



DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Application for selection closing date: **30 September 2025 for 2026**

UFS STUDENT NUMBER:

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***Choose degree:**

	Honours in Spatial Planning (BC460145)		Honours (in Spatial planning) specializing in Human Settlements (BC460171)
	Professional Masters of Urban and Regional Planning (BC470348)		Research Master's in Human Settlements (BC480271)
	Research Master's in Urban and Regional Planning (BC480348)		PhD in Urban and Regional Planning (BC490048)
	PhD in Human Settlements (BC490071)		

*** Double check selection**

Personal Information:

*Surname:	Title:	Home language:
*Name:	Gender: F / M	Age:
	Nationality:	
*ID/Passport number:	*University Application for admission form complete?	

*Physical Address:	*Postal Address:

*Work		*Home	
Fax		*Cell	
*Email			

***Tertiary Qualifications (certified copies must be attached):**

Degree / Diploma	University / Institution	Year Awarded

Career Experience (Start with most recent):

Employer	Position	Employment dates	
		From	To

***Required**

Choose between the following:

Full time:	Part time:	
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How did you find out about the course? _____

*Submit the following together with this form:	1. Motivational letter (300 words)
	2. Short CV
	3. Certified copy of your academic record (results)
	4. University application form (Application for admission to UFS) (NB!) https://apply.ufs.ac.za/ OR Acknowledgement
	5. Proof (Letter) that your employer is aware of and support your proposed study
	6. SAQA certificate and PASSPORT (International students/qualifications)

PLEASE NOTE!

- ▶ Due to the multi-lingual and international nature of the class, English will be the medium of communication. Written submissions must be in English
- ▶ You must be willing to spend up to five weeks per year (4-5 x 1 week in the year, block weeks) or full time on the Main campus of the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa.
- ▶ Your employer must be aware of and support your proposed study.
- ▶ If you are accepted into the programme, you will need readily available access to a well-equipped **email programme** and the **internet** on a daily basis.
- ▶ **Please contact** Thapelo Ntsiu with regards to the **selection test(s)**(NtsiuTTR@ufs.ac.za)

Kindly apply online with the University (see the Link above), and email the departmental **selection application form** to NtsiuTTR@ufs.ac.za

Incomplete application/selection forms WILL NOT be taken into consideration for the selection process. Applicant must have **two confirmations- one from the university and the other from the URP Department**

Email your November examination results before registration in January 2025 to NtsiuTTR@ufs.ac.za to finalize your selection. **CONTACT DETAILS: 051 401 3210**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY APPLICANT

I hereby confirm that all the information given is correct and that the motivation is my own work.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

University of the Free State
Urban and Regional Planning(69)
PO Box 339, Bloemfontein, 9301
Tel: 051 401 2486/3210
Email: dssb@ufs.ac.za
www.ufs.ac.za/urp

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ACADEMIC STAFF

DEAN	Professor P Oberholster
URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING	(051 401 2486/3210)
Departmental Heads / Departmental chairperson is indicated with an asterisk	
Professor	Prof. R.A. Matamanda ; Prof Y.B. Mashalaba
Head of Department	*Dr K, Mocwagae
Senior Lecturer	Mr. T Stewart, Ms. A Mgwele and Mrs. S Rammile,
Lecturers	

Honours Degrees

BACHELOR OF SPATIAL PLANNING HONOURS Study code (BC460145)

BSPHONS
144 credits (NQF level 8)

Closing date: **30 September 2025 for 2026**

A person may be considered for selection and admitted to the programme in Spatial Planning if he/she is in possession of an appropriate qualification at NQF Level 7 (SAQA certificate must accompany the qualification) and has an average of at least 60% in previous qualifications for final year modules.

- Applicants may have to write selection tests if they are considered to be suitable for selection. These tests (and possible interviews) may be conducted on the Bloemfontein Campus at a pre-arranged time and date.
- If a student does not entirely meet the admission requirements, the Academic Departmental Head and the Recognition of Prior Learning office in consultation with the Dean may, in meritorious cases, recommend that some concessions be made in respect of the requirements. The final decision will rest with the Dean, or will be determined by the Recognition of Prior Learning office. Supplementary courses, as determined by the Head of the Department, may be required; or a student may be expected to do an extra year of study in order to complete the programme.
- Proficient language skills in the medium of instruction (English) will be tested as part of selection. An acceptable module in the use of language as determined by the Academic Departmental Head, will have to be taken and passed at the students' own cost should he/she not comply with the required standard.

