School of Geography and Planning

Undergraduate Degree Programmes

Entry 2018  www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning
Cardiff University School of Geography and Planning

ACADEMIC excellence
HIGH EMPLOYABILITY
Transferable SKILLS
Student SATISFACTION

www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning
WORLD LEADING research
Friendly Supportive Environment

91% of our graduates were in employment and/or further study six months after graduating

Insider Information – Find out more...
Want to know what life at Cardiff is really like?
Our insiders are real students studying a range of subjects. You can read their blogs, post comments and message them on Facebook and Twitter.
To find out more go to: www.cardiff.ac.uk/insiders
Discover the **Cardiff Experience**

**A leading university . . .**

- You’ll be part of a Russell Group university - one of the UK’s world-class universities.
- You can choose from more than 350 degree programmes. The Cardiff University degree is known and respected worldwide with a substantial number accredited by the professions and other external bodies.
- You’ll benefit from outstanding teaching in a research-led environment - Cardiff is ranked in the UK’s top 5 universities for research quality.
- Staff include a Nobel Laureate and numerous Fellows of the Royal Society and other prestigious institutions.

**in an outstanding city . . .**

- You’ll live in a friendly, compact and safe city with all your study, living and leisure needs within walking distance.
- Your money will go further at Cardiff with capital city attractions at provincial prices - Cardiff is amongst the most affordable/cost effective student destinations in the UK.¹

**with able and motivated students . . .**

- You’ll be at a first choice university where demand for places is strong.
- You’ll be studying in an environment with able and motivated students who have high grades at A-level or equivalent.
- You’ll be at an international university with students from more than 100 countries who have excellent career prospects.

**who have excellent career prospects.**

- You can be confident of your future prospects - 95% of our students were employed or had entered further study within six months of completing their studies.²
- You’ll be in demand - Cardiff is among the top 25 universities targeted by employers seeking high calibre graduates.³

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Notes
1. Research by Natwest 2017
2. HESA Destination of Leavers Survey 2016
3. High Fliers Research The Graduate Market 2017

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[Cardiff Connected](www.cardiff.ac.uk)

- @cardiffuniug
- facebook.com/Cardiffuniug
- instagram.com/cardiffuni
- youtube.com/user/cardiffuni

**Contact us**
For students from the UK and EU:
Tel: 029 2087 4455
Email: enquiry@cardiff.ac.uk

For students from the rest of the world:
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4432
Email: international@cardiff.ac.uk

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning](www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning)
Welcome

Cardiff University’s School of Geography and Planning is a leading international centre for teaching and research in human geography and spatial planning. The School is in the top 100 in the World QS University rankings by subject. We are a multidisciplinary school with research in human geography, urban design and planning. We are also one of the leading schools in the UK for professionally accredited spatial planning education.

What makes us special?

❖ Student Satisfaction: We constantly achieve high ratings in the National Student Survey (NSS); overall satisfaction at the School of Geography and Planning has been rated at 94% in the most recent Survey of final year undergraduate students.

❖ Research Excellence: The 2014 Research Excellence Framework, undertaken by the UK funding councils, placed the School 9th in the UK, with 85% of its research assessed as world-leading or internationally excellent.

❖ Professional links and employability: Our Urban Planning and Development and Human Geography and Planning courses are accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). In 2017, 91% of our graduates were in employment or further study within six months.

❖ Teaching and Research: We offer a breadth of teaching and research expertise that enriches the student learning experience.

❖ Field Study Visits: You will have the opportunity to take part in field study visits during each year of your chosen programme. In Year Two, all students travel to continental Europe for a residential field trip. In the final year, global cities provide our destinations (currently Hong Kong, New York, Los Angeles and Tanzania). Field study visits are currently ‘fee inclusive’ in years one and two, and heavily subsidised in the final year.

❖ Facilities: The School is based in the iconic, Grade 1-listed Glamorgan Building and the vast majority of our teaching is delivered here. We have a wide range of state-of-the-art lecture theatres, seminar rooms, design studios, and a computer laboratory.

Professor Paul Milbourne
Head of School of Geography and Planning

Contents

Cardiff: A capital city 4
Cardiff: A leading university 6
Living in Cardiff 8
School of Geography and Planning 10
BSc Geography (Human) 12
BSc Geography (Human) and Planning 14
BSc Urban Planning and Development 16
Teaching Methods and Assessment 19
Global Opportunities 20
Employability and Careers 21
Postgraduate Study 22
Excellence in Research 23
Applications 24

This brochure will provide you with more details of our programmes. We hope that they will give you more than just a flavour of what we have to offer you. However, we are always ready to answer any questions you may have, by post, telephone or email, or when you come to Cardiff for a visit. You will find the appropriate contacts at the end of this brochure.

Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2018 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in October 2017. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website [www.cardiff.ac.uk] before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Any offer of a place to study at Cardiff University is subject to terms and conditions, which can be found on our website [www.cardiff.ac.uk/offermad] and which you are advised to read before making an application. The terms and conditions set out, for example, when we might make changes to your chosen course or to student regulations. It is therefore important you read them, and understand them.

If you are not able to access information online please contact us:

Email: enquiry@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: 029 2087 4455

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.

www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning
Cardiff: A capital city

The Principality (Millennium) Stadium nestles in the heart of the city, and is home to numerous sporting events and concerts throughout the year.
Cardiff is a thriving and attractive city, which is widely recognised as an outstanding place in which to live and study. It combines all the advantages of a compact, friendly and inexpensive location, with the cultural and recreational facilities of a modern capital city.

Cardiff offers everything from the excitement of the city to the peace and tranquility of the nearby coast and countryside. With its distinctive character, good quality of life, and growing national and international reputation, it hosts many high-profile cultural and sporting events, including international rugby, soccer, cricket and motor sport.

