



Course Summary: January 21, 2025

Urban Planning BA Honours

- UCAS code: **K421**
- Full time
- 3 years

Our accredited Urban Planning degree allows you to explore the forces that shape our cities and neighbourhoods and help lead the debate about their future.

You are currently viewing course information for entry year: **2025**

Next start date:

- September 2025

Fees (per year)

- Home: **Not set**
- International: **£25600**

Entry requirements and offers

- A-Level: **ABB**
- IB: **32 points**

[View contextual offers](#)

UCAS Institution name and code:

- NEWC / N21

Course overview

Join an exciting and dynamic debate about the future of where we live, work and play.

Our **Urban Planning BA Honours** degree gives you the skills to understand places and the tools to bring meaningful positive change to them.

Combine the latest research with practical planning knowledge, concepts, and skills.

We bring together key skills such as:

- site analysis
- digital planning
- mapping
- research skills

with critical reflections on urban planning, live project work and field trips.

On our programme we'll support you through a substantial research project. As well as this, you'll also develop specialisms through the optional modules that you choose.

Newcastle, a city famous for its friendliness, offers a vibrant case study. From the Industrial Revolution to modernism, and its more recent cultural renaissance.

Subject to conditions, you'll also have the option of switching to our fully-accredited (by both the RTPI and RICS) MPlan programme. This programme

incorporates a postgraduate qualification with a paid professional placement.

Your course and study experience - disclaimers and terms and conditions

Please rest assured we make all reasonable efforts to provide you with the programmes, services and facilities described. However, it may be necessary to make changes due to significant disruption, for example in response to Covid-19.

View our [Academic experience page](#), which gives information about your Newcastle University study experience for the academic year 2024-25.

See our [terms and conditions and student complaints information](#), which gives details of circumstances that may lead to changes to programmes, modules or University services.

Quality and ranking

Professional accreditation and recognition

All professional accreditations are reviewed regularly by their professional body.

Modules and learning

Modules

The information below is intended to provide an example of what you will study.

Most degrees are divided into stages. Each stage lasts for one academic year, and you'll complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each stage.

Our teaching is informed by research. Course content may change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, and student feedback.

Optional module availability

Student demand for optional modules may affect availability.

Full details of the modules on offer will be published through the [Programme Regulations and Specifications](#) ahead of each academic year. This usually happens in May.

To find out more please [see our terms and conditions](#)

You'll build a firm foundation in urban planning. You'll learn to 'read' a city and understand the importance of design and sustainability. You'll also develop knowledge of the political, social and economic forces that shape society and cities.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
Planning Processes	10
Design Awareness and Communication	10
Economics of Development I	10
Environment and Sustainability	10
Social Worlds	20
Understanding Place: Methods and Perspectives	20
Shaping Towns and Cities	20
Planning for a Better World	20

You'll learn vital research methods as well as develop an understanding of professionalism in the planning sector. You'll have a choice of optional modules to help tailor this year to your personal interests, allowing you to develop

specialisms informing your choice of dissertation topic and future career direction.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
Researching Local Economies	20
Research Skills	20
Optional Modules	Credits
Participation: Theories & Practice	20
Houses and Homes	20
Design & Neighbourhood	20
Understanding Cities	20
Digital Civics	20
Urban Infrastructures: A Lens on the City	20
Global Course on Institutional Design for Spatial Planning	20
Study Abroad for Stage 2	40
Researching Local Economies (Placement)	20

You'll study modules concerned with strategic planning, planning politics and development management. A dissertation will give you the chance to study in depth a topic of interest to you, showcasing your knowledge and skills to future employers.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
Strategies into Action: Planning	20

Development Management	20
Planning Theory and Politics	20
Dissertation	40
Optional Modules	Credits
Chinese Cultural History and Urban Development	20
Disasters, Monsters and Mess	20
Strategies Into Action: Urban Design	20

Information about these graphs

We base these figures and graphs on the most up-to-date information available to us. They are based on the modules chosen by our students in 2023-24.

Teaching time is made up of:

- scheduled learning and teaching activities. These are timetabled activities with a member of staff present.
- structured guided learning. These are activities developed by staff to support engagement with module learning. Students or groups of students undertake these activities without direct staff participation or supervision

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods

This programme is vocationally oriented and this is reflected in the methods of tuition we use.

