



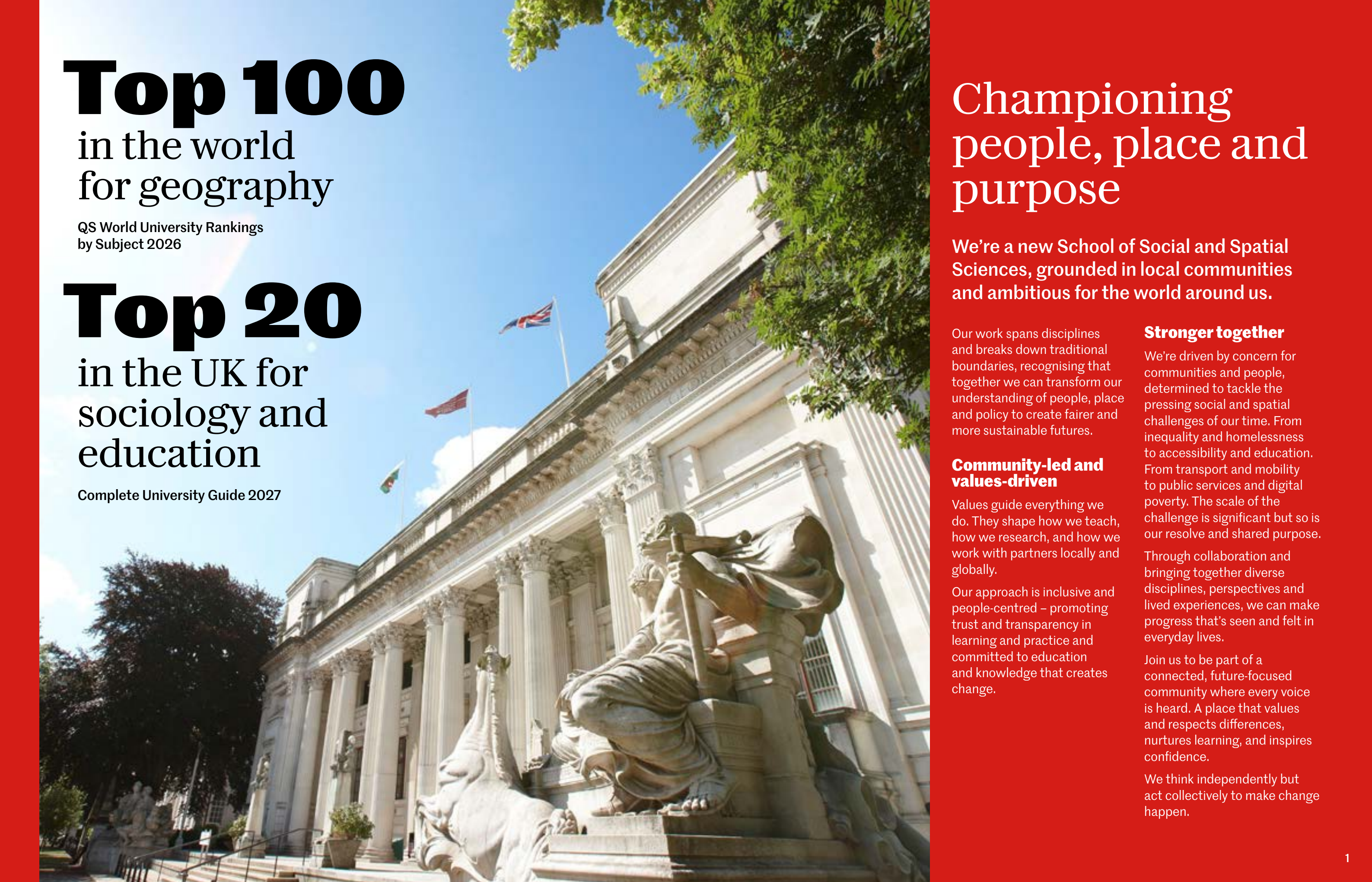
CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

School of

Social and Spatial Sciences

Undergraduate
degree programmes



Top 100

in the world
for geography

QS World University Rankings
by Subject 2026

Top 20

in the UK for
sociology and
education

Complete University Guide 2027

Championing people, place and purpose

We're a new School of Social and Spatial Sciences, grounded in local communities and ambitious for the world around us.

Our work spans disciplines and breaks down traditional boundaries, recognising that together we can transform our understanding of people, place and policy to create fairer and more sustainable futures.

Community-led and values-driven

Values guide everything we do. They shape how we teach, how we research, and how we work with partners locally and globally.

Our approach is inclusive and people-centred – promoting trust and transparency in learning and practice and committed to education and knowledge that creates change.