When it comes to entertainment, Cardiff is well-equipped to satisfy student needs. There is a multitude of cafés, pubs and nightclubs. The city is home to the world-renowned Welsh National Opera, it boasts prestigious concert venues such as the Wales Millennium Centre, St David’s Hall and the Motorpoint Arena, as well as the iconic Principality Stadium, the National Museum Wales, several theatres and the historic Cardiff Castle.

Cardiff is the location for award-winning television productions, including Doctor Who, Sherlock, Torchwood and Casualty.

The city is one of the UK’s best shopping destinations, with St David’s Dewi Sant retail centre standing alongside pedestrianised shopping streets, indoor and outdoor markets, and a fascinating network of glass-canopied Victorian and Edwardian arcades.

Cardiff also has more urban green space than any other UK city, and offers easy access to the countryside, coast and mountains.

Lively, elegant, confident, cosmopolitan and ambitious are all words readily used to describe modern-day Cardiff. Together, the city and the University provide students with the ‘Cardiff Experience’, a lifestyle our students remember long after graduation.

Don’t just take our word for it . . .
“Cardiff seems to have it all: grand civic architecture in a breezy waterside location, super-smart city bars and venues just a short hop from lovely countryside.”
Guardian University Guide 2016

The surrounding countryside and coast offer superb opportunities for outdoor pursuits

Cardiff is one of the UK’s best shopping destinations

Come and see for yourself . . .
Cardiff benefits from excellent road and rail links with Britain’s other major towns and cities. London, for example, is two hours by train, and the M4 links both the West and South of England, as well as West Wales. Travel to the Midlands and to the North is equally convenient. The journey by road from Birmingham, for example, takes only two hours. The main coach and railway stations are both centrally placed, and Cardiff also benefits from an international airport.

“Cardiff seems to have it all: grand civic architecture in a breezy waterside location, super-smart city bars and venues just a short hop from lovely countryside.”
Guardian University Guide 2016
Cardiff: A leading university

www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning
Cardiff University has an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research, built on a history of service and achievement since 1883, and recognised by our membership of the Russell Group of leading research-led universities.

We have an international reach and are globally recognised and were recently ranked 99th in the world in the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities league table.

With attractive and compact campuses, excellent student accommodation, and a hugely popular Students’ Union, all within easy walking distance of each other in a thriving city, it is not surprising that Cardiff is a first choice university for many.

We admit approximately 5,000 undergraduate entrants each year, the majority of whom are school and college leavers, and have high grades at A-level or equivalent. While competition for entry is strong, Cardiff is an inclusive university with a good record on widening participation and fair access, and we welcome applications, irrespective of background, from everyone with the potential to succeed at Cardiff University.

The University’s Cathays Park Campus is located in and around the impressive Portland stone buildings, parks and wide tree-lined avenues that form Cardiff’s attractive civic centre. The majority of academic schools are located here - just a few minutes’ walk from the city centre. The three academic schools offering healthcare courses (excluding Optometry and Pharmacy) are based at the Heath Park Campus, approximately one mile away, which is also home to the University Hospital of Wales.

Although dating from 1883, Cardiff is focused on the 21st century, and has modern state-of-the-art buildings and facilities. The University has invested substantially in its estate in recent years and continues to do so today. Most academic schools have benefited from major refurbishment, including new and well-equipped laboratories, lecture theatres, libraries and computing facilities. International opportunities are available via our Global Opportunity Centre. These include study, work and volunteering placements in 27 EU countries as well as international exchange opportunities. All students also have the opportunity to study a language, in addition to their degree, through the University’s Languages For All programme.

The University takes its environmental, safety and security responsibilities very seriously. It has comprehensive policies in place which are making great savings in energy consumption and, to support the safety and security of all members of the University community and their property, there is 24-hour security cover throughout the campus.

What the Guides say...

“The University is as confident and forward-looking as the city it’s located in, and has an excellent reputation for the quality of its teaching and research.”

Guardian University Guide 2016

Cardiff University is among the best in the UK for preparing graduates for the workplace.

Times Higher Education – Global University Employability Ranking 2016

Cardiff offers one of the best student experiences in Wales, according to the latest Times Higher Education UK Student Experience Survey.
Living in Cardiff
As a fast developing capital city, Cardiff is a great place to be a student. It’s large enough to offer you an exciting variety of activities and entertainment, but small enough for you to feel comfortable in.

Accommodation
Cardiff offers guaranteed University accommodation of good quality and value, and a range of residences to suit individual preferences and budgets.

All undergraduates who accept their offer of a place from Cardiff, on a firm basis, are guaranteed a single occupancy place in University residences during their first year of study.

Please see our website for full details of our accommodation guarantee and associated deadlines: www.cardiff.ac.uk/residences

The University is continually investing in its student residences, and the views of students are taken into account at the design stage. Unusually for a civic university, most of our residences are within easy walking distance of lecture theatres, libraries, laboratories, the Students’ Union and city centre.

There are 15 different residences, providing more than 5,500 study bedrooms and students can apply for the residences which best suit their preferences, interests and budgets. Some 70% have en-suite shower and toilet facilities and all halls of residence have computer network connection points and access to Wi-Fi.

Fees depend on the facilities included and whether catered, part-catered or self-catered, but prices compare very favourably with those of other UK universities. Besides managing University property, the Residences Office maintains close links with the private sector and provides assistance to students seeking to rent or share houses or flats.

Student Life
The Students’ Union
Cardiff Students’ Union is one of the biggest, best and most active in Britain. A multi-million pound investment has been made in Union facilities in recent years, which has included a new venue called Y Plas, which at night becomes a nightclub.

Hosting live music, club nights, stand-up comedy, fashion shows and awards ceremonies, there’s lots to keep you entertained from your first day to your last.

