

Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (United Kingdom)

Institutional Information (Last update at: 02/04/2014)

School/Department name (Native language)	School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences
AESOP reg Number	A-044-08
AESOP Member Status	Associate Member
University	University of Birmingham
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Contact persons

AESOP Contact person

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School Information

Full time academic staff members

Part time staff members

Staff members engaged in research

Staff members engaged in professional activities

Degree Programmes and Educational Provision

Undergraduate/first cycle degree(s) offered at School/Department

Planning Joint Honours BSc

Number of years normally used to complete this degree(FT)

Planning Joint Honours BSc
3

Part time option No

Delivery mode On campus

Number of ECTS

Teaching languages English

Specialisation within in this Degree/the curriculum

The degree requires an assessed period of work in practice No

Programme accreditation by a professional body/other institution

Our current joint honours planning programmes include:

BSc Geography and Urban & Regional Planning (LK74)
BSc Planning/Social Policy (KLK4)
BSc Planning/Economics (KL41)
BSc Spatial Planning and Business Management (KN42)

Curriculum/approach description

Our degrees explore some of the big issues facing today's and tomorrow's societies including: housing provision; climate change; sustainable development; property development; leisure tourism and transport infrastructure; exchange rates; trade agreements; income tax; international banking; and the NHS and other public sector organisations.

All degrees benefit from CURS' international teaching and research reputation. CURS' research, consultancy and professional development links with a wide range of public, private and community organisations ensure our teaching is relevant, at the cutting-edge and research-led.

(Post)Graduate/masters or second cycle degree(s) offered at School/department

MSc Urban and Regional Planning (with RTPI accreditation)

Number of years normally used to complete this degree(FT)

1

Part time option No

Delivery mode On campus

Number of ECTS 180

Teaching languages English

Specialisation within in this Degree/the curriculum

Urban Regeneration and Renewal • Towards Urban Renaissance: Community Involvement in the Built Environment

The degree requires

an assessed period of work in practice No
MSc Urban and Regional Planning (with RTPI accreditation)

Programme accreditation by a professional body/other institution RTPI

This is an Erasmus mundus programme No

Fully accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), this programme is designed to develop students as reflective practitioners in the planning profession and related disciplines in the built environment, and can be studied either full-or part-time. It is ideal for those who wish to gain a professional qualification that will enable them to pursue and build a career in spatial planning and related areas of regeneration, economic development, housing and transport.

The structure enables students to combine the core modules and material in spatial planning with a specialist focus in fields such as urban regeneration, community based planning, economic development, housing and transport planning.

Programme content

Students study four core modules, plus one optional module and a dissertation of 12,500 words. An optional field trip to a major European city is also offered in the programme.

Curriculum/approach description

Core modules

- The Political Economy of Cities and Regions
- Planning Methods and Techniques
- The Planner in Contemporary Society
- Introduction to Spatial Planning
- Urban Property Development
- Sustainable Cities
- Place Making and Urban Design
- Planning Project

Optional modules

- Urban Regeneration and Renewal
- Towards Urban Renaissance: Community Involvement in the Built Environment

MSc Urban Regeneration and Renewal

Number of years normally used to complete this degree(FT) 1

Part time option No

Delivery mode On campus

Number of ECTS 180

Teaching languages English

Specialisation within in this Degree/the curriculum

The degree requires an assessed period of work in practice No

Programme

accreditation by a
MSc Urban Regeneration and Renewal
Professional
body/other
institution

**This is an Erasmus
mundus programme** No

The programme will appeal to those who want to extend their field of academic knowledge and critical understanding of issues in urban regeneration, as well as to those who are more interested and concerned with policy in practice. In particular, it is aimed at those working in local government and other national, regional and local agencies concerned with the regeneration of urban areas.

Programme content
MSc students study three core modules, plus any three specialist option modules and a dissertation of up to 15,000 words.

