



LEEDS
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Course Specification

MSc Urban and Rural
Planning (Joint
Distance Learning
Consortium)

Course Code: MRURP

2020/21

MSc Urban and Rural Planning (Joint Distance Learning Consortium)

Material Information Summary for 2020/21 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed at 09/2019

General Information

Award MSc Urban and Rural Planning (JDLC)

Contained Awards Post Graduate Certificate Urban and Rural Planning (JDLC)
Post Graduate Diploma Urban and Rural Planning (JDLC)

Awarding Body Leeds Beckett University

Level of Qualification & Credits Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England

Course Lengths & Standard Timescales

Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below:

- 3 year (Part time, Distance Learning)

Location(s) of Delivery Distance Learning / Online

Entry Requirements Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning.

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:

AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

The following entry routeways exist for the MSc Urban and Rural Planning (JDLC):

- Cognate degree 2.2 or higher (Geography, Architecture, Surveying, Environmental Science etc)
- Non-cognate degree 2.2 or higher PLUS at least one year of professional planning-related work experience
- OU Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Studies:
<http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/qualifications/w46>
- Non-cognate degree 2.2 or higher PLUS up to 240 approved credits from the Open University

This programme is specifically designed to be an open access course. This means that whatever the background, there will be a personal pathway that can be followed to secure an MSc Urban and Rural Planning (JDLC). Entry requirements for:

Graduates

If you have a relevant degree (such as Geography, Environmental Studies or Surveying) and/or a year or more of work or voluntary experience in Planning, you will only need to complete the three Planning Courses in order to gain the MSc.

If you have Planning experience, you should describe it in detail in your application.

If you do not have a relevant degree or Planning experience, you will first need to take the Open University Environment Course (DST206) before you can join the first Planning course.

Non-graduates

If you are a non-graduate you will normally be required to complete some study with the Open University before starting on the MSc. This will consist of up to 240 credits, depending upon your academic and professional background.

If you need to do all 240 credits, you will study a foundation level module followed by some second and third level modules. You will choose these from a list of modules that we have approved. An alternative is to complete a Diploma of Higher Education in Environmental Studies with the Open University, which has the advantage of giving you a further qualification on your journey to the full MSc.

If you have some relevant qualifications or experience, this may reduce the number of credits that you need to complete. In your application, you should describe in detail your professional experience and qualifications.

You are encouraged to contact the course leader to discuss what study you will need to do to complete the MSc.

Course Fees

Course fees and additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Timetable Information

Timetables will be made available to students during your induction week via:

- i) The Student Outlook Calendar
- ii) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- iii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Policies, Standards and Regulations www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course

Key Contacts

Your Course Director	Dr Mohammad Radfar (m.r.radfar@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)
Your Academic Advisor	As Specified in each module handbook
Your Course Administrator	Sana Waliyat (S.K.Waliyat@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional Body Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)

Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

The Joint Distance Learning Consortium (JDLC) is accredited as an effective Planning School by annual visit of the RTPI Partnership Board. The JDLC has been running since 1985 as the only accredited distance learning Planning course in the UK, and managed and delivered by a consortium of Leeds Beckett University (awarding body and lead institution), University of Dundee, London South Bank University and the Open University. Students on this accredited course are able to register as student members of the RTPI and can benefit from a range of practitioner activities, including attendance at conferences and seminars, regional branch events and Young Planners activities. The School awards annual Future Planners Bursaries to widen participation in its postgraduate planning provision and these are part-funded by the RTPI.

The MSc Urban and Rural Planning (JDLC), taken together with a minimum of two years structured and mentored relevant experience and the RTPI's Assessment of Professional Competence, can provide the basis for election to Chartered Membership of the Royal Town Planning Institute, which carries with it the right to use the designation MRTPI and the title 'Chartered Town Planner'. For other routes of how to become a Chartered Town Planner please follow the link to the RTPI web page:

<https://www.rtpi.org.uk/membership/assessment-of-professional-competence/>

Course Overview

Aims

The MSc Urban and Rural Planning (JDLC) provides an education and, potentially, routeway to become a chartered town planner through distance learning. It is suitable for students anywhere in the world who do not want, or are not able, to complete a part-time or full-time college-based course. The entry requirements include an option for students to study with the Open University prior to joining the full MSc programme. This means students are able to ultimately access the programme irrespective of their backgrounds at the point of initial contact, making this a truly accessible programme. The JDLC guiding principle is: "Access for all to a quality spatial planning education".

The programme is accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and is a unique programme by virtue of the partnership approach and delivery model. The MSc Urban and Rural Planning (JDLC) follows a calendar year, with each course starting in January and concluding in November. The programme includes two exit points; a PGCert after year 1 (60 credits) and a PGDip after year 2 (120 credits).