Other facilities include a food court, a bank, a print shop, a hair salon and a bookshop. The Lounge offers IT and Skyping facilities, meeting rooms and a “chill-out” area, as well as snooker tables and multi-faith prayer room. The Union also has its own letting agency and an Advice and Representation Centre. In addition, it is home to CU TV and Xpress Radio (the students’ own TV and radio stations) and more than 200 cultural, political, religious, social, sporting societies and clubs.

Jobshop
Jobshop is the Union’s own student employment service and provides casual, clerical and catering jobs around the University to hundreds of students.

What the Guides say . . .
“Cardiff is one of the best UK cities for young adults because of its low cost of living, good job opportunities and decent wages.”
The Complete University Guide 2017

Cardiff is amongst the most affordable/cost effective student destinations in the UK.
Research by NatWest 2017

“Cardiff has one of the biggest, best and most active students’ unions in the UK and is currently benefitting from a multi-million pound investment.”
The Complete University Guide 2017
School of Geography and Planning

We are one of the leading schools in the UK for research and teaching in human geography and spatial planning. Our reputation is built on delivering cutting edge research and innovative teaching, enabling our students and staff to transform places through critical thinking and public engagement.

The School occupies premises in the Glamorgan Building at the Cathays Park Campus. This historic listed building provides particularly attractive accommodation close to the city centre.

www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning
We are a renowned centre of research and teaching excellence in the fields of human geography and planning, and offer a suite of courses that provide you with a stimulating educational experience and a firm basis for graduate level entry into employment.

Our courses focus upon the grand challenges faced by human societies and places in the twenty-first century. Our research-led teaching enables students to apply critical thinking and practical knowledge in addressing impacts of economic, social, political and cultural change on the built and natural environment.

We are one of the largest schools of its kind in the UK, with over 70 teaching, research and support staff. Staff-student numbers are favourable and there is considerable expertise available for you to be able to pursue your specialist interests.

A number of our courses are recognised by professional bodies. Professional recognition improves your employability and demonstrates the close relationships we enjoy with employers in the private and public sectors.

As well as their subject expertise, all the degree programmes teach a rich array of transferable skills, so that you develop high levels of literacy and numeracy, excellent IT and data analysis skills, a wide range of presentational skills and group working techniques.

We enjoy close relationships with employers in the private and public sectors, enabling us to offer a range of work placements. You also have the opportunity to collaborate with staff on research projects through the Cardiff Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (CUROP).

We regularly host events with external speakers. These provide insights into links between academic ideas, policy and practice, and provide an excellent opportunity for you to learn about a variety of careers.

As one of our graduates you are highly employable in a wide number of professions and sectors, such as local government, town planning, international development, environment and sustainability, banking, accountancy and HR. Some graduates go on to further academic study.

We have an outstanding record of academic achievement. Our teaching has been rated as ‘excellent’ and we have been consistently ranked one of the top planning and human geography schools in the UK in terms of our research environment and number of world-leading researchers. The School makes for an invigorating environment in which you can pursue your academic and professional development.
The course combines theoretical and conceptual approaches to the relations between space, place and environment with detailed empirical studies of geography in action. The degree explores geographical ideas and practice at various spatial scales, making connections between the local, regional, national and global levels.

The degree critically engages with the key social, political, economic, and development components of geography, whilst the important connections to physical geography are maintained through a range of modules that explore the connections between environment and society. You can choose from a range of specialist modules which build on your own interests and passions.

A key focus of this course is the relevance of human geography, particularly to policy-makers and the public. You will have the opportunity to learn how the discipline informs elected decision-makers, helps the voluntary sector and seeks to improve civil society. The course also provides you with a valuable opportunity to translate your geographical knowledge into practice by offering a work placement module in the second year. This module enables you to ease your transition between education and the ‘real world’ by providing crucial work experience beyond the University.

Choosing this degree will also develop and strengthen your skills in the broad range of research methods used in the discipline. With supervision from an expert active in your research area, you will undertake exciting projects at home and abroad. The quality of these dissertations often leads to progression into postgraduate study and even publication.

We place a great emphasis on practical learning. To this end there are field study visits in each year of the undergraduate programme. In year one, these field study visits are local to the Cardiff city region. In year two, you will enjoy a residential field study visit to a European city (currently Amsterdam).

In your final year, you can opt for a field study visit to a global city location. You can currently choose from the following destinations: Hong Kong, New York, Los Angeles or Tanzania. Field study visits are ‘fee inclusive’ in years one and two, and subsidised by 66% in year three. Innovative teaching and learning ideas, excellent staff to student ratios, and overseas field study visits ensure that as a BSc Geography (Human) student you receive the highest quality learning experience.

BSc Geography (Human)

The BSc Geography (Human) is an exciting and innovative degree course that will provide you with a comprehensive and critical understanding of human geography as well as opportunities to specialise in particular areas of the discipline.

UCAS Code: L700 BSc/HuGe
Charlotte Eales
BSc Geography (Human)

“Studying Human Geography at Cardiff University has allowed me to explore the intricate and fascinating relationships between people and places, through economic, social, political and cultural lenses. The School has an outstanding reputation for research and teaching and is continuing to grow in size, thus, giving students a wealth of opportunities to immerse themselves in the most up-to-date and relevant geographical knowledge. Annual field study visits allow students to apply what they’ve learnt in lectures to real-life scenarios whilst exploring cities they may never have the chance to visit otherwise. For me, living in Cardiff has provided the perfect opportunity to further my studies and to experience the lively and exciting atmosphere associated with a capital city, whilst providing a safe, welcoming and enjoyable university experience.”
The BSc Geography (Human) and Planning offers you a unique opportunity to study a combination of human geography and planning, drawing on the breadth of expertise in the School and with the option of a placement year in practice.

