

# Programme Specification: Transport Planning MSc

## Course record information

<b>Name and level of final award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master of Science - Transport Planning</li> <li>• Postgraduate Diploma - Transport Planning</li> <li>• Postgraduate Certificate - Transport Planning</li> </ul> <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
<b>Name and level of intermediate awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - Transport Planning</li> <li>• Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Transport Planning</li> </ul>
<b>Awarding body/institution</b>	University of Westminster
<b>Teaching institution</b>	University of Westminster
<b>Status of awarding body/institution</b>	Recognised Body
<b>Location of delivery</b>	Primary: Central London
<b>Language of delivery and assessment</b>	English
<b>QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</b>	N/A
<b>Professional statutory or regulatory body</b>	<p>MSc Only: Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT)</p> <p>MSc Only: Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) through the Transport Planning Professional qualification (TPP)</p>
<b>Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSc Transport Planning FT, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length</li> <li>• MSc Transport Planning, Part-time day, September or January start - 2 years standard length</li> <li>• PG Diploma Transport Planning FT, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length</li> <li>• PG Diploma Transport Planning PT, Part-time day, September or January start - 2 years standard length</li> <li>• PG Certificate Transport Planning, Part-time day, September or January start - 1 year standard length</li> </ul>
<b>Valid for cohorts</b>	From 2025/6

## 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 MSc Transport Planning course aims to develop the students' abilities to initiate and undertake qualitative and quantitative analysis and research in the areas of transport policy and planning. In addition, all three awards seek to enable students to develop a thorough, critical awareness of current transport policies and practices.

The course intake is diverse in terms of background and sector experience. Students without experience in the sector are enabled to equip themselves with knowledge, techniques and methodologies required to take policy decisions or to provide the necessary information/knowledge for others to take such decisions. They benefit from learning from the experiences and knowledge of part-time professional students, who in turn benefit from the opportunity to critically reflect on their own practice, and examine transport, policy and planning issues from a wider perspective than their present employment. In addition, equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) have also been taken into account across the programme, such as partly emphasising the fact of the global nature of transport planning, social equity and well-being activities.

The overall objectives are to provide all students with a stimulating academic environment within which to study transport issues, to ensure students are aware of current transport policy and planning issues and to prepare them for a wide range of potential employment within the transport sector by developing relevant transferable skills.

## Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. 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.

The accreditation of the MSc by the principal industry bodies in transport both reflects its relevance to the sector in preparing people for the workplace and provides a mechanism by which the course continues to be tested for that relevance.

Students following this course develop a critical, in-depth understanding of key transport issues, and alongside this skills that will help them progress careers within the sector. The course team is in regular contact with key employers, many of whom regularly both sponsor current employees and employ our recent graduates. Such employers regularly provide information about vacancies and come into the University to speak about the opportunities that they offer. Some offer to partner with full-time students on dissertation topics of interest, for example providing data for analysis, which can be an excellent route in to the industry.

Graduates of the MSc have an excellent track record in finding fulfilling work in the transport sector, both in the UK and overseas. Those who were already working in the sector when they began the course (often part-time students) frequently report that the course has enabled them to progress within in their workplace. Many of our graduates have advanced to senior levels in management and policy-making, within transport operators, public bodies, consultancy companies and non-governmental organisations. Some regularly return to the University, to give guest lectures and/or to attend our alumni events.

Students are encouraged to participate in networking opportunities, such as applying for free or reduced price membership of relevant professional societies, which provide networking opportunities in addition to the wide range of relevant events taking place both at the University and across London.

## What will you be expected to achieve?

### Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the 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)

