

Planning generates creative proposals for change, by means of negotiation and advocacy within a complex web of competing interests. Positive action is at the heart of planning, and it operates within a wide context of environmental, social, economic, legal and governance constraints.

As an academic discipline, planning is the study of the way societies plan, design, manage and regulate change in the built and natural environment. It therefore includes the study of why and how (and with what consequences) societies intervene, shape, organise and change natural and built environments, in order to secure an agreed range of social, economic and environmental objectives.

The academic core of the discipline is the study of the rationale for planning and how it is practised. This necessarily involves understanding not only the processes of spatial change in the built and natural environments, but also studying the arguments for intervening in these processes. It requires an understanding of the operation and outcomes of land, property and development markets from a variety of perspectives, including the economic, financial and legal aspects. It also requires an understanding of design, and the development of sustainable built and natural environments.

<sup>1</sup> Because of its diversity planning has been referred to by a variety of terms (including 'spatial planning', 'land-use planning', 'town and country planning', 'town planning', city and regional planning', 'urban planning', and so on). In this statement, 'planning' is used as a generic title, and 'planners' as a general term to include all those involved in planning as an activity, whether professional, statutory or otherwise.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Masters by coursework are offered on a two-year full-time, or three year part-time basis. Students with a good first degree or an Honours Degree in a relevant/cognate discipline are eligible to apply for entry into one of these post-graduate programmes. Graduates with a good Honours Degree in a closely related discipline can apply to undertake a Masters by Research in one year of full-time study.

**Potential students need to demonstrate analytical ability, good writing skills and present a statement of purpose which may include.**

Specific details about your past work, study, and experience preferably linking them to your plans for graduate work in Planning; Try to explain your areas of interest and concern in a succinct manner; balance experience, opinion, and a desire to learn; show an interest in the programme to which you are applying (because planning programmes have such different emphasis; keep this short and make the key points stand out. Graduates with good first class passes may qualify for some funding assistance.

## **FACILITIES**

The School's Local Area Network (LAN) contains all the latest technology for student needs.

Computer Aided Design (CAD), Graphics and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software as well as a range of hardware is available for use. This includes the latest computer technology, plotters, scanners and printers as well as CD-writing facilities and digital camera equipment. Students in the School have access to their own branch library that houses a number of International journals on Planning, Development, Environment, Law and Housing and a wide selection of books. A mapping library provides students with access

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
REGARDING APPLICATIONS  
PLEASE CONTACT**

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## **SCHOOL OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

### **PLANNING**

### **Masters PhD**



***Do you want to know how cities work?***

***Want to learn about creating liveable places?***

***Interested in how to make people's lives better?***

***Worried about the quality of our environment?***

***Interested in development?***

## WHY PLANNING ?

Study **Planning** at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and learn to create liveable and sustainable human settlements in South Africa's second largest metropolis. With a population of more than 3 million people, Durban is a melting pot of cultures and lifestyles making it South Africa's truly African city, enhancing the student's understanding of the many facets that underpin our built environment.

The School of Built Environment and Development Studies offers exciting opportunities for study and research towards the following qualifications:

### The DEGREES

- **Master in Town and Regional Planning Programme (MTRP);**
- **Research Masters; and Ph.D. in Planning.**

### The Courses

Three Masters by course-work programmes in planning are on offer. **The Master in Town and Regional Planning (MTRP)** educates generalist town and regional planners capable of physical planning and design as well as the formulation of city and regional policy.

A particular strength of the course is its emphasis on integrated development planning strengthening the relationship between planning and implementation. The MTRP degree leads to professional registration with the South African Council for Planners.

### Careers in Planning

Planning is a diverse and exciting field to explore and study. Planning is about creating liveable and sustainable cities and regions. In South Africa, the task of redressing apartheid patterns is particularly important. Planners are trained to understand how cities and regions work, grow and develop, and the diversity of people's needs. They must have insight into the relationships between the economic, social and environmental concerns that impact on particular areas. It is the planner's task to develop plans and policies that bring together an understanding of the dynamics of an area, the future possibilities for development, and peoples' needs and views. **Planning is about making a difference!**

Planners work in various environments that range from government agencies to private firms as well as Non-Governmental Organizations. Some of the major tasks that South African planners are involved in include integrated development planning for municipalities, restructuring apartheid-era cities, urban renewal, large-scale development and housing projects. The scale of planning can range from the design of public and community spaces and land use management to spatial planning intended to guide growth and change in towns, cities and regions. Local economic development, rural development, sustainability environment and land reform are becoming increasingly important.



**Planners link knowledge, skills, competences and action** in ways that improve public and private development decisions which affect people, places and the environment. To do this, planners must have knowledge and experience in a wide range of topics. As a planner, you may:

- Recommend policy and guidelines on land use, environmental conservation, housing, and transportation;
- Undertake research and prepare reports on demographic, economic, cultural, social and environmental issues;
- Review proposals for development to ensure that they follow regulations and generally accepted planning practice;
- Prepare plans for developing private lands, providing public spaces and services and maintaining and improving the environment;
- Answer questions from the public on planning policies and procedures;
- Speak before public meetings or formal hearings; and,
- Consult with landowners, interest groups and citizens.

**Planning jobs can vary widely, and can have many differing job titles, such as:**

City Planner  
Community Development Officer  
Conflict Resolution Mediator/Negotiator  
Economic Development Officer  
Environmental Planner  
Geographic Information System Planner  
Heritage Coordinator  
Housing Analyst Industrial Planner  
Land Use Planner Planning Director  
Planning Consultant Policy Analyst  
Recreation And Park Planner  
Regional Planner  
Resource Development Officer  
Social Planner  
Strategic Planner  
Transportation Planner  
Urban Designer  
Academic Municipal Planner

### The Challenge of Planning

Planning is an activity that has an important role to play in delivering and safeguarding many of the aspirations that developed and developing societies hold dear - environmental sustainability, social equity, cultural diversity and economic prosperity. It needs committed, talented and creative individuals to help deliver its evolving agenda, working across the private, public and voluntary sectors.

Current challenges faced by planning graduates include:

- the deterioration of global and local environments;
- the regeneration of under - utilised urban and rural assets;
- the opportunities and threats posed by globalisation and new technologies;
- changing living patterns and redistributing populations; and,
- the delivery of high quality public, private environments and services.
- A rapidly urbanizing South Africa