City Planning &
Environmental Policy
Open Day

18th January 2025
Register at
www.myUCD.ie

UCD
DUBLIN

UCD
CITY PLANNING &
ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY

UNDERGRADUATE
COURSE ENTRY 2025

UCD CITY PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (DN130)
BSc (Hons) (NFQ Level 8)

INTRODUCTION

UCD Planning is part of the oldest, largest and most respected School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy in Ireland. Planning and Environmental Policy at UCD enjoys a strong international reputation with our graduates employed in the public and private sectors, in Ireland, and internationally. The degree is also fully accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

Our degree in City Planning & Environmental Policy is about solving complex issues that we experience in our everyday lives. How can we provide housing for everyone? How can we reduce our climate impact and conserve our natural environment? Where should we build our schools and shops?

This unique degree brings together a focus on the city, the environment and design and links them with clear routes to professions and careers. So, if you are considering a career as a qualified planner or environmental policy analyst this degree is for you. These professions allow you to visualise new patterns and ideas for cities and to bring this vision to reality by activating social change and promoting sustainable development. This course gives you the skills to enable real world change.

INTERNATIONAL STUDY OPPORTUNITES

Students have the opportunity in their third year to spend a trimester studying abroad either inside or outside Europe. Students have previously studied in France, the Netherlands and the USA.

Minimum CAO Points Required
2024: 477 *(Round 1)*
2023: 487 *(Round 1)*

Length of Course
4 Years (BSc)(Hons)

CAO Places Available
29

Entry Requirements
• English (O6/H7)
• Irish (O6/H7)
• Mathematics (O6/H7)
• Three other recognised subjects (O6/H7)

HEAR/DARE Entry Routes
Yes, see www.myucd.ie/dare or www.myucd.ie/hear

Other School Leaving Examinations
Yes, see www.ucd.ie/admissions

Level 5/6 QQI-FET Entry Route
None

Level 6/7 Progression Entry Route
None

Mature Entry Route
Yes, see www.ucd.ie/maturestudents

Open Learning Entry Route
Yes, see www.ucd.ie/openlearning

KEY FEATURES

Unique facilities including dedicated planning & design studios and computer labs

Home to Ireland's best Architecture, Planning and Map Library

Celebrating over 50 years of Planning education

Home to 30+ years of Environmental Policy programmes

Leading Research Centre in Spatial Planning and Environmental Policy

Member of the Association of European Schools of Planning

Fully accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

WHAT'S ON OFFER THROUGH CITY PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN UCD?

As this is a programme focused on tackling real world issues, you will engage with real world topics from the outset. This involves field trips, studio work and pioneering case study analysis. Emphasis is placed on integrating understanding with imagination so that students learn to formulate and test innovative solutions to the planning and environmental challenges facing society. A small class size and the interactive learning environment ensures an enjoyable experience that stimulates creativity and ownership of your career path.

UCD produces planners and environmental policy experts skilled at addressing pressing global, national and local social, political, economic and environmental issues. Therefore, we continually review and update the content of our programme to maintain the high calibre of graduates produced by the School.

The School promotes a research-led teaching approach whereby cutting-edge research undertaken by staff feeds seamlessly into lectures.

This process is advanced

by a teaching team that enjoys an international reputation for consistently producing path-defining research. A key feature of the programme is the delivery of lectures by practising planners and environmental policy experts at the vanguard of their professions. The inclusion of teaching by such field-shaping practitioners ensures that students are continually exposed to leading-edge practice, thereby favourably positioning the School's graduates in the employment market.

EDUCATIONAL MODEL

The City Planning & Environmental Policy degree integrates subjects which will deepen and broaden your understanding of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. The programme is delivered in two parts:

In **Part 1** you will be provided with a comprehensive introduction to Spatial Planning and Environmental Change & Policy by taking an array of core modules. You will begin to develop your awareness of the physical layout and design of urban areas while you deepen your knowledge of environmental policy and the tools to effect change.

Part 2 is the time for acquiring practical knowledge and skills. You will develop a more in-depth understanding of how to plan for positive change by exploring the interactions and interdependencies of land use, transportation and urban design, as well as social and economic issues.

You will also acquire practical communication and analytical skills, in addition to competency in geographic information systems (GIS).

First Year: Introduction to City Planning • Environmental Change & Policy • History of City Planning • Urban Design • Environmental Economics • Inequality & Social Justice in Irish Society • Planning & Development Studio • Contemporary Issues in Planning.

Second Year: Local Planning Studio • Community Development & Planning • Geographical Information Systems • Case Studies in Environmental Policy • Socio-Spatial Dynamics • Rural Change, Development & Planning • Smart Cities • Property and Planning.

Third Year: Environmental Management • Climate Policy & Politics • Transport, Environment and Sustainability • Regional Innovation. In the second Trimester there is the opportunity to pursue a work-based project or to study abroad.

Fourth Year: Planning Institutions and Governance Planning methods, skills and techniques • Planning Design and Development • Environment and Sustainability • Plan Making Studio.

Career & graduate study opportunities

A degree in City Planning & Environmental Policy provides you with both strong analytical skills and the ability to think critically about the built and natural environment. This four year degree programme will provide students with the necessary requirements to pursue a career as a professional planner.

Graduates of UCD City Planning & Environmental Policy can find employment both in Ireland and internationally. While the traditional employers of graduates are city and county councils, many graduates have found rewarding employment in private sector consultancies, multinational businesses, a variety of governmental bodies and NGOs. There are increasing opportunities for planners in the provision of infrastructure, for example, working within the renewable energy sector, or with the large companies and agencies delivering transport and water infrastructure projects.

Salaries equal and commonly exceed those of other built environment professions.

Planners are currently in high demand, meaning that those who graduate as a fully qualified planner can expect to quickly find well paid employment.

Julia Warchala
Student

Why did you choose to study at UCD? I chose to study at UCD due to its excellent reputation and the unique offerings of its campus and programmes. Unlike other universities, UCD doesn't require students to choose between environmental aspects and planning in the CPEP course. This flexibility allows for a broad exploration of subjects like planning development, environmental economics, and urban design, offering the freedom to transition between fields after graduation. The university partners with numerous global institutions, providing abundant opportunities for studies abroad. Additionally, faculty members often involve students in their research, enhancing the practical learning experience.

Does this course have good career opportunities? UCD's high ranking in employment reduced my concerns about future career prospects. The CPEP course opens diverse career paths in both the private and public sectors or further education. It includes internships that offer real-world experience and workshops with employers and successful alumni, which are incredibly inspiring and informative. UCD is also actively engaged with potential employers, ensuring students are frequently recruited directly through the university.

Does UCD provide enough supports to students? UCD's support systems are extensive, ranging from multiple libraries and online resources to specialised services like the UCD Writing Centre. The Writing Centre was a massive help in my first year of college. They offered workshops as well as personalised feedback to enhance my academic writing skills. The career guidance service has also been pivotal in refining my CV, preparing for interviews, and helping me identify the job sectors that best suit my interests.

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