Overview

Planning is an exciting, varied and progressive profession which plays a pivotal role in decisions shaping the future of cities and regions. Planners need to see the whole picture: we need to be good thinkers, good analysts and good communicators. We work with stakeholders across the spectrum of interests - from global developers to local communities - to foster feasible, equitable, sustainable and progressive outcomes. Sydney and NSW provide a fantastic laboratory to help understand the crucial role played by planners in addressing complex challenges, systematically placed in its global context through critical analysis and drawing upon best practice.

The Master of City Planning degree is designed for students with an undergraduate qualification in a related discipline seeking to move into a planning or planning-related field. It is also tailored for professionals working in other sectors, especially those whose work may intersect with the planning system, or requires involvement with planning agencies. The degree comprises core courses that strengthen disciplinary foundations and help develop advanced and specific knowledge and skills; elective options which can be structured to pursue a specialist pathway (city development and renewal, healthy sustainable communities, history and theory, city design); and a capstone project, delivered in conjunction with City Futures 'Australia's leading urban research centre' in which students undertake a piece of primary research in their selected area of interest.

The MCP aims to produce high quality graduates who have acquired UNSW Graduate attributes and are capable, through their skills, knowledge and experience, of undertaking a wide range of tasks required of a qualified planning practitioner. As well as preparing for the profession, a planning degree provides lifelong analytical, collaborate and communication skills much in demand more widely.

Course offered in the MCP program are aimed to satisfy they key competence areas required of a qualified planner by the Planning Institute of Australia.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Faculty</strong></th>
<th>Faculty of Built Environment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Campus</strong></td>
<td>Kensington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study Level</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Typical duration</strong></td>
<td>2 Years</td>
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<td><strong>Delivery Mode</strong></td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
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<td><strong>Intake Period</strong></td>
<td>Term 1, Term 3</td>
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<td><strong>Academic Calendar</strong></td>
<td>3+ Calendar</td>
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<td><strong>Minimum Units of Credit</strong></td>
<td>96</td>
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<td><strong>Award type</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Award(s)</strong></td>
<td>Master of City Planning - MCP</td>
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Learning Outcomes

1. Apply concepts and principles of urban planning in practice
   Global Citizens Scholars

2. Implement systematic specialised knowledge and analytical skills to reach appropriate evidence-based decisions to inform planning issues and actions
   Scholars Professionals

3. Examine and evaluate international issues, perspectives, and opportunities within their field of study
   Global Citizens Scholars

4. Practice professional and ethical conduct and personal accountability consistent with the expectations of the planning profession and the community when engaged in planning roles and activities
   Professionals

5. Apply critical thinking skills in order to address multi-scaler challenges and perspectives shaping space and place
   Scholars

6. Develop innovative, multidisciplinary and integrative plans to facilitate and influence appropriate social, economic and environmental outcomes
   Professionals Leaders Scholars Global Citizens

7. Critically analyse, reflect on and synthesise complex information, and apply concepts and theories to practice
   Scholars Professionals

8. Plan and execute a significant piece of independent research relevant to the planning discipline and profession
   Professionals Scholars

9. Communicate and work effectively with a range of stakeholders to inform, consult and engage them in planning processes
   Global Citizens Leaders Scholars

10. Demonstrate cultural awareness, environmental and social responsibility, and a respect for diversity
    Global Citizens

Graduate Capabilities:
For more information on Graduate Capabilities, please click on this link.
Program Structure

Students must complete 96 UOC as a standalone program.

Capstone Course

Students must take 6 UOC of the following courses.

Students who take PLAN7149 Planning Thesis (12 UOC) are required to take BENV7020 Research Preparation for Higher Degree Research Students (6 UOC).

One of the following:

- BENV7020 | 6 UOC
  Research Seminar

- UDES0013 | 6 UOC
  Urban Design Graphics

Capstone Thesis/Design Studio

Students must take 12 UOC of the following courses.

- PLAN7149 | 12 UOC
  Planning Thesis

One of the following:

- UDES0001 | 12 UOC
  Urban Design Studio 1

- UDES0002 | 12 UOC
  Urban Design Studio 2

Core Courses

Students must take 54 UOC of the following courses.