UCAS Code: LK74 BSc/GP3

This course, which is accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), provides you with a broad-based spatial education that combines the problem-solving approaches of planning with the topical insights of geography. As well as forging strong links between the planning and geography disciplines, the programme has been specifically designed to provide you with key employability skills that will give you an all-important edge in an increasingly competitive labour market.

You will gain an understanding of global, national and local processes of change, key environmental, social, cultural, political and economic trends and the role that planning plays in shaping their effects on different places. The course examines the changing nature of spaces and places, the relationship between society and space, and the roles of the state.

Placing local and national issues in a global context, the course covers topics ranging from environmental change in Europe, and economic and social change in the UK, to regional and international development.

The course combines an appreciation of transnational spatial change with detailed case study work, through field study visits, away days and projects. It fosters an understanding of the main geographical trends in the world today, along with the analytical skills needed to study spatial change. At the same time, you are expected to constantly link the insights derived from the geography modules to the more specific concerns of urban and regional planning.

The combination of a general overview of human geography and planning linked to a research specialism allows you to cover a wide range of academic concerns while also following your own particular interests. Overall, the programme places emphasis on fusing the geography and planning disciplines, with a view to developing a theoretically driven problem-solving approach to pressing social and environmental issues.

The coverage of the degree and its recognition by the Royal Town Planning Institute make graduates from the programme highly prized by employers across a variety of sectors.

In each year, field study visits fulfil a crucial element of teaching and learning. In year one, a number of modules take you on day trips to local destinations. In Year Two, all students travel to continental Europe for a residential field trip (currently to Copenhagen). In Year Three, global cities provide our destinations (currently Hong Kong, New York, Los Angeles and Tanzania).
Field study visits are ‘fee inclusive’ in years one and two, and subsidised by approximately 66% in year three.

(The programme outline provided below relates to the RTPI-accredited pathway. The course can also be taken on a non-accredited pathway, providing you with an additional range of specialist geography and planning modules from which to choose.)

For 2018 entry, there will be the possibility of pursuing, within the accredited pathway, a placement option that is similar to the current Urban Planning and Development offering (see page 18).

Year 1
The first year provides an introduction to the core areas of geography and planning. You will cover issues such as the nature of geographical thinking, globalisation, the core elements of planning, and the developing world. You will also develop the essential skills for accessing and processing information.

Students currently study:
- Making Knowledge: Evidence and Practice
- Key Issues in Urban Planning
- Places and Plans
- Society, Diversity and Planning
- The Geographical Imagination: An Introduction to Human Geography
- Urban Economies

Year 2
The second year builds on year one, looking in more depth at the history of geographical thought, the economic and cultural sub-fields of geography, the core practical disciplines of planning, and planning’s application to environmental issues. A stream on geographical research provides a review of research techniques and issues, and also acts as an introduction to the dissertation to be completed in the third year.

Students currently study:
- Developing Research Methods I
- Developing Research Methods II
- Sustainable Development: Concepts, Practices and Challenges
- Geographical Ideas
- Site Planning and Development Valuation

Plus two option modules from:
- Citizen Geographies
- Development and Underdevelopment
- Learning from Liveable Cities
- Political Geography: Place, Space and Power
- Post Carbon Worlds: Energy Geographies
- Regulating Development: Planning Law and Policy
- Social Geography: Spaces of Inequality and Welfare

Year 3
The third year pulls together the modules on planning and on geography in a combined Geography and Planning module. You also work towards your research dissertation, under the guidance of a specialist academic supervisor.

You will then be able to choose the remaining three modules from a range of options, which include one from a number of field study visits (FSVs) to various destinations. The options and FSVs are designed to enable you to specialise in particular topical areas and develop your own pathway through the degree.

Students currently study:
- Geography and Planning
- Planning Theory and Practice
- Research Dissertation

Plus three option modules, which may include one field study visit:
- Climate Change
- Gender, Space and Place
- Geographies of the Developing World
- Housing Inequalities: People, Places and Policies
- Researching Contemporary Issues in Hong Kong
- Researching Contemporary Issues in Los Angeles
- Researching Contemporary Issues in New York
- Researching Contemporary Issues in Tanzania
- Spaces of Retail and Consumption
- Urban Design Guidance in Planning Practice

Jamie Trybus
Geography (Human) and Planning
“I wanted to choose a degree that kept my options open after graduation. Geography and Planning was ideal. The course offers a wide range of modules giving a broad perspective of fields, from economics and GIS, to statistics, environmental law and cultural geography. The field trips have helped broaden my horizons. Cardiff is a great city to live in and the University offers support on all levels from finance to career advice. This is an ideal degree in the current economic climate.”
BSc Urban Planning and Development

What can be more exciting than the challenge of shaping the places where we live? The BSc Urban Planning and Development course is designed for those who want to understand how places work and how to change them. This professional degree opens up a wide range of career opportunities in planning, development and surveying.

UCAS Code: K490 BSc/CRPl (3 years) or K446 BSc/CRP (4 years including placement)

Planning is an exciting activity that impacts on our everyday lives. Planning influences everything from the homes where we live, opportunities for employment, and the quality of our town centres. It also affects the quality of public spaces, the availability of green spaces and the ways we move between different parts of our towns and cities. Places are complex and continually changing, and graduate planners need the knowledge and skills to manage and promote change.

The Urban Planning and Development course provides you with an understanding of the social, economic, political and environmental factors that shape cities and regions. You will also learn how to influence these processes in order to deliver more sustainable communities that are better places to live in for everyone.

You will have the opportunity to specialise in modules focusing on different areas of planning, spend time studying overseas, and participate in field study visits in the United Kingdom, Europe and globally. Your modules will involve practitioners and experts from the world of practice to bring your studies to life and help you to apply your knowledge. There is opportunity for you to obtain extended, salaried placement experience where you will gain real responsibility and depth of experience.

