

University College Dublin
An Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath

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



Regional & Urban Planning

Session 2004/05

Contents

Introduction:	4
The Department of Regional and Urban Planning.....	4
Degree of Master of Regional and Urban Planning	7
Admission Requirements and Procedures	7
Examinations	7
MRUP Course Curriculum	8
MRUP Course Structure	8
First Year Modules (Semesters 1 and 2).....	9
Second Year Modules (Semesters 3 and 4).....	12
Degree of Master of Science (Planning) (MSc)	13
Department of Environmental Studies	14
Degree of Master of Science (Environmental Policy) (MSc)	14
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	15

Introduction:

The Department of Regional and Urban Planning

The Department of Regional and Urban Planning is one of more than ninety departments which make up University College Dublin. Regional and Urban Planning is one of the constituent departments within the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. Because of the multidisciplinary nature of planning, the Department also maintains close links with a wide range of other departments, courses and specialisms within the University. The Department is located at Richview, Clonskeagh which adjoins the Belfield campus.

The welfare of societies, economies and the environment is increasingly dependent upon the unique perspective which members of the planning profession can bring to bear upon global and regional problems. Regional and Urban Planning is a profession engaged in guiding the development of the physical environment, 'natural' and man-made, in response to the needs of society. As environmental problems increase in complexity and the rate of change of societies accelerates, the need for planning becomes ever greater. The profession embraces a wide variety of disciplines, including the social and behavioural sciences and the design professions, in order to understand and analyse the relationships between people and the environment (see diagram on page 6).

Within this broad framework, the primary goal of the Department of Regional and Urban Planning is to serve Irish society through the development of the art and science of planning. The Department's approach to that goal is broad-based, involving a wide variety of socio-economic and land use issues ranging from the detail of a local action area plan to the broader strategies of metropolitan and regional development. Reflecting the needs of the country, the course places special emphasis on the positive promotion of development in a planned and orderly fashion. This national interest is reflected in the course structure and the Department's educational and research endeavours.

Stemming from this philosophy, the major objectives of the Department are:

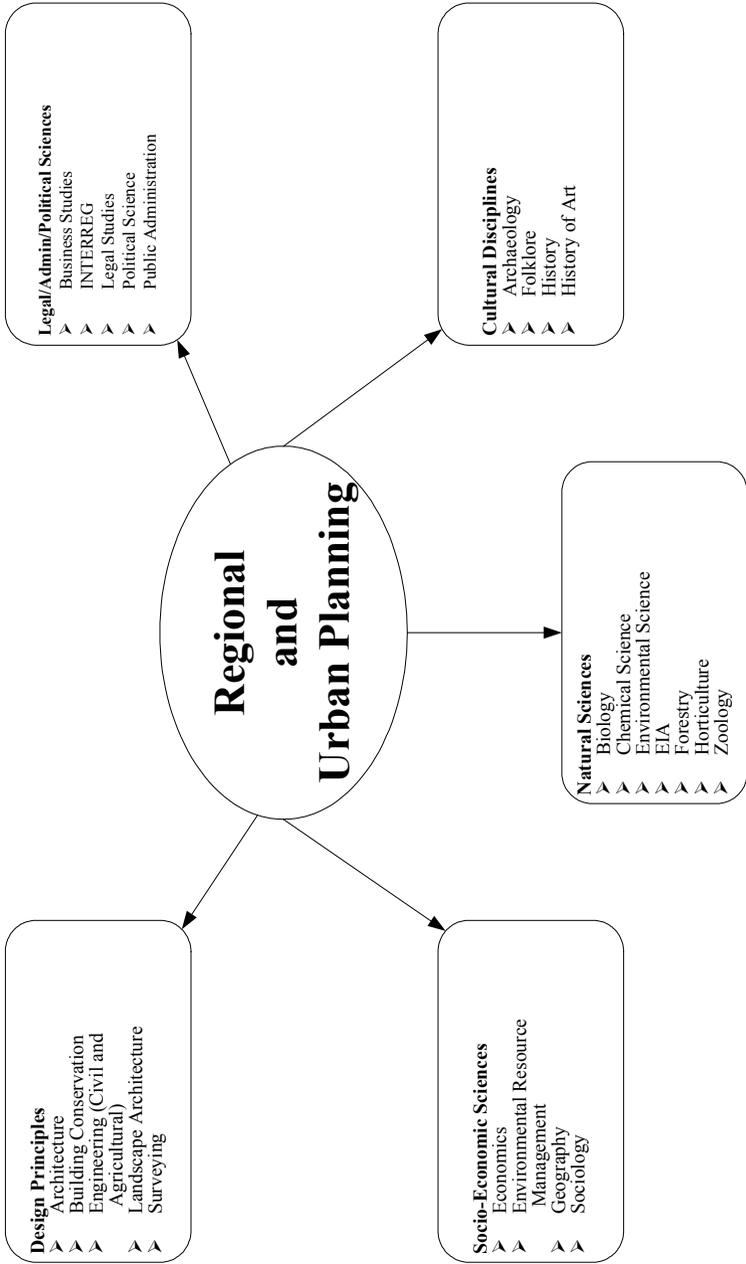
- to provide planners with the planning skills, necessary techniques and the intellectual capacity to respond to changes in society, in the economy and in demands on the environment and to assist in the management of such changes;
- to foster an awareness of the social dimension of planning and development and to ensure that planning policies and practices promote equality of opportunity so as to avoid or eliminate discrimination against any group in society;
- to add to planning knowledge and to improve practice and planning procedures through the promotion and publication of research;
- to advance planning education through the continuing revision of the programme and the adoption of new and more effective methods of teaching and learning;
- to promote planning inputs at every level in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture and throughout College and to establish planning education as central to UCD's menu of environmental and related programmes;

