

Global to Local



Interested in a future in planning and want to know more?

Here's where to go next:

Academy for Sustainable Communities
www.ascskills.org.uk

Department for Communities and Local Government
www.communities.gov.uk

Royal Town Planning Institute
www.rtpi.org.uk

Town and Country Planning Association
www.tcpa.org.uk

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a vibrant and sustainable future in planning

Natural England/Andy Tryner



Have you ever wondered about the way our **cities, towns and villages** have evolved?

Would you like to see people housed in **decent homes** as part of **thriving communities**?

Are you passionate about combating **climate change** through helping shape innovative policies that promote **self sufficient communities**?

Do you want to ensure **biodiversity** is preserved and enhanced?

Do you believe in **social justice** and **empowering people and communities to influence decisions that affect** them?

Do you want to play a role in ensuring the long-term **economic development** of our communities?

Is safeguarding our **cultural heritage** important to you?

If these questions have made you think or perhaps you have even answered yes to some of them, then why not consider a career in planning?

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Why work in planning?

Planning is a practical arena where you can make a meaningful difference to problems that matter in society. There are planning careers in the public, private and voluntary sectors which range from vital campaigning roles at the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), World Wildlife Fund or Friends of the Earth, to local and regional planning for local authorities or working for some of the most innovative and exciting businesses in the UK. Planning is also a major feature of the work of the Environment Agency, the Sustainable Development Commission and English Partnerships, and is at the heart of several major government policies.



tcpa

www.tcpa.org.uk



www.ascskills.org.uk

what do planners do?

A career in planning can involve the following activities:



- managing development and helping secure a decent, well designed home for everyone



- combating climate change by cutting carbon emissions from new and existing communities, through promoting sustainable energy generation and use, transport and land use



- creating communities that are resilient to the impacts of climate change
- creating the conditions whereby economic competitiveness can thrive while contributing to the needs of the environment and society
- regenerating socially-deprived areas and creating new prosperity as part of well planned new settlements
- improving the art and science of town planning through research and practice



- using urban design to create a high quality public and private realm that includes innovative buildings, vibrant shopping centres and attractive public spaces
- creating sustainable transport solutions with policies for managing traffic and promoting walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure
- creating a living countryside, with appropriate environmental stewardship
- safeguarding cultural heritage and sensitively utilising historic buildings for functional purposes
- empowering individuals and engaging communities to influence the decisions that affect them
- harnessing new technologies and materials

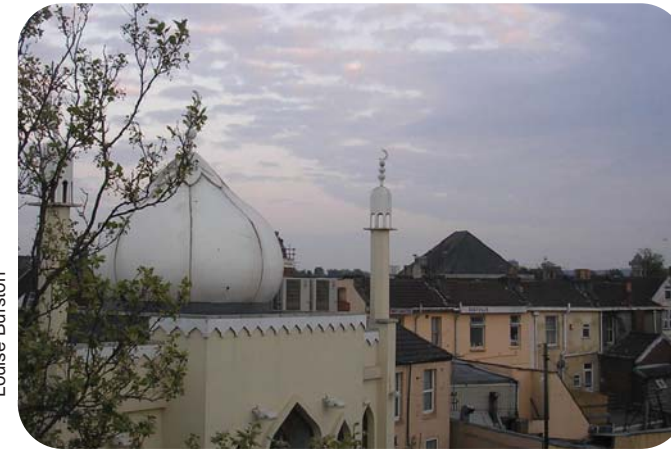
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what skills do I need?

Planning crosses many disciplines, from geography, economics, politics, law, history and social justice to biodiversity, art and design. Subjects involving research skills and an analytical approach will equip you well in the conception, development, management and delivery of planning solutions. You can study to be a planner as first degree, go in to planning as a post-graduate or discover it after many years' work experience.



In addition to academic qualifications, interpersonal skills are essential, especially writing, talking, debating and listening. Planning has changed and evolved with time. Historically, from urban renewal to land clearance, planning was very much a 'top-down' approach where planners 'planned' and the public 'received' development. The TCPA felt it was important that grass roots views about what local communities wanted should drive development and led the way with 'bottom-up' techniques such as Planning for Real[®] and the inception of Planning Aid. Today, planners need more than ever to know how to communicate with hard to reach groups as well as the 'usual suspects'. This involves poise, stability, fairness, and the ability to identify and relate to socially excluded groups such as those in cyclical poverty, ethnic minorities and the disabled, as well as young people and the elderly.



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Most countries across the globe have some form of planning. The training and skills that UK planners develop to meet today's challenges are enabling them to work throughout the world. The skills developed from a career in planning are also transferable to other professions and industry sectors, from the senior management teams of large private sector companies to managing the front line campaigns of environmental charities.