Stronger together

We're driven by concern for communities and people, determined to tackle the pressing social and spatial challenges of our time. From inequality and homelessness to accessibility and education. From transport and mobility to public services and digital poverty. The scale of the challenge is significant but so is our resolve and shared purpose.

Through collaboration and bringing together diverse disciplines, perspectives and lived experiences, we can make progress that's seen and felt in everyday lives.

Join us to be part of a connected, future-focused community where every voice is heard. A place that values and respects differences, nurtures learning, and inspires confidence.

We think independently but act collectively to make change happen.

Focused on your future



Graduate not just with a degree, but with the knowledge, experience and confidence to tackle today's grand challenges.

From day one, we encourage you to think about life beyond university, offering modules, guidance and support to give you a competitive advantage when you graduate.

Studying a degree in human geography, planning or the social sciences will help you develop skills such as intellectual self-reliance, the ability to process information and make considered judgements, constructive criticism and a willingness to seek solutions. This will enable you to develop transferable skills in communication, team working, problem solving, time management, and information and communication technologies.

Careers support

Through our Student Futures service, you'll benefit from a tailored range of careers related events, advice and support throughout the year that can help you meet your career ambitions.

- one-to-one careers guidance appointments
- careers workshops including CV writing, applications, social networking, and interviews
- professional networking events and careers fairs with top graduate employers
- professional guest speakers
- work experience placements and advice
- jobs board including graduate vacancies, internships and placements.

Enhancing your studies

You might choose a professional placement year programme – which allows you to build your workplace profile, knowledge and network. Or you might choose to study abroad, immersing yourself in a new place and culture, developing resilience and intercultural understanding and respect. These new experiences help to shape your personal and professional skills and stand out in a competitive jobs market after graduation.

With several of our degree programmes carrying professional accreditation – including the Royal Geographical Society (RGS), Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and the British Psychological Society (BPS), you know that your degree carries the stamp of approval from industry-leading bodies. Accreditation not only validates the quality of our programmes but also opens the door to a myriad of career opportunities and professional development.





Our degrees in human geography, urban planning and the social sciences

It's never been more important to understand the relationship between people, place, and society and to examine the processes, powers and policies that shape where and how we live.

In a dynamic and supportive learning environment, you'll be encouraged to explore, question, and create. You'll graduate with the skills for a range of exciting careers and the motivation to make positive change to communities locally, nationally and globally.



Explore our degrees in the **social sciences** and view our entry requirements.

Applications

You should apply through UCAS. Entry requirements for our programmes run from AAB to BBC – depending on the chosen degree. Full entry criteria and requirements are available on our website.



Explore our degrees in **human geography** and **planning** and view our entry requirements.

Criminology (BSc)

UCAS code: **L370**

Other options with Criminology

Criminology and Sociology UCAS Code: **8F46**

Law with Criminology UCAS Code: **M190**

The study of criminology investigates how social groups or behaviours are defined as ‘criminal’ or ‘anti-social’, how different approaches to criminal justice policy balance protection, rehabilitation and control, and how victims are affected by their experiences.

We draw on a range of social science disciplines including sociology, social policy, law, political science, history, and anthropology.

Study focuses on developing the ‘criminological imagination’ within the social sciences, beginning by examining how to approach problems of crime, justice and control as a social scientist before applying these research-driven disciplinary skills to reveal real world issues and debates.

You’ll develop a specialised appreciation of criminological research and the operation of criminal justice and crime control processes.



Education (BSc)

UCAS code: **8G46**

Other options with Education

Sociology and Education UCAS Code: **8J46**

Welsh and Education UCAS Code: **QX53**

Education is a stimulating and challenging social science subject that explores and questions the social, psychological, political and economic foundations of education.

Teaching on this programme is informed by our research in education and developments in policy and practice, encompassing aspects of culture and identity, childhood and youth, gender and ethnicity, and social justice and inclusion.

You’ll benefit from our close links with policy makers as well as local schools, colleges, and other education and training organisations. You’ll also have opportunities to engage with educators and practice to develop your own experience, and to apply theory and practice to real life situations.

The core modules of this programme are aimed at developing a deep understanding of the social, historical, political, economic, and developmental contexts of education in Wales, the UK and internationally, allowing you to consider education in a global context.



“The staff were always happy to help with any queries. They want you to learn and enjoy it.”

Charlie, Education (BSc)



Human Geography (BSc)

UCAS code: **L700**

(with a Professional Placement Year UCAS code: **L701**)



Accredited by the Royal Geographical Society (RGS), this programme explores the complexities of human interaction with the environment, society, and space.

Through a blend of theoretical exploration and practical application, you'll engage with key concepts in human geography, such as urbanisation, globalisation, cultural landscapes, and social inequality.