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 All three programmes : show a critical understanding of the organisational, political, technological, financial, legal and commercial factors which influence the roles and relationships between transport organisations in both the public and private sectors of transport. In addition, students will understand the importance of the political dimension in determining transport policy and operational decisions. ( KU PPP )
- 002 All three programmes: demonstrate a deep knowledge of the theory and practice relating to transport policy, planning and management strategies in the context of an international market environment centred on the UK and with specific attention to London. ( KU PPP )
- 003 All three programmes: apply a thorough appreciation of and commitment to the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion in both their work and their outlook. ( KU )
- 004 MSc and PG Dip: be confident with a range of technical processes widely used in the field of transport planning. ( PPP )
- 005 All three programmes: Demonstrate effective use of personal, technical and professional skills essential for professional and management practice in a wide range of contexts including transport. ( PPP KTS )
- 006 All three programmes: be able to communicate clearly and persuasively in both written and spoken English. ( KTS )
- 007 All three programmes: be able to conceptualise problems and solutions, synthesise varied forms of data and information, select and apply appropriate research methods, and structure and present a set of arguments in a coherent and logical framework. ( KTS )
- 008 MSc Only: have a deep understanding of an area of specialised study in transport. ( KU )
- 009 MSc Only: have an advanced capacity to conduct independent investigation including the exercise of sound judgement in obtaining and assessing evidence of all kinds. ( KTS )
- 010 All three Programmes: be considered by potential employers to have the requisite attributes to work effectively in a transport-planning role. ( PPP )
- 011 All three programmes: show a thorough appreciation of the importance of sustainability and the role that the transport system plays in humans' social, economic and environmental impacts, and demonstrate a commitment to pursuing sustainability in their professional and person conduct. ( PPP )

## How will you learn?

### Learning methods

The course employs a variety of approaches to learning, reflecting the course subject matter and the diversity of the student cohort. The course naturally involves a good deal of independent study. There is also group work, ranging from the informal (class discussion) to the more formal (group assessments). Students learn through reading, writing, and doing - much of transport planning is practical so students carry out some of the "bread and butter" tasks of the transport planner during their studies.

The course team take full account of the variety of learning styles in students and the fact that some students may struggle with certain modes of study, modifying plans as appropriate in response to students' needing reasonable adjustments.

### Teaching methods

The approach to teaching is designed to develop students' intellectual powers; their understanding and judgement; their problem-solving skills; their powers of critical analysis; their ability to communicate ideas effectively and their ability to work effectively in groups.

A varied pattern of teaching and learning methods are used in the course. These include lectures, seminars, case-study exercises, group workshops, simulated business management games, data collection analyses and study visits. Visiting practitioners from transport organisations make an important contribution to the teaching programme. There is a focus on problem-solving in group workshop case-studies, exercises, and discussions. The mix of delivery methods will vary between the modules.

### Assessment methods

Assessment methods used are those thought to be the most appropriate for each module. These range from individual coursework essays, case-study reports, group exercises and closed-book written examinations.

Although the mix of assessment methods varies from module to module, the Transport Planning course team has been conscious of the need to achieve consistency in the balance of workload and weighting between in-module assessed coursework and the end of module tests or closed-book written examinations.

### 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.

# MSc Transport Planning

## Level 7

Those completing the Postgraduate Diploma will amass 180 credits.

An optional transport field trip is also available (zero credits), subject to external influences.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7TRAN024W	Analysing Transport Data	Core	20	10
7TRAN021W	Research Dissertation (Transport)	Core	60	30
7TRAN028W	Transport Economics	Core	20	10
7TRAN030W	Transport Policy and Politics	Core	20	10
7TRAN034W	Airline and Airport Management	Option	20	10
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Option	20	10
7TRAN010W	Freight Transport and Logistics Services	Option	20	10
7TRAN013W	Land Use Planning and Transport	Option	20	10
7TRAN037W	Modifying Transport Behaviour: Theory, Practice and Politics	Option	20	10
7TRAN027W	Streets, Places and Active Transport	Option	20	10

# Postgraduate Diploma in Transport Planning

## Level 7

Those completing the Postgraduate Diploma will amass 120 credits.

