

Department of Geography, Regional and Urban Planning Studies (United Kingdom)

Institutional Information (Last update at: 21/01/2011)

School/Department name (Native language)	Department of Geography, Regional and Urban Planning Studies
AESOP reg Number	F-044-11
AESOP Member Status	Full Member
University	London School of Economics and Political Science
Address	London School of Economics and Political Science Department of Geography, Regional and Urban Planning Studies Houghton Street WC2A 2AE London United Kingdom
Telephone	unavailable
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Web site	www2.lse.ac.uk/geographyAndEnvironment/study/graduateProgrammes/regionalAndUrbanPlanning/Home.aspx

Contact persons

AESOP Contact person	
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Telephone / Fax	unavailable /

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

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

MSc Regional and Urban Planning Studies

Number of years normally used to complete this	1
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degree(FT)
MSc Regional and Urban Planning Studies

Part time option	Yes
Number years usually required for completing the degree part-time (PT)	2
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	RICS
This is an Erasmus mundus programme	No

Curriculum/approach description

The MSc Regional & Urban Planning Studies is a strongly focused and internationally based planning programme that has a long tradition in training both people seeking careers in urban and regional planning policy and mid-career professionals. Founded in 1966 by the departments of Economics, Geography and Government, the programme (now housed solely in the department of Geography & Environment) continues a strong interdisciplinary focus challenging students to understand cities and regions from an economic, social and environmental perspective. The MSc aims to provide a common understanding of the various influences affecting the planning process, and to teach a set of research skills that will help planners in practice. These skills include urban and regional economic analysis, the evaluation of environmental and regional policies and the study of institutional and political factors that impact city and regional development. These perspectives will be applied to London and to a wide range of countries and cities through lectures and seminar debate.

Students join the course from many countries and from many different backgrounds in the social sciences and the design, planning and property professions. Most graduates go on to work in city, regional or environmental planning, particularly on the research and consultancy side of practice.

A strong sense of identity is generated in the student body, and the alumni keep in regular contact with each other through an annual newsletter. A number of walks are conducted early in the first term to help students orient to London and a fieldtrip is held during the Easter vacation, the destination is chosen by the students. This is held in various British regions or cities or on continental Europe. Recent student cohorts have chosen Istanbul, Berlin, Moscow, Dublin and Amsterdam. The students also run a Planning Society, which organises speakers, shorter trips and social events.

Doctoral/PhD education offered at School/department

PhD Planning Studies

Number of years normally used to complete this degree(FT)	4
Part time option	Yes
Number years usually required for completing the degree part-time (PT)	
Delivery mode	On campus

Number of ECTS
PhD Planning Studies

Teaching languages English

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

**Curriculum/approach
description**

The Planning Studies programme offers students the chance to study for a Master of Philosophy or Doctorate in either regional or urban dimensions of planning. The approach is interdisciplinary and it is international in scope. It is offered in either Full-time or Part-time mode and the normal length of study is three years full time and the equivalent part-time. An applicant should submit a research proposal of two/three pages setting out the desired area of study

The Regional and Urban Planning Studies Programme, based in the Department of Geography and Environment, hosts its own Research Degree Programme, with a distinctive pattern of research training. It welcomes applications for research degrees on any topic in regional and urban planning. The main requirement is that topic is explored from a social science perspective.

Supervisors for these research degrees are drawn from the range of staff in the Department of Geography and Environment, and also, where possible, from staff in associated Departments, notably Economics and Social Policy. Applicants should, therefore, be aware that the decision on any research degree application will partly depend on the availability of a suitable supervisor within the Department and the School. Other factors, of course, include the quality of the applicant and of the research proposal.

Applications are particularly welcomed for research topics on the following areas:

British and European planning systems, with linkages to contemporary planning theory

Planning of World Cities and major urban projects

The interface of local economic development and planning policies and practice

Processes of globalisation and urban planning

Urban sustainability and planning, with an emphasis on processes of urban governance.
Applicants are reminded that the purpose of a research degree is to promote understanding and knowledge on, in this case, planning topics. Proposals seeking to establish best practice or normative standards for planning, on their own, are unlikely to be successful.