A minimum of 144 credits must be presented for the BSPHons programme. To obtain the Honours in Spatial Planning a minimum study period of one year is required. Residential and Compact Learning can be conducted full-time over 12 months or 24 months part-time or in block weeks where attendance take place in 4-5 block weeks in a year.

Compact learning students must attend compulsory workshop weeks at the department for the duration of the programme at times as determined by the Academic Departmental Head. Students who register as full-time or part-time will also be expected to attend some classes, sessions, guest lectures, field trips, site visits, tours, tests and examinations during the block weeks. During classes, lectures, tutorials, practicals and discussions will take place. Assignments will be done and tests and examinations may also be written during the block weeks.

The Head of the Department determines how the modules must be distributed over the years of study and in all programmes (full-time, part-time and compact learning). The modules may be spread over an additional year if a student does not have the necessary academic background. To obtain the Honours in Spatial Planning a minimum study period of one year is required. Compact learning students must attend compulsory workshop weeks at the department for the duration of the programme at times as determined by the Academic Departmental Head.

Module code	Description
URLM681/23	Land Use Management
UREP681/23	Research in Environmental Planning
URRE681/23	Research in Economic for Planners
URSC6813	Research in Socio-Cultural Aspects in Planning
URRT6805	Research in Regional Planning Theory
URUT6803	Research in Urban Development Theory
URHS681/23	Housing for Planners
URBP6805	Basic Practice in Urban and Regional Planning
URMD6808	Urban and Regional Planning Research Report

After completing the programme, the graduates will possess the following skills:

- A thorough knowledge of the aims and purpose of urban and regional planning as well as planning theory, urban planning theory, regional planning theory, philosophy and ethics.
- The ability to practically apply theory in urban and regional planning projects e.g. the capacity to analyse issues from a theoretical and/or empirical perspective and to recommend suitable alternatives.
- The ability to apply and understand economics for planners, socio-cultural aspects in planning and environmental planning; and link these to the everyday tasks and activities of urban and regional planners.
- The capacity to communicate clearly and logically, write good planning and research reports and debate these with stakeholders.

This degree does not enable registration at the South African Council for Urban and Regional Planners (SACPLAN).

BACHELOR OF SPATIAL PLANNING HONOURS
Study code (BC460171)

BSPHONS (Specializing in Human Settlement)
144 credits (NQF level 8)

A person may be considered for selection and admitted to the programme in Spatial Planning if he/she is in possession of an appropriate qualification at NQF Exit Level 7 (SAQA certificate must accompany the qualification when requested), as approved by the Academic Departmental Head and has an average of at least 60% in previous qualifications:

- Applicants may have to write selection tests if they are considered to be suitable for selection. These tests, and possible interviews, may be conducted on the Bloemfontein Campus, at a pre-arranged time and date.
- If a student does not entirely meet the admission requirements, the Academic Departmental Head and the Recognition of Prior Learning office in consultation with the Dean may, in meritorious cases, recommend that some concessions be made in respect of the requirements. The final decision shall rest with the Dean, or shall be determined by the Recognition of Prior Learning office. Supplementary modules, as determined by the Academic Departmental Head, may be required; or a student may be expected to do an extra year of study in order to complete the programme.
- Proficient language skills in the medium of instruction (English or Afrikaans) may be tested as part of selection. An acceptable module in the usage of language as determined by the Academic Departmental Head, will have to be taken at the students' own cost and passed should he/she not comply with the required standard.

A minimum of 144 credits must be presented for the BSPHons (specialisation in Housing) programme. To obtain the Honours in Spatial Planning (specialisation in Housing) a minimum study period of two years is required. Compact Learning will be conducted over 24 months in block weeks where attendance take place in 4-5 block weeks in a year.

Compact learning students must attend compulsory workshop weeks at the department for the duration of the programme at times as determined by the Academic Departmental Head. Students who register will also be expected to attend some classes, sessions, guest lectures, field trips, site visits, tours, tests and examinations during the block weeks. During classes, lectures, tutorials, practicals and discussions will take place. Assignments will be done and tests and examinations may also be written during the block weeks.

The Head of the Department determines how the modules must be distributed over the years of study and in all programmes (full-time, part-time and compact learning). The modules may be spread over an additional year if a student does not have the necessary academic background. To obtain the Honours in Spatial Planning (specialisation in Housing) a minimum study period of two years are required.