- to provide a practical commitment to public service in the areas of development and the environment and the development of links with the community through applied research;
- to further planning and development education and Continuing Professional Development through public lectures, seminars and workshops and to co-operate with professional institutes, other educational organisations, public and private bodies and community groups in the provision of such educational services;
- to strengthen links with other planning schools and institutes through continued participation in exchange programmes, membership of international planning organisations and committees and participation in international programmes.

The philosophy of the Department is one of service, based on concepts of social justice, economic efficiency and the effective delivery of public service. The Department seeks to continually improve the quality of the educational inputs through staff development programmes and its research programme. In turn this leads to a continuing enhancement of graduate knowledge, skills and values which transmit to planning practice and increases acceptability of graduates by employers. In addition, the Department is increasingly linked into developments at European Union level, and the implications of EU policies and directives are integrated into all the Department's teaching and research activities where appropriate.

The Department's goals and objectives are realised through a range of programmes described in this booklet.

Planning as an Eclectic Discipline/Profession



Degree of Master of Regional and Urban Planning

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

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

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

Admission Requirements and Procedures

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

Candidates seeking admission should obtain an application form from the

Department of Regional and Urban Planning
University College Dublin
Richview
Clonskeagh
Dublin 14

Telephone: +353-1-7162711

Fax: +353-1-7162788

E-mail: planning@ucd.ie

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

Examinations

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

MRUP Course Curriculum

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

Research Methods

Economics

Planning and Environmental Law

Public Policy

Sustainability and Environmental Policy

Transport and the Environment

Planning Strategies and Methodologies

Rural Policy

Placemaking: Urban and Rural Design

Planning, Society and Diversity

Urban and Regional Planning Policy

Planning Practice Studio: Development Planning

Planning Practice Studio: Design and Development Control

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

Planning Practice

Research Project

MRUP Course Structure

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

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

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

Year 1 (Semesters 1 and 2)

1. To provide an understanding of the political nature of planning and its location as part of a complex governance system as well as providing a detailed knowledge of the legal operation of the Irish planning system
2. To provide an understanding that sustainability is a core unifying theme in spatial planning