An optional transport field trip is also available (zero credits), subject to external influences.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7TRAN024W	Analysing Transport Data	Core	20	10
7TRAN028W	Transport Economics	Core	20	10
7TRAN030W	Transport Policy and Politics	Core	20	10
7TRAN034W	Airline and Airport Management	Option	20	10
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Option	20	10
7TRAN010W	Freight Transport and Logistics Services	Option	20	10
7TRAN013W	Land Use Planning and Transport	Option	20	10
7TRAN037W	Modifying Transport Behaviour: Theory, Practice and Politics	Option	20	10
7TRAN027W	Streets, Places and Active Transport	Option	20	10

# Postgraduate Certificate in Transport Planning

## Level 7

Those taking the Postgraduate Certificate will amass 60 credits.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7TRAN028W	Transport Economics	Core	Various	20	10
7TRAN030W	Transport Policy and Politics	Core	Various	20	10
7TRAN034W	Airline and Airport Management	Option	Various	20	10
7TRAN024W	Analysing Transport Data	Option	Various	20	10
7PLAN029W	Environmental Policy, Assessment and Climate Change	Option	Various	20	10
7TRAN010W	Freight Transport and Logistics Services	Option	Various	20	10
7TRAN013W	Land Use Planning and Transport	Option	Various	20	10
7TRAN037W	Modifying Transport Behaviour: Theory, Practice and Politics	Option	Various	20	10
7TRAN027W	Streets, Places and Active Transport	Option	Various	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

Accreditation to the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT). Students who successfully complete the MSc Transport Planning course will be exempt from the examination requirements for Membership to the CILT.

Students are encouraged to join as student members of CILT while taking the course, enabling them to attend relevant professional meetings, receive the journal, etc.

Accreditation to the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation (CIHT), which manages the TPP qualification programme in partnership with the Transport Planning Society. The course will form part of the pathway for the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification for students who successfully complete the MSc, including the modules Streets, Places and Active Transport and Land Use Planning and Transport.

Course members are also encouraged to join as student members the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation (CIHT), which provides additional resources and networking opportunities.

## Course management

The course is operated by the School of Architecture & Cities, within the University's College of Design, Creative and Digital Industries. Day-to-day management is under the Course Leader, who liaises with individual module leaders as required. Input is also provided by a staff-student course committee which meets twice-yearly.

For more information about this course, please contact the Course Leader.

## Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](https://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, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. 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 uses 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. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and 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 four libraries, each holding 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. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

## **Support Services**

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith 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 each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

## **How do we act on student feedback?**

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/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 before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes

that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are 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 – 2022©

## **Additional Details**

The MSc Transport Planning and Management course aims to develop the students' abilities to initiate and undertake qualitative and quantitative analysis and research in the areas of transport policy, planning and operational management. In addition, all three awards seek to enable students to develop a thorough, critical awareness of current transport policies and practices. Most importantly, we facilitate the cultivation of students' interpersonal abilities, fostering an atmosphere that prioritises equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across the entire program and different modules.

The course intake is diverse in terms of background and sector experience. Students without experience in the sector are enabled to equip themselves with knowledge, techniques and methodologies required to take policy decisions or to provide the necessary information/knowledge for others to take such decisions. They benefit from learning from the experiences and knowledge of part-time professional students, who in turn benefit from the opportunity to critically reflect on their own practice, and examine transport, policy and planning issues from a wider perspective than their present employment.

The overall objectives are to provide all students with a stimulating academic environment within which to study transport issues across the world, to ensure students are aware of current transport policy and planning issues and to prepare them for a wide range of potential employment within the transport sector by developing relevant transferable skills in a global context. Various international case studies have always been used in teaching and practice to support this.

Students following this course develop a critical, in-depth understanding of key transport issues, and alongside these skills that will help them progress careers within the sector. The course team is in regular contact with key employers, many of whom regularly both sponsor current employees and employ our recent graduates. Such employers regularly provide information about vacancies and come into the University to speak about the opportunities that they offer. Some offer to partner with full-time students on key dissertation topics of interest, for example providing data for analysis, which can be an excellent route into the industry. In addition, our course has also been accredited by the professional bodies, meaning that it gives students a full exemption from the examination requirement for membership of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT). This course is also approved by the TPP Professional Standards Committee as meeting the educational requirements for the Transport Planning Professional qualification.

Many of our graduates have progressed to senior levels in management and policymaking, within transport operators, public bodies, consultancy companies and non-governmental organisations. Some regularly return to the University, to give guest lectures and/or to attend our Alumni events. Students are encouraged to participate in networking opportunities, such as applying for free or reduced-price membership of relevant professional societies, which provide networking opportunities in addition to the wide range of relevant events taking place both at the University, across London and the world.

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