- PLAN7140 | 6 UOC
  Land & Environment Law

- PLAN7141 | 6 UOC
### Land Use Policy & Practice

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<td>CITY BUILDING - INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING</td>
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<td>PLAN7146</td>
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<td>CITY ECONOMICS, URBAN DEVELOPMENT &amp; FINANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUSD0001</td>
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<td>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT</td>
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### Prescribed Electives

Students must take at least 24 UOC of the following courses.

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<td>WRITING THE CITY</td>
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BENV7712 | 6 UOC
Healthy Built Environments

BENV7728 | 6 UOC
Geographical Information Systems and Urban Informatics

BENV7811 | 6 UOC
Urban Renewal

BENV7812 | 6 UOC
Critical Spatial Thinkers

CONS0025 | 6 UOC
Infrastructure Planning, Procurement and Finance

CVEN9405 | 6 UOC
Urban Transport Planning Practice

GEOS9011 | 6 UOC
Environmental Impact Assessment

IEST5001 | 6 UOC
Frameworks for Environmental Management

IEST5002 | 6 UOC
Tools for Environmental Management

IEST5003 | 6 UOC
Addressing Environmental Issues

IEST5007 | 6 UOC
Environment and Development

IEST6909 | 6 UOC
Environmental Management Systems
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<tr>
<td>PLAN7147</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Planning Techniques &amp; Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLAN7156</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Housing Policy and Finance</td>
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<td>PLAN7157</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Engaging Communities</td>
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<td>REST0004</td>
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<td>Property Investment and Finance</td>
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<td>Property Development and Feasibility Analysis</td>
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<td>SUSD0009</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Environmental Auditing</td>
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<td>SUSD0010</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Managing the Sustainable Built Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>UDES0004</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>History and Theory of Urban Development and Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>UDES0006</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Case Studies in Urban Development and Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDES0009</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Urban Landscape and Heritage</td>
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**Capstone Course Maturity Requirement**
Students must have completed 48 UOC before taking any of the following courses.

**BENV7020 | 6 UOC**
Research Seminar

**UDES0013 | 6 UOC**
Urban Design Graphics

**Thesis/Design Studio Maturity Requirement**

Students must have completed 72 UOC before taking any of the following courses.

**PLAN7149 | 12 UOC**
Planning Thesis

**UDES0001 | 12 UOC**
Urban Design Studio 1

**UDES0002 | 12 UOC**
Urban Design Studio 2

**Enrolment Disclaimer**

Unless advised otherwise by your program authority, you should follow the rules for the handbook for the year you commenced your program. You are also responsible for ensuring you enrol in courses according to your program requirements. myUNSW enrolment checks that you have met enrolment requirements such as pre-requisites for individual courses but not that a course will count towards your program requirements.
Related Programs

Master of Property and Development - MPD
8127 Property and Development

Faculty: Faculty of Built Environment
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 72
Typical Duration: 1.7 Years

Read More

Master of Urban Development and Design - MUDD
8131 Urban Development and Design

Faculty: Faculty of Built Environment
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 72
Typical Duration: 1.7 Years

Read More

Master of Sustainable Built Environment - MSBEnv
8132 Sustainable Built Environment

Faculty: Faculty of Built Environment
Campus: Kensington
Units of Credit: 72
Typical Duration: 1.7 Years

Read More
Admission Requirements

Entry Requirements

Admission requirements

A Bachelor degree with a credit average or above (WAM 65+). Students with an undergraduate degree in a cognate discipline are able to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Advanced standing may also be granted for completed or partially completed postgraduate awards from UNSW or from another institution. Applicants who do not meet these standard admission requirements may be able to enter the Grad Cert City Planning in the first instance. This will be at the discretion of the Program Director or Academic Coordinator who will assess applications on a case-by-case basis.

What is a cognate undergraduate qualification?