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

Year 2 (Semesters 3 and 4)

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

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

First Year Modules (Semesters 1 and 2)

Research Methods

RUPP301

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

Economics

RUPP302

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

Planning And Environmental Law

RUPP303

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

Public Policy

RUPP304

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

Sustainability And Environmental Policy

RUPP305

The achievement of sustainable development is often presented as the principal goal of planning. The objective of this module is to provide students with an understanding of the various approaches to defining sustainable development and explores the role of planning in its achievement. The module also provides students with an analysis of the causes of environmental problems and the policy instruments available to address them and introduces students to EU environmental policy and Environmental Impact Assessment as a planning tool.

Transport And The Environment

RUPP306

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

Planning Strategies And Methodologies

RUPP307

Planning methodology is concerned with the array of techniques which planners use to make decisions and to evaluate the outcomes of actions taken. The aim of this module is to familiarise students with a wide range of commonly used planning methods and techniques. The module thus seeks to introduce students to, and develop a proficiency in, some of the main practical methods and means by which planners seek to achieve the strategic and tactical goals they have set, such as strategic planning methods, demographic forecasting, housing needs assessment and retail assessment.

Rural Development and Planning**RUPP308**

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

Place Making: Urban And Rural Design**RUPP309**

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

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

Planning, Society And Diversity**RUPP310**

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

Urban And Regional Planning Policy**RUPP311**

This module explores critical issues in planning policy at a number of spatial scales. It examines the importance of regional and urban policy within the context of attempts to create more competitive cities and regions. The second part of the module explores different perspectives on urban development and regeneration. The role of housing policy as a fundamental component of urban and regional spatial planning is examined in the third part of the module.

Planning Practice Studio: Development Planning**RUPP312**

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

Planning Practice Studio: Design And Development Control

RUPP313

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

Second Year Modules (Semesters 3 and 4)

Planning Practice

RUPP314

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

Research Project

RUPP315

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

Regulations

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

Student Requirements

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

Study Tours

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

Degree of Master of Science (Planning) (MSc)

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

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

RUPP908	Introduction to Quantitative and Qualitative Research Techniques
RUPP909	Research Methods
RUPP910	Project Management for Research
RUPP911	Communication and Presentation Skills

However, exemptions may be granted by the Programme Director if, in his/her view, the Candidate has completed equivalent courses satisfactorily or has equivalent experience.

All courses are completed on a Pass/Fail basis.

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

Admission Procedure

Applications must be made to the Director of Research Degrees, Department of Regional and Urban Planning. If the Department is satisfied as to the applicant's general suitability to undertake the programme, the Department shall forward the candidate's application to the Dean for consideration by the Faculty.

Entry Requirements

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

Department of Environmental Studies

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

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

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

ENVSP901	Research Methods and Presentation Skills in Environmental Economics and Policy
ENVSP902	Topics in European Environmental Economics and Policy
ENVSP903	Resource and Environmental Economics in a European Context
ENVSP904	Advanced Environmental Economics and Policy
ENVSP905	European Union Environmental Policy in a Global Context
ENVSP906	Statistical Computing Methods in Environmental Economics and Policy

However, exemptions may be granted by the Programme Director if, in his/her view, the Candidate has completed equivalent courses satisfactorily or has equivalent experience.

All courses are completed on a Pass/Fail basis.

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

Admission Procedure

Applications must be made to the Head of Department, Environmental Studies. If the Head of Department is satisfied as to the applicant's general suitability to undertake the programme, the Department shall forward the candidate's application to the Dean for consideration by the Faculty.

Entry Requirements

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

Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

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

RUPP908	Introduction to Quantitative and Qualitative Research Techniques
RUPP909	Research Methods
RUPP910	Project Management for Research
RUPP911	Communication and Presentation Skills

However, exemptions may be granted by the Programme Director if, in his/her view, the Candidate has completed equivalent courses satisfactorily or has equivalent experience.

All courses are completed on a Pass/Fail basis.

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

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