

The MSc in Spatial Planning at DIT Environment & Planning

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can you tell me when the next intake for the M.Sc. in Spatial Planning is?

The next intake will be in September 2017.

What do I need to do to apply?

Detailed information on how to apply can be found at:-

<http://www.dit.ie/studyatdit/postgraduate/howtoapply/>

What is the deadline for applications and are there many spaces left to enrol on this course?

Applications are being received up to April 30th 2017. Late applications may be considered pending availability. There are up to 15 places available on this programme.

What are the Course Entry Criteria?

In order to be admitted to the course, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Have an appropriate honours (2.2 grade or higher) degree
- Have five years experience in an area generally related to planning
- Have an ability to undertake practice during the course that is relevant to planning (see note on "Planning Practice Logbook Requirement" for details)

What is the Selection Process?

Selection is through shortlist and interview which is likely to take place during summer of this year. The purpose of the interview is to ensure candidates meet the three course entry criteria.

I am a graduate and I have worked in the general area of planning but am not sure if I meet the stated criteria of 5 years experience in a “planning-related” discipline and the required qualifications.

Entrance to the course is by short-list and interview. If you think you may be close to the criteria and are very interested in the course it is recommended to make an application and this will be taken into consideration. Some flexibility has been shown in the past where candidates have shown particular aptitude for the course.

What if I am not in secure or permanent employment? Will I still have to complete the Logbook?

Students must complete the logbook requirement over the 2.5 years of the course. Where students are unsure of permanence or security of their position, they should anticipate what areas they are most likely to be professionally active in. A flexible approach can be taken in

cases where students are uncertain of employment tenure or not currently working. There may be opportunities for civic or community-based work. Or it may be possible to take on research assignments, for example. The Logbook coordinator meets with each student individually and help to work out a professional practice strategy.

Do I need to have a job working in a planning office or similar during the course?

The student must fulfil the “logbook” requirement of 40 days practical working experience in four planning related subject areas during the lifetime of the course. Candidates are encouraged to continue their current practice area but will not be accepted onto the course unless they can demonstrate the ability to achieve this logbook requirement during the duration of the course.

As I work full time is it possible to manage my time?

This is a part-time course where students must attend for one full week eight-times throughout the year over two years. A number of weekend seminars are also held during the course. Total course attendance will therefore amount to sixteen weeks of lectures, plus weekend seminars and exam periods. The weeks are approximately one-month apart so the majority of students accommodate this within a regular working life.

Are credits/exemptions available?

Course participants may apply for exemptions if they can demonstrate satisfactory competence, through professional experience and education, in that module content. The exemption process requires approval from the module coordinator and School Executive. Many students successfully obtain exemptions during their course of study.

What are the career opportunities?

Many graduates use their knowledge to supplement their existing professional practice. Equally, many others use the programme to reskill into senior planning positions within local authorities, agencies, government bodies or private practice. Others still, use the course to develop practice in new and emerging areas of planning, which is an exciting and evolving field.

Has the course benefitted people’s careers?

Feedback from graduates has been very positive. A survey of all graduates found that: -

- 90% of respondents said their career progressed following the course with 79% attributing this to the course
- 92% of graduates said they would recommend the course to a friend or colleague
- 97% said the course makes a positive contribution to the field of planning

Is this a Professionally Accredited Course?

The course is accredited with the Irish Planning Institute and the Royal Town Planning Institute. It is the only accredited part-time course in Ireland.

Are there any networks or activities once the programme is completed?

An active alumni, the Spatial Planning Graduate Network, has been formed by former students and all graduates and students are automatic members.

The Network hosts CPD (Continuing Professional Development) events and other activities. (See www.spatialplanning.ie). Graduates are often invited back to lecture and critique current student work.

Where can I find information about the course content?

Information about the specific modules taught on the course is available on the DIT Catalogue:-

<http://www.dit.ie/catalogue> (course code: DT123) or

<http://www.dit.ie/catalogue/Programmes/Details/DT123>

What are the fees associated with the course?

Information about course fees are available on the DIT website:-

<http://dit.ie/studyatdit/postgraduate/feesfunding/>

Where can I find further information about the course?

General information about the course is available on the DIT website:-

<http://www.dit.ie/studyatdit/postgraduate/taughtprogrammes/allcourses/dt123ptspatialplanningmsc.html>

You can also contact the Programme Chair, David O'Connor at david.oconnor@dit.ie or +353-1-402-3803.