The course takes approximately 3 years to study, which is longer than a part-time programme which would typically take 2-2.5 years; however, the JDLC programme is specifically designed to be manageable above and beyond a full work and/or family life. The programme is therefore manageable for students in most personal and professional circumstances.

Although principally designed as a route to the planning profession and the professional qualification of the Royal Town Planning Institute, the programme will also be of interest to others wishing to know more about the planning system for reasons other than a professional qualification or a desire to be a town planner. The programme prepares students for work as planners in a wide range of jobs including local or central government and private practice. Graduates are also equipped to work outside the UK through the acquisition of international knowledge and skills. The programme is intended to be an international offer and the content and assessment models ensure relevance, validity and applicability anywhere in the world.

The aims of the programme are:

1. To provide a coherent programme of advanced postgraduate study in urban and rural planning, which is firmly underpinned by a wide range of research (including that carried out by staff in all partner universities who teach on the programme), consultancy, and links with practice;
2. Drawing upon an inspirational programme of learning, strongly linked to practice, to enable students from a range of disciplines and backgrounds to become effective, professionally-qualified planners;
3. To offer a flexible learning environment through effective ICT supported online distance learning, and the ability to take periods of 'time out';
4. To ensure the management of the programme is sensitive and responsive to the study needs of a range of individuals, including mature students in employment;
5. To provide an opportunity for students to study one of a range of specialised areas of planning, within a course built around core planning knowledge and skills; and
6. To encourage students to develop the capacity for advanced thought and action that is independent, critical, reflective and applicable in a range of international contexts.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to fulfil the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) required learning objectives. The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

1. Develop creative and critically substantiated responses to problems and opportunities in planning and demonstrate a commitment to reflective practice, including upholding the highest ethical standards
2. Demonstrate a critical awareness of the social, economic, political and regulatory nature of planning and evaluate development strategies and assess the challenges of planned interventions

3. Demonstrate the critical ability to engage effectively with stakeholders, work in an interdisciplinary context and develop skills in advocacy, negotiation and partnership
4. Critically evaluate the responses of planning to the challenges of sustainability and climate change and demonstrate creativity in planning sustainable interventions
5. Critically evaluate the principles and processes of design in the creation of high quality places and apply planning skills in enhancing the public realm for the benefit of all in society

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

The course is delivered entirely online and employs a variety of teaching and learning activities to fulfil the RTPI learning outcomes. Lectures are used to introduce new topics and concepts and set the boundaries of the subject area. They are closely integrated with online discussion seminars and tutorials. Students are encouraged to use online platforms to present their own ideas for discussion by their peers and to reflect critically upon the issues exchanged and arising. Other activities include:

- Debates are an opportunity for students to research, reflect and present ideas critically in an engaging way. It encourages students to develop communication skills, research skills and allows students to think more deeply about their longstanding views.
- Audio/visual sessions allow students to think abstractly about lecture content and to link subject themes to wider academic or work-based debates/discussions. These often link with seminar sessions and debates particularly well.
- Tutorials provide an opportunity for continuing discussion and dialogue between staff and individuals or small groups.
- Inter-Professional studies with group projects, reports and presentations involving students and practitioners from a range of disciplines.
- 'Live' Projects involve carrying out specific tasks often involving field investigation, analysis, conclusions and recommendations.
- Fieldtrips are used either in the sense of external visits where students can gain an understanding of how, for example, regeneration projects work on the ground, or as locations for conducting fieldwork to develop competence in practical research skills, etc.

Students are also encouraged to develop links with research through, for example, the RTPI and conference series, Planning journals and other research seminars and professional practice conferences.

Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 7 Core Modules (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 for standard PT students)

Context and Law

Local planning

Strategic Planning

Urban and sustainable design principles

International Planning

Integrated Planning Project

Implementation and Delivery

Research techniques

Open University Specialism option module

Dissertation

Years 1 and 2 are each equivalent in workload to a 'full 60 credit (4 X 15 credit modules)' course. The 60 credits in year 3 are made up by a 30-credit Dissertation and the 30-credit Open University option module. Each year is studied in sequence, with pairs of modules released in turn, building progressively on material already covered and increasing in academic difficulty.

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from the core modules and have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director.

A standard module equates to 150 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than 1 component of assessment.

Assessment Balance	Level 7
Examination	0 %
Coursework	100 %
Practical	0 %
Overall Workload for each 15 credit module	

Teaching, Learning and Assessment	960 hours
Independent Study	840 hours
Placement	0 hours

Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, call into or contact the Student Hub on either campus to speak to our Student Experience Team. This team, consisting of recent graduates and permanent staff, are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. There is a Student Hub on the ground floor of the Rose Bowl at City Campus and one in Campus Central at Headingley. You can also find the team in the Gateway in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus. Email enquiries may be directed to studentexperience@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The **Support** tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The **Opportunities** tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.