



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## MA Town & Regional Planning

Course Code: TPLAN

2026/27

# MA Town and Regional Planning (TPLAN)

## Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed at

### General Information

<b>Award</b>	Master of Arts Town & Regional Planning
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Postgraduate Diploma Town & Regional Planning Postgraduate Certificate Town & Regional Planning
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification and Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
<b>Course Lengths and Standard Timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12 months (full time, campus based)</li><li>• 24 months (part-time, campus based)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent.
<b>Location of Delivery</b>	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: <a href="https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/">https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/</a> Admissions enquiries may be directed to: <a href="mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .

## Course Fees

Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

Fees enquiries may be directed to [Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

## Policies, Standards and Regulations (<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>)

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

## Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

### Professional Body

Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)

### Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

Successful completion of this programme provides eligibility to become a Chartered Planning (on completion of Assessment of Professional Competence). Being Chartered enables advancement in the profession and carries significant status and recognition.

## Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

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

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

## Key Contacts

**Your Course Director**

Max Hope

**Your Course Administrator**

Alice Davies – [Alice.Davies@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Alice.Davies@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Course Overview

### Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- to support students in gaining a critical understanding of the rationale for spatial planning, including considerations of housing policy, regeneration, social inclusion, environmental protection, and community engagement.
- to enable intellectual development through appropriate research and enquiry focused as appropriate on areas of specialism.
- to equip students to engage in creative and innovative intervention in spaces and places using appropriate techniques, knowledge, and skills.
- to enable students to explore and interrogate concepts within spatial planning, in particular the objectives of integration and synergy between closely related policy fields.
- to develop independent learning habits, promoting a commitment to lifelong learning for planning practitioners, especially through a student-centred approach to study.
- to encourage and support students as reflective practitioners, including encouragement of self-awareness and the assumption of an ethical standpoint to engagement in planning practice.

### Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	Critically evaluate and assess the social, economic, and political nature of the town planning environment.
2	Demonstrate a critical awareness of the challenges of planned interventions at a variety of spatial scales.
3	Apply skills and knowledge in developing creative responses to problems and opportunities in planning.
4	Demonstrate critical awareness and appreciation of the diversity of interests that play a role in developing, designing, and managing the environment.
5	Demonstrate ability to critically evaluate a specialist area of town and regional planning that may include themes of housing, heritage, sustainability, community engagement or environmental protection.

### Teaching and Learning Activities

#### Summary

All modules except Research Methods and Dissertation operate normally on the basis of weekly classes which combine keynote lectures by staff or visiting specialists with small or whole group teaching and learning. Some timetabled sessions may alternatively require students to undertake directed research tasks or directed reading. Workshops and visits are also included, drawing on the expertise of practitioners or specialists, and where suitable regional practitioners act as clients for group projects. An optional European Field Study visit provides the key vehicle for comparative study of planning practice, and for understanding spatial planning in contrasting socio/economic and political/institutional circumstances.

The Research Methods module is managed both by lectures and workshop discussion or tasks to develop knowledge and skills in methodologies. Dissertation is managed through individual tutorials supplemented by group meetings to discuss shared issues.

The course team expects students to continue their learning outside timetabled sessions, both individually and where appropriate in mixed groups. Students are expected to undertake background reading each week both to enhance knowledge and critical awareness and to inform class discussion. The move to increasing levels of student independence is progressive through the course with students expected to demonstrate a substantial degree of initiative and self-reliance in Dissertation.

## Your 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

### *Compulsory modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Housing Needs	20	1
Local Planning	20	1
Development Value and Viability	20	1
Research Methods	20	1
Legislative Frameworks and Decision Making in Planning	20	2
Planning for Environmental Sustainability	20	2
Inclusive Places: Theory and Practice	20	2
Dissertation	40	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	180	

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

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

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

### Assessment

On this course students will be assessed primarily through coursework, with a presentation. There is a 40-credit point Dissertation module.

### Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	306 hours
Independent Study	1494 hours
Placement	N/A