The course is recognised by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) as a spatial planning degree, and students frequently progress to the School’s specialist master’s courses to complete the RTPI’s educational requirements.

You will experience a wide range of different types of assessment on the course. These include professional reports, presentations, posters, site analyses and development briefs, films, debates, and both individual and group work. Your assignments will help you to become proficient in a series of planning skills and more general skills.

Graduates from the course have an excellent track record in securing employment in careers in planning, surveying, design and development, as well as transport, economic development, environmental policy, housing and urban regeneration.

And, because the course places emphasis on developing a wide range of skills, it can open up opportunities in a wide range of careers outside of planning.

Cardiff and its city-region provide many fascinating case studies of planning. Cardiff’s waterfront and docklands developments provide an insight into the tensions between environment and economy.

www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning
The practical emphasis of the course is reinforced by field study visits. First year field study visits are local to the Cardiff city region. In Year Two, you will travel to continental Europe for a residential field trip (currently to Copenhagen). In Year Three, the focus turns to a non-European location (currently Hong Kong, New York, Los Angeles and Tanzania). Field study visits are ‘fee inclusive’ in years one and two, and subsidised by approximately 66% in year three. Year one and two trips are fee inclusive.

Year 1
The first year introduces you to the key ‘building blocks’ of planning, and also gets you straight into practical ‘live projects’.
You will develop a critical understanding of the social, economic and environmental processes that influence places and how they function.

Students currently study:
» Making Knowledge: Evidence and Practice
» Key Issues in Urban Planning
» Places and Plans
» Property, Urban Development and Regeneration
» Society, Diversity and Planning
» Urban Economies

Field study visits fulfill a crucial element of teaching and learning. Here are some of our final year students during a trip to Hong Kong

Lotti Wilkinson
BSc Urban Planning and Development
“I’m on placement at Rolfe Judd in London, and the placement year has been invaluable. I’ve really enjoyed applying my university knowledge in a real-life environment. The work provides me with a great sense of accomplishment and achievement. And the placement has really helped me develop my organisational and communication skills. I’ve developed a great relationship with my employer and they have asked me to come back after I graduate.”
Placement year in Practice

Students entering the placement year secure valuable practical experience in professional practice with a public or private organisation. The placement is a period of supervised office training with an employing organisation which is prepared to deliver a range of experience and a structured programme of work.

The placement year contributes towards the professional experience requirements of both the RTPI and the RICS, providing one of the minimum two years' professional experience for full membership.

We will help you to secure this salaried placement and you will usually secure your placement on a competitive basis from a range of opportunities advertised through the School. You can also explore opportunities with a wider range of employers if you have a specialist interest in a specific form of experience.

Placements are offered by a range of different employers in the private and public sectors, as well as in the third sector such as charitable trusts and campaigning organisations. The following organisations have recently been among those offering placement opportunities:

- **Private planning consultants** – Pegasus Planning, White Young Green, RPS, Adams Hendry, Rolfe Judd
- **National government** – Welsh Government, Scottish Government
- **Government agencies** – Transport for London, The Planning Inspectorate
- **Local planning authorities** – Vale of Glamorgan Council, London Borough of Hounslow
- **Regeneration and housebuilding companies** – Redrow Homes, Newport Unlimited

All placements are salaried between £14,000 and £17,000, depending on location, and placements usually last for 12 months. Placement year students quickly become part of a professional team and secure depth of experience and a level of responsibility that is not possible in shorter periods of experience. Many placement employers recruit their placement employees on graduation, sometimes helping to fund their postgraduate studies.

As a placement student you will complete a series of assignments that are aligned with the assessment of professional competence (APC) requirements of the professional bodies. You will return to the School midway through the placement year to take part in a range of seminars and tutorials.

**Final Year**

The final year provides a valuable opportunity for you to reflect on the learning across the course to date, including any period of professional practice, and allows you to develop a specialism within a specific subfield of planning. It serves as an important component of the course in bridging the worlds of practice and academic study. Emphasis is placed on developing the qualities of a critical, reflective practitioner and encouraging you to think carefully about the nature, instruments and impacts of planning.

Students currently study:

- Planning Theory and Practice
- Research Project
- Sustainable Transport

Plus three option modules, which may include one field study visit module:

- Contemporary International Planning
- Climate Change
- Housing Inequalities: People, Places and Policies
- Infrastructure Development: Swift, Smart and Sustainable?
- Mobilities: Travel, Tourism and Communication
- Researching Contemporary Issues in Hong Kong
- Researching Contemporary Issues in Los Angeles
- Researching Contemporary Issues in New York
- Researching Contemporary Issues in Tanzania
- Spaces of Retail and Consumption
- Urban Design Guidance in Planning Practice

The option modules are an important step in developing a specialism in planning. They complement your core modules and help you to determine your preferred route to specialised study at master’s level.

Final year students celebrate the successful completion of their course on the steps outside the Glamorgan Building
Teaching Methods and Assessment

Typically you will study six modules per year, and will receive an average of 12 hours of guided study per week. Teaching takes place through a variety of methods, including lectures, seminars, field study visits, studio work and workshops.

Subject-based teaching is enriched by opportunities to participate in study skills training, employability workshops, and interaction with high profile speakers from academia, policy and business, who contribute to the School’s Impact and Engagement programme.

Our degrees are designed with your employability to the fore. The programmes have a strong identity, designed to build knowledge year on year, leading to the development of critical skills, academic insight and professional awareness that allows for the potential of each student to be realised.

We encourage innovation and creativity in the delivery and assessment of teaching and learning, for example, the use of digital media and field study visits. Skills training ranges from presentations to critical thinking through to film-based assessments. Forms of assessment will equip you for the demands of a changing workplace; from individual academic essays and policy reports for a range of stakeholders to group presentations.