This degree does not enable registration at the South African Council for Urban and Regional Planners (SACPLAN).

Module code	Description
UREP681/23	Research in Environmental Planning
URRE681/23	Research in Economic for Planners
URBP6805	Basic Practice in Urban and Regional Planning
URUT6804	Research in Urban Development Theory
URDT6804	Human Settlement Development Management
URHA6804	Human Settlement Management and Administration
URHT6804	Human Settlements Theory
URRR6800	Research Report in Human Settlements

Master's degree

MASTER'S DEGREE OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING (Professional)
Study code (BC470348)

MURP(Professional)
208 Credits (NQF level 9)

NAS3.4 – Admission requirements for Master's Degrees

In addition to the requirements contained in General Regulation A46(a) of the University, a candidate has to comply with the additional faculty requirements:

- a) All Master's degrees are selection programmes and admission to these degrees is subject to approval of the Academic Departmental Head.
- b) Applicants must apply for admission to the Master's degree on the prescribed form. These forms are completed and submitted to the Academic Departmental Head at the beginning of the second semester. Selection will take place once final results for a student are available. The Master's courses start on a date as determined by the relevant department. Each module in the learning programmes must be successfully completed.
- c) Applicants must have an applicable Honours degree or equivalent NQF Level 8 qualification and the additional requirements per discipline (see Reg. NAS3.5).
- d) If a student does not entirely meet the admission requirements, the Dean may, in consultation with the Head of the Department, in meritorious cases, recommend that some concessions be made in respect of the requirements.

Apart from the general regulations the following is applicable:

- A person may be admitted to the programme in Urban and Regional Planning if he/she is in possession of one of the following qualifications with an average pass mark of at least 60% and has the necessary academic background:
 - Bachelor Honours in Urban and Regional Planning.
 - A degree similar to a Bachelor Honours in Urban and Regional Planning (outstanding modules for the Bachelor Honours in Spatial Planning must be completed).
 - Bachelor in Land and Property Development Management (outstanding modules for the Bachelor Honours in Spatial Planning must be completed).
- Applicants may have to write selection tests if they are considered to be suitable for selection. These tests and possible interviews may be conducted on the Bloemfontein Campus, at a pre-arranged time and date.
- Supplementary courses, as determined by the Head of the Department, may be required; or a student may be expected to undergo an extra year of study in order to complete the programme if he/she does not entirely meet the admission requirements.
- A candidate must submit a research proposal together with the application.

The Head of the Department determines how the modules must be distributed over the years of study and in all programmes (Full time, Part time and Compact Learning). The modules may be spread over an additional year if a student does not have the necessary academic background. Compact learning students must attend compulsory workshop weeks at the department for the duration of the programme at times as determined by the Academic Departmental Head. During these workshop lectures, tutorials, practicals and discussions will take place. Assignments will be done and tests and examinations may also be written.

Students that register as full time or part time will also be expected to attend some classes, sessions, guest lectures, field trips, site visits, tours, tests and examinations during the block weeks.

A minimum of 208 credits must be presented for the MURP (Professional) programme.

Module code	Description
URRM7914	Research Methodologies for Planners
URPT 7904	Research in Theory of Planning
URPP7924	Professional Practice in Urban and Regional Planning
URDP7912	Dissertation Proposal in Urban and Regional Planning
URRP7906	Applied Regional Planning Project
URUP7906	Urban Research Project
URGI7904	Geographic Information System for Planners
URMD7900	Extended Research Essay

After completing the MURP programme, the graduates will obtain a professional degree and will possess the following skills:

- The capacity to complete practical urban and regional planning projects including spatial frameworks, development plans and layouts
- The capacity to analyse issues from a theoretical and/or empirical perspective and to recommend suitable alternatives
- The capacity to communicate clearly and logically, write good planning and research reports, and debate these with stakeholders
- The ability to critically evaluate information and theories and to apply relevant concepts from
- different disciplines in innovative approaches to planning issues

The period of this study can be:

- Full time 12 months,
- Part-time 24 months or
- Compact learning - block sessions 24 months presented as 4 - 5 workshop weeks per year

After sufficient practical training the graduate will be able to register as Professional Urban and Regional Planner at the South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN).

MASTER'S DEGREE IN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING (Research)
Study code (BC480348)

MURP
180 credits (NQF-level 9)

Apart from the general regulations the following is applicable:

- A candidate who wishes to enroll for the degree, must have a 60% average in one of the following:
 - an applicable four-year degree plus applicable practical experience and/or applicable preparatory studies OR

- an applicable Honours degree, or an Honours degree and applicable studies, and/or practical experience.
- A candidate must submit a research proposal together with the application.