You'll develop your knowledge and critical understanding of the complex relations between the

natural and human world, and an awareness of how places outside your everyday experience are created.

Together, we'll explore geographical ideas and practice at various spatial scales, making connections between the local, regional, national, and global levels.

The programme offers a flexible curriculum that allows you to tailor your studies to your interests, with opportunities to specialise in your chosen areas of expertise.



“The teaching staff are amazing, they make the lectures and seminars interesting and show a lot of passion for their subject. They're always there to help and allow you to develop your full potential.”

Katherine, Human Geography with a Professional Placement Year (BSc)



Human Geography and Planning (BSc)

UCAS code: **LK74**

(with a Professional Placement Year UCAS code: **LK75**)

With a unique focus on both human geography and planning, you'll gain the interdisciplinary knowledge and practical expertise needed to make meaningful contributions to the sustainable and equitable development of our cities and regions.

Develop your 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.

We delve into the complex dynamics of urbanisation, sustainable development, spatial planning, and social justice, gaining a nuanced understanding

of how human activities shape - and are shaped - by the spaces we inhabit.

Detailed case study work through field study visits, away days and projects will give you an appreciation of transnational spatial change.

This programme can be taken on an accredited (by the Royal Town Planning Institute - RTPI) or non-accredited basis.



“I chose to study here because of the wide range of different modules and the interesting field trips - and Cardiff is a brilliant city. There are plenty of places to explore, and it's very student orientated.”

Harry, Human Geography and Planning (BSc)



What's it like to study **human geography** or **planning** with us? Watch as current and recent students show you their experience.

Human and Social Sciences (BSc)

UCAS code: **58H2**



Accredited by the British Psychological Society as the basis for graduate membership, this programme provides an integrated perspective on psychology, which emphasises its social, conceptual and historical aspects, along with a core of social research methods.

The only course of its kind currently on offer in the UK, this programme will allow you to build up a range of skills and knowledge, whilst developing a critical understanding of psychology as a social science in a range of issues such as social change, gender, class and ethnicity.

In addition to core modules in psychology and social research methods, you'll be able to study

a wide range of modules in education, sociology, social policy, and social analytics.

The flexibility of this programme allows you to tailor your optional modules to a particular pathway if you have a specific career in mind. Alternatively, you can pursue an interdisciplinary approach by studying a range of topics and debates from across the social sciences.



“My favourite thing about being a Cardiff Uni student was the staff and how helpful they were throughout my studies.”

Emilia, Human and Social Science (BSc)

Sociology (BSc)

UCAS code: **8H46**

Other options with Sociology

Criminology and Sociology UCAS code: **8F46**

Politics, International Relations and Sociology UCAS code: **LL36**

Sociology and Education UCAS Code: **8J46**



Sociology is dedicated to the study of social life as found in groups, institutions and societies.

A degree in sociology provides critical tools for handling the analysis of all aspects of social conduct, from the intricacies of face-to-face interaction to the ways in which individual actions and beliefs shape, and are shaped by, the social world around them.

Our programme is characterised by rigorous, theoretically informed empirical research.

Expertise amongst our staff includes childhood, youth and ageing; the study of sexuality, health and the body; the construction and reconstruction of identities; the rise of consumer culture; and the profound transformations to social, cultural and private life which economic and technological globalisation have delivered.

“I loved learning about the world and about why people do what they do.”

Emily, Sociology (BSc)

Social Science (BSc)

UCAS code: **L301**

Study across the social science spectrum, encompassing sociology, criminology, education, social analytics, social policy and psychology.

This programme will introduce you to a range of social science perspectives and methods. You can build on this foundation by choosing modules that reflect your own academic and career interests.

Designed with flexibility in mind, you'll sample a broad mix of topics from across the wide range of available options, or you can organise your studies thematically and gain multiple perspectives of the same topic, such as gender, ethnicity and inequality.



Watch short course introductions for our **social science** degrees.



Social Policy (BSc)

(as a joint honours programme only)