Personal Development and Support

Every student is assigned a personal tutor from among the School’s academic staff. Your personal tutor will help you with a wide range of issues from helping you to reflect on feedback in your modules, through to supporting you with any issues that may impact on your studies.

We also offer individual Personal and Academic Development Planning (PDP). This process is introduced in the first year of all undergraduate courses and allows you to reflect upon your learning, performance, and future plans.

Facilities

The School, as a leading research centre, is especially well resourced. You will have use of computer teaching facilities which are fully supported by technical staff, and are used for database management, computer aided design, census retrieval, statistical and graphical software packages.

Photocopying, plan printing, report binding and related facilities, are all available in the School. The Geography and Planning Library is located in the adjacent Bute Building; University libraries have nearly one million books and subscriptions to more than 4,000 periodicals.

As a fast developing capital city, Cardiff is a great place to be a student. It’s large enough to offer you an exciting variety of activities and entertainment, but small enough for you to feel comfortable in.

We maintain an extensive collection of all the latest electronic resources, books and journals published worldwide in the planning and geography subject areas.

There is a special collection of the most popular books, ensuring easy access for all students, and many resources are available electronically for access off-site at all times. All of the library facilities are computerised, enabling you to conduct computer-based literature searches and to automatically reserve books.

www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning
Global Opportunities

Studying, working or volunteering abroad as part of your university experience is a great way to broaden your academic knowledge, immerse yourself in another culture and gain skills that will be highly valued by employers.

Cardiff University has links with over 250 top-ranked institutions and can provide you with the opportunity to embark on an overseas placement in Europe and across the world.

European Exchanges
The University has exchange partners throughout Europe as part of the Erasmus+ programme. All of our degree programmes offer the opportunity to spend at least a semester abroad, and this counts towards your degree at Cardiff University. All our partners offer modules where teaching is delivered in English.

International Exchange
There are also opportunities to study at some of the world’s top-ranked universities in countries such as the USA, Canada and Australia. Modules taken overseas also count towards your degree at Cardiff.

Funding
Spending time abroad doesn’t necessarily have to be more expensive than studying in Cardiff. There are a range of funding sources such as grants, bursaries, loans and tuition fee discounts to make overseas placements more accessible to all students.

The School of Geography and Planning has established a number of partnerships with overseas Institutions to enable our students to study overseas through the Erasmus+ and International Exchange Programmes. The table below shows when would be the best time for you to go overseas taking into consideration the constraints within your programme/scheme of study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Programme</th>
<th>Erasmus semester (Europe)</th>
<th>Study abroad semester (Canada, Australia, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geography (Human)</td>
<td>Autumn, Year 2 or 3</td>
<td>Autumn, Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography (Human) and Planning</td>
<td>Autumn, Year 2 or 3</td>
<td>Autumn, Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Planning and Development</td>
<td>Spring, Final Year</td>
<td>Spring, Final Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We currently have 10 partners across 7 European countries and 7 partners across 4 non-European countries. These partnerships are likely to increase in number in the future.

Summer Programmes, Internships & Volunteering
A range of short-term summer placements lasting a minimum of four weeks during the summer holidays are also available. These include international study programmes, internships and volunteering projects across a wide range of international organisations and charities.

For further information please contact globalopportunities@cardiff.ac.uk or visit http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/global-opportunity

Find out more
To help you find the right opportunity, the University has opened its Global Opportunity Centre where staff can provide information on all the opportunities available, as well as offering advice and support to students before, during and after a placement.

For further information please contact the Erasmus and International Exchange Coordinator within the School, Dr Georgina Santos
Email: SantosG@cardiff.ac.uk, to discuss the options available or drop by at the Global Opportunity Centre.

Find out more at: www.cardiff.ac.uk/globalopportunities

www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning
What’s it like to study abroad?

Louise Winchester, a recent graduate of the BSc in Human Geography, reflects on her experience of studying abroad through the Erasmus programme.

Where did you study?
I undertook an Erasmus Exchange to Stockholm University in Sweden during my third year on.

What did you enjoy most about studying abroad?
I met so many new people from all over the world, who were all keen to try new things and explore the country, it really motivated me to work hard and make the most of every day. The experience definitely opened my mind and I can’t believe I ever doubted going. It was such a fantastic experience that I didn’t want to leave!

Sophie Yates, also a recent graduate of the BSc in Human Geography, shares her experience of studying abroad through the Erasmus programme.

Where did you study?
I studied abroad at Groningen University in the Netherlands during my third year.

What influence has studying abroad had on your studies?
There was a great mix of students from all over the world. Studying in the Netherlands has opened up many new opportunities, such as new travel experiences, and it is helping me decide what to do with my degree.

Languages for All
In September 2014 Cardiff University launched a new initiative offering you the opportunity to improve your language skills alongside your studies at university. Our flexible and innovative choice of study options mean you can learn a language in a way that suits you, whether it is weekly, intensively or independently. Whether you are a complete beginner or just want to further improve your language skills, we cater for all abilities and offer a choice of six different language courses:

- Arabic
- Mandarin
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Italian
- Japanese
- Spanish
- Russian

Find out more at: www.cardiff.ac.uk/languagesforall

We also offer the innovative Welsh for All programme which enables you to learn Welsh alongside your studies, for free, and utilises new and interactive teaching methods.

Employability and Careers
As well as their subject expertise, all degree programmes teach a rich array of transferable skills so that you develop high levels of literacy and numeracy, excellent IT and data analysis skills, a wide range of presentational skills and group working techniques. You also benefit from the opportunity to study in one of our partner institutions in Europe.

Employers included: national and local governments, business consultancies, sustainable energy centres, environmental agencies, housing strategy companies, construction companies, surveyors and universities.

