

What Will I Study in First Year on TU835?

Stage One of the **TU835 BSc (Hons) in Spatial Planning and Environmental Management** is a foundation year with a range of introductory modules and some broad-ranging projects.

These include: -

- SSPL1002 Geo-spatial Awareness
- SSPL1003 Introduction to Environmental Management
- SSPL1008 Introduction to Spatial Planning
- SSPL1019 Ecology
- SSPL1090 Planning for Resilience and a Sustainable Future
- SSPL1014 Research, Evidence & Data for Sustainable Development
- SSPL1018 Earth Science
- SSPL1015 Settlement Analysis Project
- SSPL1016 Introduction to Site Layout and Design
- SSPL1020 Society and Environment

The next few pages provide a brief overview and description of each module and what students can expect to learn and experience. All Stage One modules are mandatory.

Planning for Resilience and a Sustainable Future

5 credit module

Lecturers: [Marian Coll](#) and [Paul Lawlor](#)

The module will focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the principles of sustainable development at a foundation level. Climate change will be addressed as an emergency issue but other critical elements of life in the 'Anthropocene' will also be examined, such as biodiversity loss, access to energy, clean water, healthcare, education etc.

The module seeks to outline the breadth of contesting issues in global development and the impact humans are having on earth systems. Students will discuss and become aware of the issues of equality and justice that underpin the SDGs.

Planning and Environmental Management students need to be aware of the roles they can/will play in facing the implementation of the broader challenges of the SDGs. Students will start to think about how their career paths will allow them engage with these issues.

The module will examine organisational and policy contexts and discuss design solutions for addressing climate change at varying scales. Students will learn about how climate change now centrally affects how we plan for sustainable development.



Introduction to Spatial Planning

5 credit module

Lecturer: [Jordana Corrigan](#)

This module is a foundation module that provides a basic understanding of the history of town planning and current issues affecting Ireland.

The module provides a grounding in the key concepts of spatial planning and a foundation for the further study of planning. It also provides an understanding of the interaction between the town planning movement, environmental health and quality concerns and economic and social development.

The module provides an overview of the evolution of the Irish planning system, reflecting on key moments of legislative amendments and changing policy directions.

This provides students with the basis for understanding the drivers and motivation for change and the importance of critical thinking.



Introduction to Environmental Management

5 credit module

Lecturer: [Lorraine Foley](#)

The module is designed to provide the essential underpinning for environmental and land management. It offers a broad introduction to the study of the inter-relationships between humans and their environment.

The aim of this module is to examine the dynamic nature of landscapes, how humans interact with their environment and the local and global environmental pressures impacting on the sustainability of the environment

The module explores local, regional and global environmental issues using data gathered by local, national and global bodies to assess the scale of environmental problems and the nature of solutions required to address these problems/issues.



Geo-Spatial Awareness

5 credit module

Lecturer: Eimear McNerney

The analysis of spatial data is a critical skill for learners taking programs in Geographic Science, Environmental Management and Spatial Planning.

A capacity to collate, construct, visualise, interpret and manage spatial data is necessary for professionals working in these areas. This module examines basic map appreciation, interpretation and reading skills and introduces the analysis of digital spatial data using modern techniques and technologies.

The aim of this module is to permit effective and correct use of spatial information by introducing learners to basic methods of appraising map data sources, map interpretation, map usage and spatial analysis.



Research, Evidence and Data for Sustainable Development

5 credit module

Lecturer: [Helen Murray](#)

The module introduces students to accessing data and presenting evidence in support of sustainable development research and practice.

The module provides students with the knowledge and skills to effectively communicate their research findings in an academic context. This will entail knowing how to both cite and reference a variety of categories of publications, employing the Harvard referencing style. In addition, it will teach students how to strengthen their academic writing skills. The importance of practicing writing will be emphasised. The module will demonstrate to students how to source a range of appropriate online academic literature and resources.

The module will investigate the range of ‘fit for purpose’ data that can be sourced from key opensource, authoritative datasets and portals, such as: CSO, Pobal, EPA, NPWS and the OSI/CSO Geohive. Students will learn how to: enter data into a spreadsheet, do simple calculations, format the layout of tables and produce graphs to illustrate their data.



Settlement Analysis Project

10 credit module

Lecturer: [Elaine Edmonds](#)

This module explores the status and dynamics of the built and/or natural environment for a defined location in Ireland using a research approach. The aim of this module is to introduce students to the formal process of research project planning and management with particular emphasis on the need to integrate task requirements and resource availability.

This is an introductory level research focused module. The module is designed to provide a research foundation to students of environmental management, planning and allied disciplines. The module allows students to define a research topic and an associated set of objectives within the general context of environmental management and planning.

The module requires that they develop and implement a strategy or plan to address these objectives in the context of a defined field setting. This provides students with the opportunity to practice a range of basic fieldwork techniques for collecting and managing data relevant to the research topic. It also provides students with the opportunity to analyse data collected and to present findings in a professional format. This module integrates with other modules in a number of areas and provides a practical opportunity for students to use and develop skills and knowledge gained across the first year programme.



Introduction to Site Layout & Design

10 credit module

Lecturer: [Louis Nwachi](#)

A basic site planning project involving the arrangements of simple structures on a site with a small number of environmental constraints.

This module introduces students to the principles and practice of good site planning. It aims to provide students with knowledge and understanding of environmental consequence of design and planning decisions.

The module aims to familiarise students with reading and developing scaled drawings, carrying-out site analysis, developing concepts drawings, and preparing layout plans. It also introduces students to Computer Aided Design (CAD), graphics and photo-editing tools.



Earth Science

5 credit module

Lecturer: [Melinda Lyons](#)

This is a foundation course in environmental chemistry, geology and geomorphology. No prior knowledge of the topic is assumed.

This module provides the learner with basic knowledge of chemistry, geology and geomorphology, to facilitate an understanding of the role these subject areas play in landscape interpretation, environmental processes and management.



Ecology

5 credit module

Lecturer: Paul O'Connor

This module is an introduction to biology and ecology with an emphasis on Irish flora and fauna.

Ecology is the interaction between organisms and their environment, the movement of energy through terrestrial and marine ecosystems and the factors that govern population growth and development.

The aim of this module is to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of the structure and function of plants and animals, the relationship between organisms and the environment, and the importance of biodiversity and sustainable development.



Society and Environment

5 credit module

Lecturer: [Gerard Doyle](#)

The module introduces students to the key concepts of sociology and social policy including the concept of society. An examination of society will focus on the social divisions within society (class, gender, and 'race'/ethnicity) and how these intersect. An overview of how power is distributed in society will be outlined. The key issues facing societies including poverty and inequality will be detailed. Both poverty and inequality will be examined in Ireland, and both between, states and the Global North and South. The role of ideology in justifying socio-economic and political systems will also be explored.

The impact of globalisation on the 'local' will be covered through examining a number of processes including de-industrialisation and gentrification. At the local and regional level, interventions will be examined to address inequality, drug misuse, poverty, and alienation. The impact of the dominant economic system on the environment will be examined.

In addition, the module will explore how societies can effectively address environmental crises including climate change and unsustainable resource extraction. Students will be challenged not to accept what is considered both 'natural' and 'normal' within society. In addition, students will examine ideology and the role of ideology in maintaining social divisions within society.