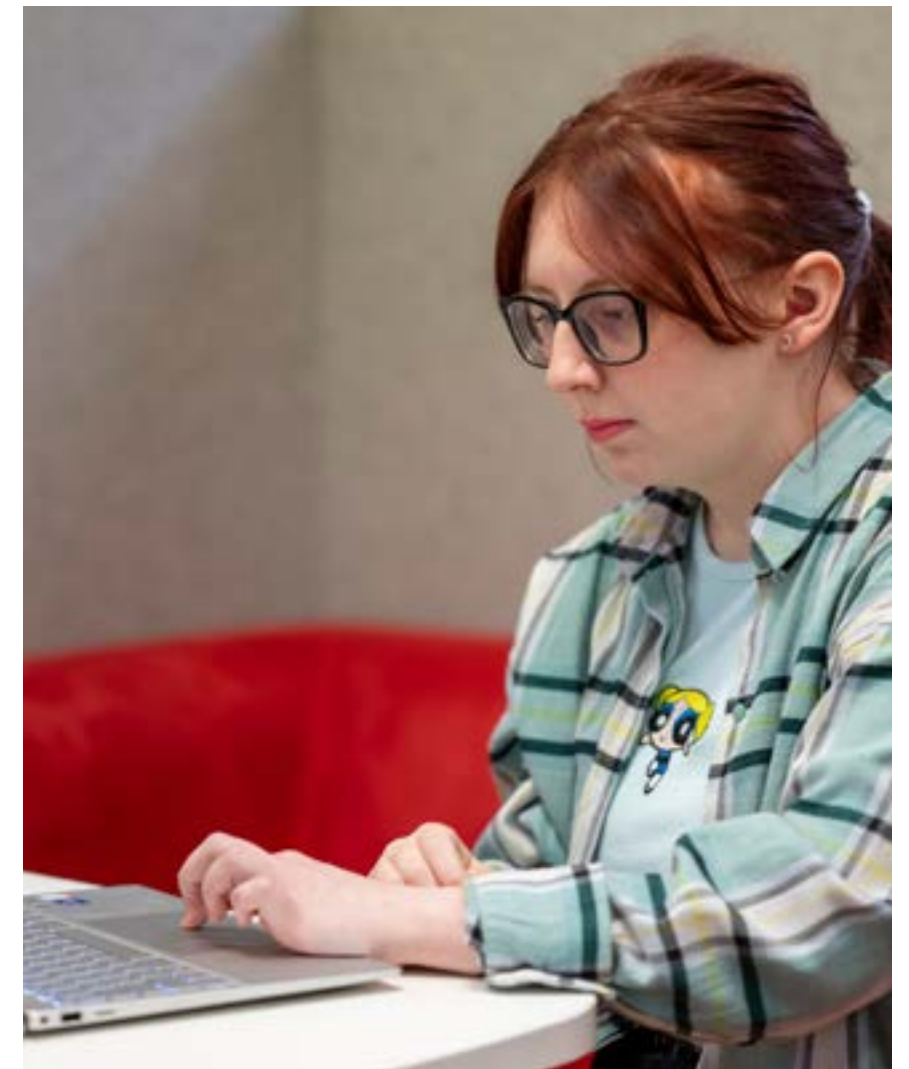
Criminology and Social Policy UCAS Code: **8D46**

Sociology and Social Policy UCAS Code: **8K46**

Social policy is the study of how societies respond to human need and seek to promote the wellbeing of their members.

You'll study debates about the goals of policy: how we decide what human needs are, whose responsibility it is to meet human needs, and what we mean by 'social justice'.

Our programme examines policies in a wide variety of areas, including social security, education, health, housing and personal social services, as well as policies seeking to address new challenges, such as tackling global warming and promoting environmental sustainability.





Urban Planning and Development (BSc)

UCAS code: **K490**

(with a Professional Placement Year UCAS code: **K446**)

This programme focuses on the social, economic, and environmental challenges of creating better places in which to live.

You'll gain a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic forces shaping our cities and regions through a blend of theory, practice, and hands-on experience. You'll explore the multifaceted aspects of urban planning, including land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and environmental sustainability.

Whether designing sustainable neighbourhoods, analysing urban growth patterns, or crafting policies to promote inclusive development, you'll graduate with the skills and expertise needed to pursue a career in fields as diverse

as urban planning, policy analysis, and community development.

With a focus on fostering creativity, critical thinking, and ethical leadership, this programme equips you with the skills and knowledge to make a real difference to the way people live, shaping more equitable, resilient, and sustainable cities for future generations.

Accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) (partial) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).



“I'd say that this is the best place to come and learn planning. It offers the highest quality lecturers in the field.”

Kieran, Urban Planning and Development with a Professional Placement Year (BSc)



How to find the School

The School of Social and Spatial Sciences is located in Glamorgan Building on our Cathays Campus.

Key

-  School of Social and Spatial Sciences
-  University and NHS buildings
-  Student residences

Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2027 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in May 2026. 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 at: **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.

Your degree:

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

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Thank you.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Cardiff University is a registered charity, no. 1136855

This prospectus can be made available in alternative formats, including large print (text), Braille and on audio tape/ CD.

To request an alternative format please contact Laura Roberts:

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Email: **RobertsL9@cardiff.ac.uk**

**Find out more about human
geography and planning**



**Find out more about
social sciences**



Email: enquiry@cardiff.ac.uk

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