A typical week may involve lectures, seminars, and individual and group project work.

Field trips in the UK and abroad are integral to the programme and form a key part of tuition and assessment.

Our innovative teaching and assessment techniques involve the use of film, posters and presentations, making learning a creative and dynamic process.

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Assessments
- Assignments – written or fieldwork
- Case studies
- Coursework
- Dossier
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Portfolio submission
- Practical sessions
- Presentations
- Projects
- Reflective report/journal
- Reports
- Seminar tasks/exercises

Skills and experience

Practical skills

You'll develop the skills needed to contribute critically to professional and academic debates on the future of place. As such there is an emphasis on coursework over exams, on independent thinking and synthesis of evidence. Structured group work is an essential element of the course, linked to a strong focus on team working in planning practice.

Field trips

You'll take part in frequent field trips and projects, experiencing first-hand examples of planning in the region and further afield.

As a founder member of the Association of European Schools of Planning, we have strong European links, providing the chance to experience differences in planning approaches beyond the UK, such as the international field trip in Stage 2.

Business skills

You'll undertake projects that address real-life planning situations and challenges, taking you out into the city and beyond. Stage 2 of the course focuses on professional development and skills, and you'll develop an understanding of professionalism in the planning sector.

Research skills

In Stage 2, you'll learn how to research and understand how a local economy is structured and operates. In Stage 3 you'll complete a dissertation on a planning topic of your choice, developing high-level research and presentation skills.

Opportunities

Study abroad

In Stage 2 you can choose to spend a whole semester studying in Europe as part of a study abroad exchange.

[Find out more about study abroad](#)

Facilities and environment

Facilities

As a planning student at Newcastle you'll be part of [the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape](#).

Our School has world-renowned expertise in:

- urban planning
- architecture
- landscape architecture
- urban design
- digital architecture

Planning students are based in the Henry Daysh Building, reopening from major refurbishment in January 2020, and have access to a dedicated planning studio with computing facilities and social space.

[Find out more about our facilities](#)

Support

You'll have the support of an academic member of staff as a personal tutor throughout your degree to help with academic and personal issues.

Peer mentors will help you in your first year. They are fellow students who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have when starting university.

We also have a dedicated Learning and Teaching Co-ordinator (Student Support), who can offer you support if you are experiencing issues that may be affecting your performance at University. They can also offer advice about other University services that may benefit you depending on your circumstances.

Your future

Our graduates do exceptionally well in the job market, both regionally and nationally, with many going on to pursue accredited Town Planner status.

Our graduates have also gone on to become teachers, accountants, solicitors, academics, business managers and officers in the armed forces.

Becoming a Chartered Town Planner

To become a Chartered Town Planner you need to fulfil the RTPI educational requirements and then complete two years' experience in planning practice.

- our four-year MPlan degree offers an RTPI-accredited route to Chartered Town Planner status
- our three-year BA Honours degree provides the foundation for this but requires an additional year of master's-level study

This three-year degree satisfies the core spatial planning requirements for RTPI membership, but not the specialist teaching requirements to achieve Chartered Town Planner status directly.

If you decide, during your BA degree, that you would like to become a Chartered Town Planner, you can apply to transfer onto our MPlan degree until the end of Semester 1 of Stage 3 as both courses follow the same programme.

Or you can study a specialist master's qualification, should you decide to return to planning later in your career.

Make a difference

Careers support

We are committed to developing your employability and have a dedicated careers adviser to offer advice and guidance throughout your degree.

If you choose to change your degree to the Masters of Planning (MPlan) degree during your studies, we will help you to secure placement opportunities in a range of planning environments to which you can apply. This experience is a crucial element of reflective study used to inform Stage 4.

Our award-winning Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers. We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through our ncl+ initiative.

[Visit our Careers Service website](#)

Recognition of professional qualifications outside of the UK

From 1 January 2021 there is an update to the way professional qualifications are recognised by countries outside of the UK

[Check the government's website for more information.](#)

Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees:
www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate
- To watch videos about student life in Newcastle, visit
www.ncl.ac.uk/lovenewcastle
- Visit **www.ncl.ac.uk/tour** to take virtual tours of the campus and city
- Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person
www.ncl.ac.uk/openday
- Contact us online at **www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries** or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

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www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations

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