Urban planning is interdisciplinary in nature and requires students to develop skills sets and build knowledge across a breadth of areas. As such, planners often enter the profession from a commensurate range of backgrounds. Four key subject areas at undergraduate level offer a strong and appropriate background for a postgraduate planning education. These may either be reflected either as a degree specifically in any of these areas, but also where one (or more) of these areas are demonstrated in a substantive Major of a general Arts or Liberal Arts degree

- **Built Environment subject areas**, and in particular architecture, landscape architecture, construction, property development and urban design.
- **Social, economic and environmental science subject areas**, in particular geography, urban studies and sociology, demography, economics, social policy and politics, communication studies, health studies, international development, environmental ecology, environmental management, environmental sustainability
- **Law/Jurisprudence**
- **Environmental and Civil Engineering subject areas**, which would also encompass surveying and spatial science degrees

RPL Provisions

Students with an undergraduate qualification in the above subject/discipline areas will be eligible for RPL provisions of up to 24UOC, subject to application by the student and agreement of the Program Director on a case by case basis. Students
from cognate backgrounds do not have to apply for RPL and can complete the full 96UOC, two year full-time degree if they wish.

For more information about admission requirements for various UNSW programs, visit the following website(s):

Domestic Students
International Student
Program Requirements

Progression Requirements

The MCP Program offers an articulated coursework Planning degree. Students commencing their studies in the Program at the Grad Cert or Grad Dip level will be able, subject to satisfactory performance, to progress to the next stage within the articulated program with full credit for courses already completed. Students who wish to exit the Master's program early may nominate to transfer to and graduate from the Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma provided the requirements for the program have been met. Grad Cert to Grad Dip 24UOC>48UOC Pass (WAM 50+). Grad Cert to MCP 24UOC>96UOC Pass (WAM 50+). Grad Dip to MCP 48UOC>96UOC Pass (WAM 50+).

For more information on university policy on progression requirements please visit Academic Progression.
Pathways

Post Graduate

**Doctor of Philosophy - PhD**

**1120 Built Environment**

Faculty: Faculty of Built Environment  
Campus: Kensington  
Units of Credit: 144  
Typical Duration: 3 to 4 Years

Read More

**Articulation Arrangements**

Other program(s) within articulated suite:

**Graduate Diploma in City Planning - GDCP**

**5148 City Planning**

Faculty: Faculty of Built Environment  
Campus: Kensington  
Units of Credit: 48  
Typical Duration: 1 Years

Read More

**Graduate Certificate in City Planning - GCCP**

**7148 City Planning**

Faculty: Faculty of Built Environment  
Campus: Kensington  
Units of Credit: 24  
Typical Duration: 0.7 Years

Read More
Professional Outcomes

Accreditations

Professional institutes that offer accreditation on completion of this program:

- Planning Institute of Australia

Career Opportunities

The Master of City Planning [MCP] degree provides an excellent platform to take up planning and urban policy-related opportunities across all tiers of government (Federal, State, local), private sector consultancies, property development, and indeed the breadth of built environment professions where planning skills are required. The specialist pathways taken as part of the MCP may direct students towards more specialist areas, for example in housing, urban renewal, environmental management, heritage or urban design related professions. The interdisciplinary skill sets developed through the degree also enable graduates move into wider policy, research, analytical, creative and community roles both in Australia and overseas.
Recognition of Achievement

Award with Excellence

The Award with Excellence is awarded in coursework masters programs, including Masters (Extension) but with the exception of Masters (Extended) such as JD and MD, when a Weighted Average Mean (WAM) of at least 80% has been achieved and at least 50% of the requirements of the award are completed at UNSW. All eligible programs will award 'with Excellence' except in special circumstances where approval of Academic Board has been given for a program to opt out.

For more information, please visit:

Current Students Award with Excellence
Program Fees

At UNSW fees are generally charged at course level and therefore dependent upon individual enrolment and other factors such as student's residency status. For generic information on fees and additional expenses of UNSW programs, click on one of the following:

Domestic Students
Commonwealth Supported Students
International Students
Pre-2019 Handbook Editions

Access past handbook editions (2018 and prior)

Pre-2019 Handbook Editions