	20	10
7PLAN035W	Planning Research: Methods and Skills	Core	20	10
7PLAN019W	Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods	Core	20	10
7PLAN020W	Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management	Core	20	10
7PLAN034W	The Dynamic City: Urban Form, Scale and Movement	Pathway Core	20	10
7PLAN041W	Conservation and Heritage	Option	20	10
7PLAN033W	Emerging Landscapes and Urban Ecologies	Option	20	10
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Option	20	10
7TRAN013W	Land Use Planning and Transport	Option	20	10
7PLAN038W	Place and Experience in Design of Urban Spaces	Option	20	10
7PLAN010W	Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience	Option	20	10
7TRAN027W	Streets, Places and Active Transport	Option	20	10
7PLAN039W	Urban Design Project	Option	20	10

MA International Planning and Sustainable Development (Urban Resilience)

Level 7

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7PLAN051W	Dissertation / Major Project	Core	40	20
7PLAN005W	International Planning Field Trip	Core	0	0
7PLAN006W	International Spatial Planning Practice	Core	20	10
7PLAN011W	Planning in a Globalising World	Core	20	10
7PLAN035W	Planning Research: Methods and Skills	Core	20	10
7PLAN019W	Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods	Core	20	10
7PLAN020W	Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management	Core	20	10
7PLAN010W	Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience	Pathway Core	20	10
7PLAN041W	Conservation and Heritage	Option	20	10
7PLAN033W	Emerging Landscapes and Urban Ecologies	Option	20	10
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Option	20	10
7TRAN013W	Land Use Planning and Transport	Option	20	10
7PLAN038W	Place and Experience in Design of Urban Spaces	Option	20	10
7TRAN027W	Streets, Places and Active Transport	Option	20	10
7PLAN034W	The Dynamic City: Urban Form, Scale and Movement	Option	20	10
7PLAN039W	Urban Design Project	Option	20	10

MA International Planning and Sustainable Development

Level 7

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7PLAN051W	Dissertation / Major Project	Core	40	20
7PLAN005W	International Planning Field Trip	Core	0	0
7PLAN006W	International Spatial Planning Practice	Core	20	10
7PLAN011W	Planning in a Globalising World	Core	20	10
7PLAN035W	Planning Research: Methods and Skills	Core	20	10
7PLAN019W	Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods	Core	20	10
7PLAN020W	Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management	Core	20	10
7PLAN041W	Conservation and Heritage	Option	20	10
7PLAN033W	Emerging Landscapes and Urban Ecologies	Option	20	10
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Option	20	10
7TRAN013W	Land Use Planning and Transport	Option	20	10
7PLAN038W	Place and Experience in Design of Urban Spaces	Option	20	10
7TRAN027W	Streets, Places and Active Transport	Option	20	10
7PLAN039W	Urban Design Project	Option	20	10

PG Diploma International Planning and Sustainable Development

Level 7

Core modules

Two of the following: 7PLAN011W Planning in a Globalizing World, 7PLAN020W Sustainable Neighbourhood Development, or 7PLAN006W International Spatial Planning Practice (20 credits each).

One of the following: 7PLAN019W Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods, 7PLAN034W The Dynamic City: Urban Form, Scale and Movement or 7PLAN010W Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience (20 credits each)

Option modules

60 credits in option modules (from all modules offered across the Postgraduate International Planning and Sustainable Development programme with the prior approval of the Module Leader concerned).

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7PLAN006W	International Spatial Planning Practice	Core	20	10
7PLAN010W	Planning for Urban Risk and Resilience	Core	20	10
7PLAN011W	Planning in a Globalising World	Core	20	10
7PLAN019W	Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods	Core	20	10
7PLAN020W	Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management	Core	20	10
7PLAN034W	The Dynamic City: Urban Form, Scale and Movement	Core	20	10
7PLAN041W	Conservation and Heritage	Option	20	10
7PLAN033W	Emerging Landscapes and Urban Ecologies	Option	20	10
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Option	20	10
7TRAN013W	Land Use Planning and Transport	Option	20	10
7PLAN038W	Place and Experience in Design of Urban Spaces	Option	20	10
7TRAN027W	Streets, Places and Active Transport	Option	20	10
7PLAN039W	Urban Design Project	Option	20	10

PG Certificate International Planning and Sustainable Development

Level 7

Core modules (40 credits):

Two of the following: 7PLAN011W Planning in a Globalizing World, 7PLAN006W International Spatial Planning Practice, 7PLAN020W Sustainable Neighbourhood Development, or 7PLAN019W Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods (20 credits each),

Option modules (20 credits)

One 20 credit option modules (from all modules offered across the Postgraduate International Planning and Sustainable Development programme with the prior approval of the Module Leader concerned).