These learning programmes aim to:

- Provide the candidate with the opportunity to present evidence of advanced study and research characterised by intellectual independence and advanced knowledge of a specialisation area in the subject, as well as accurate evaluation of his/her own results and as well as that of others by production of a thesis which places his/her research in broader context and which is capable of withstanding international intellectual scrutiny.
- Develop the candidate to be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of supervised planning and execution of a research project in the discipline. This project includes hypothesis formulation, collecting appropriate experimental materials, optimizing techniques and procedures, data acquisition, analysis and interpretation of results, and writing of a dissertation according to a structured format and related literature.

A candidate must do research on an approved topic in consultation with the head of the department for at least two years, in preparation of a full dissertation that shall be submitted as the only requirement for the degree.

Compulsory major modules (YEAR 1+2)

URMD8900: Through the publication (or acceptance for publication) of an article in an accredited journal. The article must be accepted by an accredited journal as a scientific article before it will be accepted as an alternative to the script.

A graduate will not be able to register as Urban and Regional Planner at the South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN).

MASTER'S DEGREE WITH SPECIALIZATION IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (Research)

Study code (BC480271)

180 credits (NQF-level 9)

Apart from the general regulations the following is applicable:

- A candidate who wishes to enroll for the degree, must have a 60% average in one of the following:
 - an applicable four-year degree plus applicable practical experience and/or applicable preparatory studies OR
 - an applicable Honours degree, or an Honours degree and applicable studies, and/or practical experience.
- A candidate must submit a research proposal together with the application.

These learning programmes aim to:

- Provide the candidate with the opportunity to present evidence of advanced study and research characterised by intellectual independence and advanced knowledge of a specialisation area in the subject, as well as accurate evaluation of his/her own results and as well as that of others by production of a thesis, which places his/her research in broader context and which is capable of withstanding international intellectual scrutiny.
- Develop the candidate, who will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of supervised planning and execution of a research project in the discipline. This project includes hypothesis formulation, collecting appropriate experimental materials, optimising techniques and procedures, data acquisition, analysis and interpretation of results, and writing of a dissertation according to a structured format and related literature.

A candidate must do research on an approved topic in consultation with the head of the department for at least two years, in preparation of a full dissertation

Compulsory major modules (YEAR 1+2)

URHS8900: Through the publication (or acceptance for publication) of an article in an accredited journal. The article must be accepted by an accredited journal as a scientific article before it will be accepted as an alternative to the script.

Doctor's degree

PHILOSOPHIAE DOCTOR

Study Code (BC490048)

PhD(URPD9100)

360 Credits (NQF-level 10)

NAS3.7 – Admission requirements for a doctoral degree

In addition to the admission requirements contained in General Regulation A71(a), a candidate has to comply with the following additional faculty requirements apply:

- All PhD degrees are selection programmes and admission to these degrees is subject to approval by the Academic Departmental Head.
- The PhD candidate must show that he/she has sufficient knowledge of the subject prior to admission. Students should apply for admittance to the doctoral degree on the prescribed form. These forms should be completed and submitted to the Academic Departmental Head.
- The PhD candidate must have a Master's degree or equivalent NQF Level 9 qualification. Master's degrees include: MArch, MArchProf, MSc, MAgric, MScAgric, MEM, MSA, MScConstr, MScQS, MURP, MMRTM or MDisasterM.

This learning programme aims to:

- Provide the candidate with the opportunity to prove her/his ability to plan and do research independently and to report the results.
- Enable the candidate to make an original contribution to the discipline.

The minimum term of this study is three years and a total of 360 credits is allocated for this degree. The candidate must do research for at least four semesters on an approved topic selected in consultation with the departmental chair in preparation to complete the thesis (360 credits). The degree study period therefore lasts three years. The candidate will present at least one seminar/ research report in each year of study in accordance with departmental regulations.

Syllabi

URBP6805 24 8 CESM:20201 Basic Practice in Urban and Regional Planning

Site analysis, site planning, layout planning and township establishment, zoning, floor area, coverage, height, building restriction area, title deeds and general plans, informal settlement upgrading, infrastructure planning process. As per study guide

URCS6813/6823 8 9 CESM:20201 *Capita Selecta* in Planning

Further research in any Spatial Planning (Hons) subject already taken, or complementary work. Extended assignment or essay.

