



UCD College of Engineering
and Architecture

UCD Planning, Geography & Environment

DN514 Planning, Geography & Environment



**UCD PLANNING, GEOGRAPHY &
ENVIRONMENT OPEN DAY**

Saturday, 21st January 2017, 12 noon to 2.30pm
Tour of Planning and Environment facilities at 12.30pm
Visit www.myUCD.ie to register



UCD PLANNING, GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT (DN514)

BA (Hons) (NFO Level 8), MRUP & MSc (NFO Level 9)

INTRODUCTION

The planning and environmental policy department within our School is the oldest, largest and most respected in Ireland. Indeed, most planners currently employed in Ireland were educated here. Planning and Environmental Policy at UCD enjoys a strong international reputation with the BA in Planning, Geography & Environment recognised by both the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and the Irish Planning Institute (IPI).

Geography is about understanding the world around us. Planning and environmental policy are about building on such knowledge to create a better world. This programme gives you the skills to envisage and enable real world change. If you would like to make a positive difference to how our world works, then this programme is for you.

This exciting programme is about solving real world issues that we experience in our everyday lives. Where should we build our schools, shops and stadiums? What can we do to conserve our unique natural environment? How can we protect our cultural heritage? Planners, environmental policy experts and urban designers tackle such issues on a daily basis. They do so by promoting sustainable development to improve our quality of life and enhance the natural environment.

Students on this programme have access to prime and custom designed spaces, facilities and equipment including the Geospatial Analysis Lab (GeoSAL), planning and design studios, as well as a dedicated Architecture, Planning and Map Library.

CAO Points Range 2016

300 – 475

Length of Course

3 Years (BA)(Hons)

Places

25

Entry Requirements

- English
- Irish
- A third language
- Three other recognised subjects

Leaving Certificate

You must obtain a minimum of Grade H5 in two subjects and a minimum of Grade O6/H7 in the remaining four subjects

A-Level/GCSE

see www.ucd.ie/myucd/alevel

Level 5/6 FETAC Entry Routes

None

Level 6/7 Progression Entry Routes

None

Mature Entry Route

Yes

KEY FEATURES



RTPI and IPI Recognised



Dedicated design studios, computer labs and exhibition space



Unique facilities in the Richview / Newstead Buildings at Belfield



Access to UCD Horizons Elective Modules



Home to Ireland's best Architecture, Planning and Map Library



International study opportunities (including Europe, Asia, America and Australia)

WHAT'S ON OFFER THROUGH PLANNING, GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT IN UCD?

Most of this programme is delivered in the scenic Richview Campus. Here you will experience a lively environment of inspiring creativity and stimulating diversity. As this is a programme focused on tackling real world issues, you will engage with real world topics from the outset. This involves fieldtrips, studio work and pioneering case study analysis. Emphasis is placed on integrating understanding with imagination so that students learn to formulate and test innovative solutions to the planning and environmental challenges facing society.

UCD produces planners, designers and environmental policy experts skilled at addressing pressing global, national and local social, political, economic and

environmental issues. Therefore, we continually review and update the content of our programme to maintain the high calibre of graduates produced by the School. The School promotes a research-lead teaching approach whereby cutting-edge research undertaken by staff feeds seamlessly into lectures. This process is advanced by a teaching team that enjoys an international reputation for consistently producing path-defining research. A key feature of the programme is the delivery of lectures by practicing planners and environmental policy experts at the vanguard of their profession. The inclusion of teaching by such field-shaping practitioners ensures that students are continually exposed to leading-edge practice, thereby favourably positioning the School's graduates in the employment market.

EDUCATIONAL MODEL

The Planning, Geography & Environment degree integrates subjects which will deepen and broaden your understanding of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. The programme is delivered in two stages:

In **Stage 1** you will be provided with a comprehensive introduction to Geography, Spatial Planning and Environmental Policy by taking an array of core modules. You will begin to develop your awareness of the physical layout and design of rural and urban areas while you deepen your knowledge of physical and human geography.

Stage 2 is the time for acquiring practical knowledge and skills. At this stage, you will develop a more in-depth understanding of the how to plan for positive change by exploring the interactions and interdependencies of land use, transportation and urban design, as well as social

and economic issues. You will also focus in more detail on particular subject areas in geography and will acquire practical communication and analytical skills, in addition to competency in geographic information systems (GIS).

The lecture programme can be grouped under three themes:

- Planning:** urban and rural planning; community planning; transportation; GIS; understanding landscape; placemaking
- Geography:** human and physical geography
- Environment:** sustainability; environmental change and management; working with natural processes

Fieldtrips, studios and interactive guided discussions are employed across these three themes and in both stages of the programme. A combination of continuous assessment and end-of semester written examinations is used.

Career & graduate study opportunities

A degree in Planning, Geography & Environment provides you with both strong analytical skills and the ability to think critically about the built and natural environment. In addition, this degree has received 'spatialist' accreditation from the Royal Town Planning Institute and thus provides a route to becoming a professional planner.

If you are thinking about a career as a planner, you would only need to complete a one-year specialist Masters Programme following this degree. The School provides three Masters Programme options that fulfill this purpose:

- Masters in Regional and Urban Planning
- MSc in Environmental Policy
- MSc in Urban Design and Planning

Graduates of UCD Planning, Geography & Environment find employment both in Ireland and internationally. While the traditional employers of graduates are city and county councils, many graduates have found rewarding employment in private sector consultancies, multinational businesses, a variety of governmental bodies and NGOs. Salaries equal and commonly exceed those of other built environment professions.



Tara Skakie,
2nd year student

My ideal progression when I decided to study for the degree in Planning, Geography & Environment was to change the world! Social justice, environmental protection and how we create beautiful places have long been important topics in my life. Now there is so much in the news about climate change, the need to create better places to live and work in and how humans influence the planet I decided that it would be better to be actually qualified to do something about it rather than just type meaningless posts on Facebook. The BA PGE degree is my best option towards attaining this goal. This degree is preparing us to prepare the world for a better future.



Jamie Barry,
3rd year student

The BA PGE has been a fantastic experience for me from the very onset. Covering topics from the history of planning to its economics it is a broad and intuitive course that provides all of the skills a planner could need. With a focus on both theory and practice the BA PGE strives to give its students a solid grounding in all aspects of planning, and the lecturers and facilities go above and beyond this, ensuring that students have everything they need to achieve their full potential. Based in Richview, students of the BA PGE are surrounded by studios, workshops and the well-resourced library. With classes of 25, every planning lecture is inclusive, with active discussion between the lecturers, who are experts in their fields, and the students.



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