**Curriculum/approach
description**

Compulsory modules are:

The Political Economy of Cities and Regions
Research Methods in Urban and Regional Studies
Urban Regeneration and Renewal

Optional modules include:

Towards Urban Renaissance: Community Involvement in the Built Environment
Economic Development Policy
Urban Property Development
Place-making and Urban Design
Knowledge and Creative Economies

MSc Urban and Regional Studies

**Number of years normally used to
complete this degree(FT)** 1

Part time option No

Delivery mode On campus

Number of ECTS 180

Teaching languages English

**Specialisation within in this
Degree/the curriculum**

**The degree requires an assessed
period of work in practice** No

**Programme accreditation by a
professional body/other
institution**

**This is an Erasmus mundus
programme** No

This programme will give students a rigorous, multi-disciplinary, research-based knowledge of urban and regional issues, and develop their ability to critically analyse policy.

It will appeal to recent graduates and people in mid-career looking for dynamic and policy-relevant professional development.

Programme content
MSc students study three core modules, plus any three specialist option modules and submit a dissertation of up to 15,000 words.

MSc Urban and Regional Studies

Core (compulsory) modules are:

The Political Economy of Cities and Regions
Research Methods in Urban and Regional Studies
Knowledge and Creative Economies
Optional modules include:

Economic Development Policy
Urban Regeneration and Renewal
Towards Urban Renaissance: Community Involvement in the Built Environment
Urban Property Development
Place Making and Urban Design

MSc Resilience and Urban Living

Number of years normally used to complete this degree(FT)

1

Part time option

No

Delivery mode

On campus

Number of ECTS

180

Teaching languages

English

Specialisation within in this Degree/the curriculum

The degree requires an assessed period of work in practice

No

Programme accreditation by a professional body/other institution

This is an Erasmus mundus programme

No

The programme will give students a broad-ranging, yet grounded understanding of how individuals, organisations, enterprises and / or communities can cope with external stresses and disturbance as a result of rapid social, political, economic or environmental change. These changes also include core societal challenges including demographic change, security and terrorism, climate change and sustainability.

Given that the concept of resilience has become central to academic and policy debates, students will be uniquely placed to identify, explain and offer appropriate responses to the challenges facing individuals, communities and practitioners alike who may be living or working in urban areas.

Core modules

Resilience, Energy and Urban Living

Sustainable and Resilient Cities

Problem-based methods for Urban Resilience

Optional modules

Towards Urban Renaissance: Community Involvement in the Built Environment

Urban Regeneration and Renewal

Urban Property Development

Place Marketing and Urban Design

Geographies of Energy and Capitalism

Environmental Management in Business

Curriculum/approach description

MSc Resilience and Urban Living

Negotiating Environmental Controversies
 Environmental Risk and Society
 Environmental Protection
 Weather, Climate and Society
 Landscape and Urban Ecology
 Sustainable Construction
 Construction Management
 Energy Policy and Case Studies

Doctoral/PhD education offered at School/department**PhD Urban and Regional Studies**

Number of years normally used to complete this degree(FT)

3

Part time option

Yes

Number years usually required for completing the degree part-time (PT)

6

Delivery mode

On campus

Number of ECTS

Teaching languages

English

Specialisation within in this Degree/the curriculum

Research students normally have a lead supervisor and a co-supervisor who meet regularly with the student to review and guide their work.

Each research student agrees with their supervisor(s) a programme of training tailor-made to their needs and previous experience. A programme may include:

Research methods modules offered by the University, which students are expected to attend unless they have previously received equivalent training
 Any module offered by CURS related to their research
 Modules and programmes in other departments
 Personal development and skills training provided through the University's Graduate School on subjects including computing, time management, thesis writing, writing for publication, and teaching
 All research students give an annual presentation on their work in progress. These take place in research student workshops. These occasions are also opportunities to hear presentations and share views and experiences with other research students and academics and practitioners from the 'outside world'. In addition, students present their work to a research supervisory panel as another means of gauging progress.

Curriculum/approach description

We help research students to produce publications arising from their work and encourage them to publish as single authors when appropriate. Many research students are aiming for academic careers and we recognise the importance of providing opportunities for them to be involved in teaching and tutorial work, without compromising their obligations as research students.