URCS6814/6824 16 9 CESM:20201 *Capita Selecta* in Planning

Further research in any Spatial Planning (Hons) subject already taken, or complementary work. Extended assignment or essay.

URCS7912/7922 8 9 CESM:20201 *Capita Selecta* in Planning

Further research in any M.U.R.P. subject already taken, or complementary work. Extended assignment or essay.

URCS7913/7923 12 9 CESM:20201 *Capita Selecta* in Planning

Further research in any M.U.R.P. subject already taken, or complementary work. Extended assignment or essay.

URCS7914/7924 16 9 CESM:20201 *Capita Selecta* in Planning

Further research in any M.U.R.P. subject already taken, or complementary work. Extended assignment or essay.

URCS7916/7926 24 9 CESM:20201 *Capita Selecta* in Planning

Further research in any M.U.R.P. subject already taken, or complementary work. Extended assignment or essay.

URDP7912 8 9 CESM:20201 Dissertation Proposal in Urban and Regional Planning

After completion of the module: Research methodologies. Research proposal. As per study guide

UREP6823 /6813 16 8 CESM:202018 Research in Environmental Planning

Environmental awareness, Sustainable development, Planning with the environment, Sustainable planning, Environmental impact assessment, disaster risk management, environmental management plans. As per study guide

URGI7904 16 9 CESM:20201 Geographic Information Systems for Planners

Basic theory, methods and techniques regarding the use of GIS in planning, preparation of plans, spatial analysis. As per study guide

URHS6813/6823 12 9 CESM:20201 Housing for Planners

Role of housing, planning for housing, legal framework. As per study guide

URLM6813/6823 16 8 CESM:20201 Land Use Management

What is land use management, planning legislation, zoning schemes, development applications, and land development. As per study guide

URMD7900 88 9 CESM:20201 Extended Research Essay

Dissertation.

URPP7914/7924 16 9 CESM:20201 Professional Practice in Urban and Regional Planning

Project management, planning office management (budgeting, personnel management, leadership), tender processes, stakeholder management. As per study guide

URPT7904 16 8 CESM:20201 Research in Theory of Planning

Values, ethics for planners, planning processes and techniques, strategic planning, systems thinking development of planning thought, public participation/ actor collaboration and the right to the city. As per study guide

URRE6813/6823 16 8 CESM:20201 Research in Economics for Planners

Research with a urban and regional planning focus in topics such as economic theory, economics, contemporary economic realities, entrepreneurship, informal economy, subsistence economy, globalisation, developmental economics, rethinking economic development, local economic development and sustainable livelihoods. As per study guide.

URRM7914/7924 16 9 CESM:20201 Research Methodologies for Planners

Introduction to research, research designs, quantitative methods, qualitative methods, basic statistics. As per study guide.

URRP7906 24 9 CESM:20201 Applied Regional Planning Project

Regional Planning processes and IDP, legal framework, applied regional development project. As per study guide.

URRT6805 20 8 CESM:20201 Research in Regional Planning Theory

Research with a regional planning focus in topics such as regional context, classical regional planning theories, regional planning policy and legislation timeline, rural realities and rural development, small towns, rural-urban linkage, city regions, mega-city regions, polycentric regions, regional blocks, Regionalism, New Regionalism, globalisation, industrial spaces, competitiveness and innovation, innovative spaces, regional planning process, regional development plans, systems thinking in regional planning, regional scenario planning, regional project management, rural resilience and rural self-sufficiency. As per study guide.

URSC6814/6824 16 8 CESM:20201 Research In Socio-Cultural Aspects in Planning

Research with a urban and regional planning focus in topics such as cultures and traditions, social factors influencing planning, e.g. migration, demography, culture of poverty, indigenous knowledge, gender, housing as a verb, social context, contemporary society, impact of HIV/AIDS and disease. As per study guide.

URUP7906 24 9 CESM:20201 Urban Research Project

Spatial planning processes and legal framework, spatial analysis, planning techniques, public participation, applied urban development project. As per study guide.

URUT6804 16 8 CESM:20201 Research in Urban Development Theory

Research with an urban planning focus in topics such as the urban context, the ideal city, urban functionality, urban form, urban transportation, urban economy, urban sustainability and self-sufficiency, urban resilience, safe and healthy cities, Western urban realities, African urban realities, urban management and governance and Right to the City. As per study guide.