

Joining Instructions for MSc Urban and Rural Planning

Before you begin your studies

We will start sending out UWE Bristol IT account information once you have met the conditions of your offer, so keep an eye out for the email – it will be sent to the email address you provided us during your application.

1. **Make sure you've activated your UWE Bristol IT account.** Follow the instructions to activate your account. Once your account has been activated, **please be aware that all future emails from the university will only be sent to you UWE Bristol email address.** You can check it easily through [myUWE](https://myuwe.ac.uk) (my.uwe.ac.uk) or Microsoft's [Office365](https://office365.com). You might want to go ahead and set your email up on your mobile device, ready for the academic year.
2. **Complete your online registration** through [myUWE](https://myuwe.ac.uk) (my.uwe.ac.uk).

It is essential that you follow the steps above to complete your registration. You will not be able to access Blackboard (your Virtual Learning Environment) until you have registered.

Please visit the [Registration](#) webpages for further information on how to register.

Course Induction

The course induction is entirely online. Once you have registered, you can visit the Blackboard virtual learning environment to start your induction. Given the distance learning nature of this programme, all induction materials are available through your *Blackboard* virtual learning environment. You will find videos, guides and links to support your orientation.

The purpose of the induction is to introduce you to the programme, how it is delivered and managed. You will receive an introduction into key aspects of your course, including the modules, their assessments and also learn how we provide support to you.

You should explore this before you start your actual studies in February to ensure you are confident with the wider programme approach, support and arrangements.

The course is delivered on a calendar year basis. You will study from the first week of February through until the end of October. Your first year consists of four modules, studied against a pre-set module schedule. Assessments are submitted at the end of each module.

If you would like to talk to someone about beginning your studies, you can contact the Programme Leader when the time comes.

Please note: These joining instructions are provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place. They are not confirmation of an offer.

Course support

The course is delivered through a partnership of five universities, collectively referred to as the Joint Distance Learning Consortium (JDLC). The JDLC comprises UWE Bristol, Leeds Beckett University, The University of Dundee, London South Bank University and the Open University. You are therefore part of a course that is supported by these five universities, providing you with unparalleled access to resources and an opportunity to learn with staff and students across the United Kingdom and beyond.

The JDLC is managed by UWE Bristol and you will be registered here as a student. You will receive non-academic support (including Student Advisers, library services (physical and online), finance and fees, administration and assessment, and ICT support) from UWE Bristol.

Academic support is provided by the Module Leader for each individual module. These are run separately by one of the JDLC universities. You will therefore be linked to different university academic tutor teams at different times.

There is no 'formal' contact associated with this programme, which is designed to be studied entirely online anywhere in the world on an identical basis. Notwithstanding this, each of four core universities are available for you to access – they all exist as places that you may choose to visit to speak to a member of the JDLC team face-to-face. You are always welcome to come to campus, whether for academic support or simply to experience the physical connection with a university.

Field Trip

During the course of the year there may be the option of attending a field trip visit. Attendance on the field trip is not compulsory and is not linked to any one module. The field trip presents an additional learning opportunity and provides the chance for you to meet and interact with other planning students on different programmes as well as members of the academic team. Any field trip offered will be as part of an existing trip run for a parallel contact based programme at one of the JDLC core universities. You will be given information about any such opportunity, including fees and specific dates, in the spring.

Books needed for the programme

Most of your core text books are available as on-line versions through the Library's website once you have commenced the programme.

If you would like to do some pre-reading for your first module, *Context and Law*, a very comprehensive all-round text is:

- Cullingworth and Nadin et al (2015) *Town and Country Planning in the UK*, Fifteenth Edition, Routledge, Abingdon, Oxon.

[You will find this book a very useful source of information that you would be able to dip into throughout your studies, and also in your professional planning career.]

Professional Body Membership

Once you start this programme you will become eligible for free student membership of the RTPI. Find out about the benefits here:

<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/membership/membership-classes/student/>

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about your application please contact Admissions on 0117 32 83333 or email admissions@uwe.ac.uk.

For general university questions, including the support we offer or help with fees and funding, please contact the [Information Point](#).

For more information about the programme prior to joining, please do get in touch directly with the Course Director in the first instance:

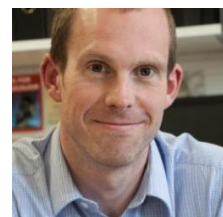
Adam Sheppard MRTPI

Associate Head of Department: Partnerships and Lecturer in Urban and Rural Planning

Email: adam.sheppard@uwe.ac.uk

Tel. +44 (0)117 3283070

[Profile](#)



Once you have commenced study with us your Programme Leader will be:

Nick Croft MRTPI

Senior Lecturer in Planning and Sustainability

Email: nick.croft@uwe.ac.uk

Tel. +44 (0)117 3283221

[Profile](#)