Career destinations included: graduate training programmes, charity officer, development officer, economic analyst, aid worker, environmental consultant, planning officer, project manager, surveyor, transport planner, research officer and teacher.

www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning
Postgraduate Study in the School of Geography and Planning

The School of Geography and Planning also provides a range of opportunities for postgraduate study. This allows you to extend your studies and also complete the educational requirements of a wide range of professional bodies.

Undergraduates will have had the opportunity to select option modules related to the our specialisms and many choose to progress to the our master’s courses. These are internationally recognised courses and relate closely to our areas of research expertise.

Students completing an RTPI accredited undergraduate degree frequently progress to one of our specialist master’s courses. These are all recognised by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and provide all of the education requirements for membership of the RTPI. Some of the courses are also recognised by other professional bodies. The master’s courses offered by the School are:

**City Futures (MSc)**
This course explores the dimensions of contemporary urbanisation in the context of the challenges and opportunities of contemporary processes of globalisation. There is an emphasis on analysing, from a theoretical and methodological point of view, the practical aspects of problem solving in the context of the globalised city and anticipated city futures.

**Eco-Cities (MSc)**
This programme explores both critical theoretical understanding and actual practices about processes of low carbon eco-city development and how they relate to the implementation and application of sustainable development policies worldwide. It enables you to acquire the knowledge and skills of green and low carbon development, and innovative planning approaches for sustainable (ecological) city development.

**European Spatial Planning and Environmental Policies – Planet Europe (MSc)**
This two-year (120 ECs) integrated master’s programme prepares graduates for a career in environmental and spatial planning in Europe, with an emphasis on international and crossborder working. It is a joint programme of Radboud University Nijmegen, Blekinge Institute of Technology and Cardiff University.

**Food Politics and Sustainability (MSc)**
This degree offers in-depth insights into the opportunities for (and barriers to) food security, sustainability and justice; the implications of food policies on the spatial and socio-economic relationships between different actors in the food system and between rural and urban areas; and the development effects of strategies that address the welfare and health needs of the human and animal population.

**International Planning and Development (MSc)**
Spanning the disciplines of spatial planning and development studies, this professionally accredited programme enables you to acquire the knowledge and critical understanding to make a significant contribution to the design and management of future cities.

**Spatial Planning and Development (MSc)**
This professionally accredited programme provides a basis for understanding the objectives of planning and what methods of intervention might be effective and appropriate in different social and political contexts. It develops core planning skills, applicable at a range of spatial scales, with particular sensitivity to the relationship of planning to the development process.

**Urban and Regional Development (MSc)**
This programme provides you with an opportunity to examine the range of issues covered by the subject, especially the interplay between economy, state and civil society. It will also furnish you with an opportunity to review debates, investigate substantive issues and acquire problem-solving skills through project-based teamwork, and develop the analytical and social skills which are increasingly being sought.

**Sustainability, Planning and Environmental Policy (MSc)**
This programme is aimed at those wishing to gain expertise on contemporary sustainability issues. You will gain insights into the ways in which problems are defined, and the scope for applying cutting-edge policy and planning solutions to the environmental challenges faced by government, business and regulatory bodies.

**Transport and Planning (MSc)**
This programme aims to develop your capability to make an effective contribution at the highest level to the planning, policy making and management of transport in both the UK and overseas. It is unique in offering the opportunity to study different aspects of transport including planning, travel behaviour and analysis, economics, operation and management as well as other areas in urban planning.

**Urban Design (MA)**
This programme uses design practice, theory, development and control practices to inform design processes, and uses studio teaching focused on local development possibilities to develop creative, practical and sustainable solutions to a range of typical urban design problems.

**Planning Practice (PgCert)**
This PgCert is designed to complement specialist master’s degrees in planning. It provides a grounding in spatial planning principles and practice which, together with a specialist master’s degree, allows graduates to make a positive and lasting contribution to professional planning.

**Social Science Research Methods (MSc)**
We offer a Pathway in Environmental Planning which enables you to improve your skills in an array of cutting edge research methods.
Students benefit from the most up-to-date information and instruction as a result of staff involvement in research, a factor that contributes to the high employment rate of our graduates. In addition, the income from research activity enables us to invest in modern technology and equipment for students.

While the majority of research projects focus on the UK, staff have carried out research, consultancy and teaching in Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia, India, China, Malaysia, Japan, South Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere. We are also defined by our commitment to engage with the wide range of actors involved in the planning, governance and development of cities, regions and rural spaces. Our Innovation and Engagement Unit plays a key role in this through its timetable of high profile research seminars and public lectures. You will be able to attend these events to learn more about wider research and policy debates in the fields of planning and human geography.

We have research strengths in human geography and planning in the following areas:

The Environment Research Group is a large cluster of human geographers and planners interested in understanding and addressing the multiple dimensions of the environmental crisis. Members of this group undertake research on climate change, sustainable food systems, renewable energy, community growing, rural development and environmental governance. The Environment Research Group combines expertise in a wide range of theories and methods – including biosecurity, participatory democracy, social justice, food security and ecological footprinting. Its members share a commitment to innovation and engagement and an interest in the development of collaborative approaches with researchers in other disciplines.

The Spatial Planning and Analysis in City Environments Research Group specialises in both theoretical and applied research on a wide range of topics related to cities and urban environments. Research includes that which helps us better understand the way cities and urban environments work, as well as helping to develop better planning and policy approaches to designing and managing of urban settlements. The substantive interests of the group include land use, population change, urban morphology, transport, and housing. The group is characterised by both quantitative and qualitative approaches to research, as well as mixed methods and data integration. These are complemented by specific methodological interests in spatial analysis, computational and statistical modelling.

The Urban and Regional Governance Research Group specialises in the study of socio-economic change in towns, cities, regions and city-regions, its impacts on different social groups, and different places, and its relationship to policy and planning.

It is currently leading major international research in key areas of regional economic development around smart specialisation and economic resilience.

