Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	MA Planning Built Environments
2	**BCU Course Code**	PT1015
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)

6	**Course Description**
	The combination of accelerated climate and environmental change, resource pressures and rapidly evolving social, legal and political contexts demand that the planner of the future is better equipped with the science, tools and skills to help shape the high quality multi-functional places we increasingly need. The MA Planning Built Environments course applies theory through practice-based learning, on a campus surrounded by exciting new developments, with excellent industry links. **What's covered in the course?** On this course, you will learn to identify and evaluate the processes, tools and outcomes of planning that lead to more sustainable places across the built environment. You will learn how to critically assess planning theory and practice and respond to the growing demand for planning practitioners, strategists and consultants to address contemporary and future planning and development challenges within their environmental context. This built environment course will also enable you to understand the development process and the wider linkages with other built environment professions as well as develop the skills required to assess, analyse and offer practical sustainable solutions to spatial planning problems. You will experience applied and autonomous learning through the use of real problems and case study materials and develop your problem-solving abilities, practical competencies, critical appraisal and written and oral communication skills. This course also encourages inter-disciplinary working amongst graduates and professionals from a variety of backgrounds employed within a planning and (built) environment context.

7	Course Awards		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Master of Arts Planning Built Environments	7	180
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Postgraduate Certificate Planning Built Environments	7	60
	Postgraduate Diploma Planning Built Environments	7	120

8	**Derogation from the University Regulations**
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns		
Mode(s) of Study	**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full Time (January)	City Centre	12 months	PT1015
Full Time (September)	City Centre	12 months	PT1015
Part Time (September)	City Centre	24 months	PT1016
Part Time (January)	City Centre	24 months	PT1018
Full time September 'with Professional Placement'	City Centre	18 months	PT1364
Full time January 'with Professional Placement'	City Centre	18 months	PT1364

10	**Entry Requirements**

The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at
https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.

11	**Course Learning Outcomes**

Knowledge and Understanding

1	Identify the principles of planning and assess their impact on the evolution of governance frameworks.
2	Identify the key features of the natural, economic, political and social pillars of planning and explore how they inform planning policy and decision-making processes and governance frameworks.
3	Identify and apply the principal planning tools (regulatory, incentive, valuation, scenarios and participative) to address spatial planning challenges across the built and natural environment.
4	Explain the origins and application of environmental and planning legislation and policy and identify potential legislative developments at a range of scales.
5	Develop business and managerial approaches and skills that enable the successful implementation of appropriate techniques and technologies related to environmental and spatial planning.

Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

6	Argue rationally and draw independent conclusions based on a rigorous, analytical and critical approach to demonstration and argument.
7	Synthesise theory and practice to design/implement a range of spatial planning solutions.
8	Interpret and critically evaluate knowledge, concepts and ideas and/or forms of creative expression in a suitably professional manner.
9	Apply interdisciplinary frameworks to the analysis and solution of complex planning and environmental problems.

Practical and Professional Skills

10	Demonstrate competence across RTPI education outcomes.
11	Access information from a range of sources, such as the internet, journals, books, research papers, and appraise its suitability for Master's level critical thinking and research.
12	Demonstrate the ability to work effectively, both autonomously and as a member of a team, and accept responsibility for actions taken.
13	Recognise and apply professional values and ethics in informing planning excellence.

Key Transferable Skills

14	Manage your time effectively and prioritise workloads.
15	Use multiple forms of communication and expression, employing them selectively, appropriately and effectively according to the specifics of the task.
16	Access and make appropriate use of relevant information and data for a specified purpose.
17	Manage conflict appropriately in professional situations.
18	Diagnose problems and identify solutions (individually and collectively).
19	Work effectively in a team.

12	**Course Requirements**

| 12a | **Level 7:**

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
BNV7139	Foundations of Planning	20
BNV7140	Governance in Built and Natural Environments	20
BNV7137	Development Project	20
BNV7147	Valuation	20
BNV7142	Placemaking	20
BNV7143	Professional Practice	20
BNV7200	Individual Master's Project	60

Level 6:
In order to qualify for the award of MA Planning Built Environments with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete all of the Level 7 modules listed above as well as the following Level 6 module:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PLA6004	Professional Placement	60

12b Structure Diagrams

September Entry

Year 1 1st Semester (Sept – Dec)	BNV7139 Foundations of Planning (20 credits)	BNV7147 Valuation (20 credits)	BNV7142 Placemaking (20 credits)
Year 1 2nd Semester (Jan – May)	BNV7140 Governance of Built and Natural Environments (20 credits)	BNV7137 Development Project (20 credits)	BN7143 Professional Practice (20 credits)
Year 1 3rd Semester (May- Sept)	Individual Master's Project (60 credits)		

January Entry

Year 1 1st Semester (Jan - May)	BNV7139 Foundations of Planning (20 credits)	BNV7147 Valuation (20 credits)	BNV7142 Placemaking (20 credits)
Year 1 2nd Semester (June - Sept)	BNV7140 Governance of Built and Natural Environments (20 credits)	BNV7137 Development Project (20 credits)	BN7143 Professional Practice (20 credits)
Year 1 3rd Semester (Sept - Jan)	Individual Master's Project (60 credits)		

Part Time

Year 1

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
BNV7139: Foundations of Planning (20 credits) BNV7147: Valuation (20 credits)	BNV7143: Professional Practice (20 credits)
BNV7200: Individual Masters Project (60 credits)	

Year 2

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
BNV7142: Placemaking (20 credits)	BNV7140: Governance of Built and Natural Environments (20 credits)
	BNV7137: Development Project (20 credits)
BNV7200: Individual Masters Project (60 credits)	

Professional Placement - Full-time mode (January intake)

Year 1 1st Semester (Jan – May)	BNV7139 Foundations of Planning (20 credits)	BNV7147 Valuation (20 credits)	BNV7142 Placemaking (20 credits)
Year 1 2nd Semester (June - Sept)	BNV7140 Governance of Built and Natural Environments (20 credits)	BNV7137 Development Project(20 credits)	BN7143 Professional Practice (20 credits)
Year 2 1st Semester (Sept – Jan)	Individual Master's Project (60 credits)		
Year 2 2nd Semester (Jan - May)	Professional Placement (60 credits)		

Professional Placement - Full-time mode (September intake)

Year 1 1st Semester (Sept - Dec)	BNV7139 Foundations of Planning (20 credits)	BNV7147 Valuation (20 credits)	BNV7142 Placemaking (20 credits)
Year 1 2nd Semester (Jan - May)	BNV7140 Governance of Built and Natural Environments (20 credits)	BNV7137 Development Project (20 credits)	BN7143 Professional Practice (20 credits)
Year 2 1st Semester (May - Sept)	Individual Master's Project (60 credits)		
Year 2 2nd Semester (Sept - Jan)	Professional Placement (60 credits)		

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams, reading, research for assignments

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

14% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	252
Directed Learning	508
Private Study	1040
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	80%
Exam	11%
In-Person	9%