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7PLAN006W	International Spatial Planning Practice	Core	20	10
7PLAN011W	Planning in a Globalising World	Core	20	10
7PLAN019W	Sustainable Cities and Neighbourhoods	Core	20	10
7PLAN020W	Sustainable Neighbourhood Development and Management	Core	20	10
7PLAN041W	Conservation and Heritage	Option	20	10
7PLAN033W	Emerging Landscapes and Urban Ecologies	Option	20	10
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Option	20	10
7TRAN013W	Land Use Planning and Transport	Option	20	10
7PLAN038W	Place and Experience in Design of Urban Spaces	Option	20	10
7TRAN027W	Streets, Places and Active Transport	Option	20	10
7PLAN039W	Urban Design Project	Option	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI): RTPI accreditation as a combined planning course. On successful completion of the MA course (Spatial Planning or Urban Resilience) students can become licentiates of the RTPI. After two years' experience in practice, they may make a submission for their Assessment of Professional Competence and, if successful, are then entitled to full RTPI membership. The Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate on its own do not meet RTPI requirements for Initial Planning Education. More information on routes to membership can be obtained from the RTPI website.

Course management

The course is managed and delivered by a small team of permanent academic staff with specialist knowledge in spatial planning and related disciplines, together with additional part-time staff and visiting speakers drawn from practice. The staff teach on related courses and are involved in publication, research and consultancy for variety of public, private and third sector organisations, both in the UK and internationally. The course draws particularly on the work of the Max Lock Centre (see: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/research/groups-and-centres/max-lock-centre>). We maintain close links with practice and members of the team are active in professional associations.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations).

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and additional support available. You will be provided with a Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or equivalent. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part-time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University utilises a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard, where students access their course materials and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard>

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. In addition to online resources in Blackboard, students can also attend Study Skills workshops and schedule one-to-one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development).

Learning support includes our libraries, each of which holds a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services.

Support Services

The University of Westminster's Student and Academic Services department provides a range of advice and guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice>

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union>

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university, a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored annually by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that any issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence from various sources, including student surveys, student progression and achievement, and reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make necessary changes.

Periodic reviews are also conducted to ensure that the curriculum remains up-to-date and that the skills acquired on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Representative students meet with a panel to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess the course's performance.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University, and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is collected in various ways.

- Through student engagement activities at the course and module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire for each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be improved.
- Final-year undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey, which helps inform the national university league tables. Postgraduate students will be asked to complete the Postgraduate Taught Survey (PTES).

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2025©

Additional Details

Field Trip

For the compulsory field trip, accommodation and the costs of scheduled academic activities are covered by your tuition fees. However, students should anticipate some additional out of pocket costs, e.g. for meals, incidental purchases and any optional activities.

Course Learning Outcomes (RTPI) mapped onto course modules for MAIPSD (Spatial Planning and Urban Resilience Pathways)

I = outcome is introduced to students here

C = further work / consolidation of outcome is done here

A = outcome is assessed here

	Course Learning Outcome	7PLAN 011W	7PLAN 006W	7PLAN 020W	7PLAN 034W (SP Pathway)	7PLAN 010W (UR pathway)	7PLAN 005W	7PLAN 019W	7PLAN 035W	Option Module	7PL 001
008	A critical awareness of the complexity of interrelated forces shaping spatial development, the key challenges that surround current trajectories of development across diverse contexts and scales, and the role of planning in addressing them.	I A	C A	C A	I A	I A	C	I A	C	C A	C
009	An understanding of the historical and theoretical foundations of spatial planning, its context, purpose, and scope, as well as different planning roles in public, private and voluntary sectors.	I A	C A	C A	I A	I A	C	I A	C	C A	C
010	In-depth knowledge of key aspects and dimensions of sustainable development and spatial planning's contribution to the creation (and maintenance) of sustainable communities and places.	I A	C A	C A	C	I A	C	I A	C	C A	C
011	Practical understanding of the plan-making and planning decision-making process and knowledge of, and expertise in, skills, techniques, strategies and methods essential for effective working in planning practice and related professions.	I A	C A	C A		I A	C	I A	I	C	C

012	An understanding of the values and ethics of working as a professional in the field of planning and develop students' ability to exercise critical thinking and independent judgement.	I	C	C A		C	C	C	I	C	C
013	An appreciation of the qualities of a reflective practitioner who sees the acquisition of knowledge and skills as a lifelong process and is able to respond – and adapt – to changing roles and contexts within the profession.	I	C	C A		C	C	C	I	C	C
014	An in-depth understanding of ideas, perspectives and debates to a considerable degree of depth in one distinct area of planning.	IA	C A	C A	IA	IA	C	IA	C	C A	C
032	Detailed knowledge of analytical and research skills and the ability to apply them in practice.	IA	C A	C A	IA	IA	C	IA	IA	C A	C
033	Detailed knowledge of verbal and written communication as well as presenting and negotiation skills and the ability to apply them in practice.	IA	C A	C A	C	C	C	C A	C A	C A	C
034	Detailed knowledge of project and self-management skills (e.g. setting targets, managing time and resources, working to deadlines and balancing conflicting demands) and the ability to apply them in practice.	I	C	C	C	C	C	C A	I	C	C
035	Detailed knowledge of skills of reflective practice and the ability to apply them in practice.	I	C	C	C	C	C	C	I	C	C