The Social and Cultural Geography Research Group brings together social and cultural geographers on cutting edge international research agendas. The group engages with feminist, postcolonial, post-structuralist and ‘more-than-representational’ theory. Such critical thinking is undertaken with reference to a diverse range of empirical topics such as breastfeeding, homelessness, drugs and alcohol, cycling, food banks, religion, surfing, fashion, music and dance, animal-human interactions, and community gardens and allotments. Funded through organisations including the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council and the European Union and underpinned by ethnographic, innovative and participatory methods we undertake research in case study locations around the world.

Excellence in Research

The School of Geography and Planning enjoys a truly international reputation for the quality of its research and this directly enhances the quality of teaching. The School contains a significant number of world-leading human geographers, and has been consistently rated one of the top planning schools in the UK in terms of its research environment and number of world-leading researchers. This research activity feeds directly and indirectly into the undergraduate experience.
Applications

As a world-leading centre in the subjects of Human Geography and Planning, our standards are high and we select the most able and committed students who can derive greatest benefit from the excellent teaching and outstanding research in the School. To be considered for a place to study at Cardiff University you should apply online via the UCAS website using the ‘UCAS Apply’ facility at: www.ucas.com/apply.

UCAS will send your application to the University and the School will issue a decision to you as soon as possible. You will also be invited to attend one of the School Open Days which are held between November and March. The Open Days are an opportunity to meet existing students, to have an informal discussion with a member of the academic staff, to find out what life is like as a student here, and to learn more about the School and the University.

Entry Requirements
All applicants must normally have passed English Language and Mathematics at GCSE (at least grade C) or have an equivalent qualification.

Geography (Human)
UCAS Code: L700 BSc/HuGe
A-level: AAA-ABB, including Geography
Welsh Bacc: AAA-AAB to be achieved from 2 A-levels (to include Geography) and the Welsh Baccalaureate core
Int Bacc: 36-35 points, to include a minimum of 666 at Higher Level, including Geography

Geography (Human) and Planning
UCAS Code: LK74 BSc/GP3
A-level: AAA-ABB, including Geography
Welsh Bacc: AAA-AAB to be achieved from 2 A-levels (to include Geography) and the Welsh Baccalaureate core
Int Bacc: 36-34 points, to include a minimum of 666 at Higher Level, including Geography

Urban Planning and Development
UCAS Code: K490 BSc/CRPl (3 years) or K446 BSc/CRP (4 years including placement)
A-level: AAA-ABB, no set combination of subjects
Welsh Bacc: AAA-ABB to be achieved from 2 A-levels and the Welsh Baccalaureate core, no set combination of subjects

Int Bacc: 36-34 points, to include a minimum of 666 at Higher Level, no set combination of subjects
The UCAS Tariff is applied to all UK qualifications. General Studies is not normally accepted as an A-level subject for Admissions purposes.

Equality and Diversity
Cardiff University is committed to promoting equality and diversity in all of its practices and activities, including those relating to student recruitment, selection and admission. The University aims to establish an inclusive culture which welcomes and ensures equality of opportunity for applicants of all ages, ethnicities, disabilities, family structures, genders, nationalities, sexual orientations, races, religious or other beliefs, and socio-economic backgrounds. This commitment forms part of the Equality and Diversity Policy which is available at: www.cardiff.ac.uk/cocomequalityanddiversity/index.html

Open Days
University-wide Open Days are held throughout the year and provide the opportunity to visit all schools in addition to residences, the Students’ Union and sports facilities.

For further information please visit our website at: www.cardiff.ac.uk/opendays

Applicants with Disabilities/ Special Needs
All offers to study at Cardiff University are made solely on the basis of academic merit. Where applicants have specific requirements that relate to a disability or medical condition, they are encouraged to discuss these with relevant staff in order that appropriate arrangements can be made to ensure the University provides an accessible environment. Specifically, applicants are invited to contact the Disability Adviser who can provide information about the applications procedure, course delivery and access to the physical environment. Where appropriate, informal visits can be arranged in which applicants can view accommodation and meet academic staff.

The Disability Adviser can be contacted at the Student Advisory Service, 50 Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3AT
Tel: 029 2087 4844
Email: disability@cardiff.ac.uk

Applicants with Technical Qualifications
Applications from those offering alternative/vocational qualifications (e.g. Access, BTEC Nationals, Vocational A-level) are welcome, as are those who may have combinations of qualifications or other relevant work/life experience. Please contact the admissions tutor for further information.

Overseas Applicants
We welcome applications from overseas students and the School already has a number of overseas students studying both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. An offer will be made to you based on achieving an entry standard equivalent to UK qualifications.

For further information contact:
Admissions Tutor:
Dr Richard Gale, School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University, Glamorgan Building, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3WA
Tel: 029 2087 4022
Email: gandpenquiries@cardiff.ac.uk

Tuition Fees and Financial Assistance
The University charges an annual fee which covers all tuition fees, registration and examinations other than the re-taking of examinations by students not currently registered. Please note charges for accommodation in University Residences are additional.

Please see the following website for more information: www.cardiff.ac.uk/fees
Terms and Conditions

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Tel: 029 2087 4455
Email: RobertsL9@cardiff.ac.uk

How to find the School

We are located in the Glamorgan Building, which sits at the heart of the Cathays Park Campus, a short walk from the city centre. The building is very close to Cathays railway station and is easily accessible from University halls of residence.
To find out more about the School of Geography and Planning please visit our website: www.cardiff.ac.uk/geography-planning

Got questions about student life? Get them answered at: www.cardiff.ac.uk/insiders

Some of our current students are sharing their experiences online through their Facebook pages, so if you want to know what life as a student at Cardiff is really like, then you can find out now. There is also lots of information about what is happening in Cardiff, including articles written by our students, videos, and much more.