

What Will I Study on the TU835 BSc (Hons) spatial planning stream?

TU835 is a combined four-year undergraduate programme. That means that students can study one of two streams and aim to graduate with either a BSc (Hons) in Spatial Planning or a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Management.

The spatial planning stream includes the following specialist modules: -

Stage 2	Year two – Spatial Planning
SSPL2017	Regional & Marine Planning
SSPL2019	Development Management 1
SSPL2022	Urbanism
SSPL2024	Development Management Project
SSPL2035	Rural Planning
SSPL2020	Built Environment & Heritage Appraisal
SSPL2021	Urban Layout Design and Analysis

Stage 3	Year three – Spatial Planning
SSPL3013	Planning Techniques
SSPL3017	Planning Theories and the Future
SSPL3018	Regional Plan Project
SSPL3019	Sustainable Transport and Mobility
SSPL3009	Housing and Infrastructure
SSPL3016	Planning Law
SSPL4024	Masterplanning and Urban Design Project

Stage 4	Year four – Spatial Planning
SSPL4013	Survey and Analysis Report
SSPL4009	Participation and Collaborative Planning
SSPL4025	Local Plan-making
SSPL4012	Development Management 2
SSPL4014	Seminars in Strategic Planning

The next few pages provide a brief overview and description of a sample of modules on the spatial planning stream and what students can expect to learn and experience.

Urbanism

Stage Two / 5 credit module

Lecturers: Elaine Edmonds

To plan effectively, we must have a good understanding of the built environment and the processes that have, and still do, impact on its form and function. This module spans the definitions and concepts of urbanism, the development and change of urbanism and urban movements over time, recent and contemporary ideas of urbanism and the relationship between urbanism, spatial planning and urban design, in the delivery of sustainable urban form.

The aim of this module is to provide students with an understanding of the fundamental definitions and concepts of urbanism, how these have changed over time and how it they impacted on the theory and practice and, ultimately, the development of urban areas. The aim of the module is to build on earlier modules on the built environment and spatial planning and to provide a base for the more practical modules on urban design and masterplanning which follow.



Built Environment & Heritage Appraisal

Stage Two / 5 credit module

Lecturer: Niamh Kiernan

This module discusses the form and structure of buildings and settlements over time. It examines the historical and cultural evolution of buildings and their surroundings.

The module will provide students with an understanding of cultural and architectural heritage and how these can become significant design determinants for a neighbourhood. Students will undertake an assessment of the historic and cultural context of an urban settlement.



Regional and Marine Planning

Stage Two / 5 credit module

Lecturer: Paul Lawlor

This module introduces the concept of national and regional planning by exploring the interaction between concepts, theories and practice of spatial planning and development at the national, regional county and city / urban scale. The module also considers the theory and practice of Marine Spatial Planning as an effective and sustainable way of managing our marine and coastal environment.



Planning Theories and the Future

Stage Three / 5 credit module

Lecturer: Jordana Corrigan

This module addresses the theoretical justification for planning by exploring the evolution of procedural and substantive planning theory. Students are encouraged to think critically about the relationship between planning processes, democracy, economy, urban development and environment through different 'lenses' of theory.

An emphasis is placed on understanding the diversity of society, changing places and the implications for planning practice. Contemporary and emerging theory is discussed in the context of global trends, climate change and emerging technologies and their impacts on people, places and the planet.

Through the use of case-studies and classroom discussion students develop their understanding of sensitive issues and values, and their application to complex planning practice. International case studies provide students with an understanding of global challenges and the application of policy and practice in different contexts.



Sustainable Transport & Mobility

Stage Three / 5 credit module

Lecturer: Philip Kavanagh

Achieving sustainable settlement patterns and the promotion of healthy neighbourhoods is dependent on the provision of effective and accessible mobility networks. This module aims to equip students with an understanding of the imperatives involved in developing transport solutions with respect to social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The module introduces students to various policy tools and approaches to their implementation. The module prepares the student to contribute effectively to the development of transport networks for healthy, connected and sustainable neighbourhoods.

Students will learn how to promote and develop active, integrated and inclusive mobility networks.



Masterplanning and Urban Design Project

Stage Three / 10 credit module

Lecturer: Louis Nwachi

The module aims to provide students with a practical understanding of the definitions, concepts and roles of urban design. It aims to develop student's understanding of the established and emerging theories surrounding the discipline. It also looks at the range of principles which are used to underpin urban design guidance and practice. It aims to provide students with an understanding of emerging trends and best practice in urban design in Ireland and abroad.

The module familiarises students with the range of urban design practice, such as evaluations, concepts, plans and briefs. Students will learn how to develop and apply a framework process which can facilitate the making or remaking of a place.

Through project-work students will explore the essential physical ingredients of vibrant, sustainable and inclusive neighbourhoods and cities. Students will apply spatial and urban design skills at a masterplanning level, encompassing varying scales. This module exposes the learner to the creative aspects of design solutions in a given urban context, with a particular focus on the masterplanning process.



Participation and Collaborative Planning

Stage Four / 5 credit module

Lecturer: Elaine Edmonds

This module will explore collaborative and participatory practices in planning, and the way in which these inform contemporary planning theory and practice. The aim of the module is to provide students with detailed practical and theoretical insight into collaborative and community-based modes of spatial planning. Students will explore how communities can be involved in urban regeneration and development.

The module will examine current and past experiences of involving citizens in the planning process that affect their communities and neighbourhoods. It reviews the recent experience of communities experiencing development and regeneration in Ireland and elsewhere. It will consider what best practice in community involvement in decision-making might look like.



Local Plan-making

Stage Four / 5 credit module

Lecturer: Kevin Tolan

This module is comprised of a project that is designed to introduce the students in Spatial Planning to the process, techniques and skills required for preparing Local Area Plans in an Irish context. The project takes place in distinct phases which mirror the process followed in professional practice.

The project begins with a desktop study of the subject area and this is followed by a field trip in which detailed survey work takes place. After group analysis of the data collected, the key themes are identified. Specific actions to address the challenges and harness the potential of the area are then devised and set out in a Local Area Plan. The project involves fieldwork, studio-based plan development and supervised group work.

This module exposes the learner to both the creative aspects of planning solutions in a given urban context and the assessment of proposals and plans within a statutory planning policy context, with a particular focus on the forward planning process.



Seminars in Strategic Planning

Stage Four / 5 credit module

Lecturer: Odran Reid

Contemporary spatial planners must have a strong appreciation of the impact of spatial policies on landscape and society at different scales. This module challenges students to critically review strategic spatial policies adopted at local, regional, national and European levels. The module is centred around a series of seminars on strategic and contemporary spatial planning issues.

Module participants will take a lead role in the curation, organisation and promotion of the activities. The series may coincide with a recognised planning event and allows the opportunity to raise awareness and debate on topical and emerging issues in spatial planning. Through active involvement, participants will develop a specialised understanding of the issues under examination. Students will also develop effective techniques for identifying and debating current relevant issues.

