

Preparing to study Real Estate, Planning and Property

To prepare you to begin studying in your chosen field at university, please complete the following tasks. The first is an ongoing study task online (MOOC) which should only take 1-2 hours (or less) of your time per week for three weeks.

Your second task is to produce a portfolio to demonstrate your interest and knowledge in a specialist area of Real Estate/ Planning/ Property. There are optional videos, podcasts and journals at the bottom of the page - some of which will help with your research task.

You can start these two tasks simultaneously, or complete the MOOC more quickly and then move on to the portfolio task.

Task 1 - MOOC

Complete this online course (MOOC)

[Pathways to Property - Online Course](#)



[Pathways to Property - Online Course](#)

www.futurelearn.com

Get a taste of the world of property and learn about careers in the industry with this online course.

- **This MOOC should be completed by Friday 8 May.**
- Each week, please write a personal reflection (up to 250 words) about what you have learnt on the course that week. Upload your reflective log to Teams.
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Learning objectives:

- To practice independent study and research skills
- To develop learning reflection skills

- To understand:
 - What is property, why do we need it and how is it developed?
 - Who gets involved when developing property?
 - The key issues impacting the property industry and the role that sustainability, globalisation and technology play in property investment, development and management
 - How the industry will develop in the future
 - The career opportunities available: roles in the industry and how to start building a career in property

Task 2 - Portfolio task

Research a specialist area or hot topic in property or planning and produce a creative portfolio (**see examples below**). This portfolio is unique to you, and can be a combination of photos, images, articles, written reflections etc.

- This task is to research an area of interest that you have (or a new area) and produce a creative portfolio to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the area.
- You can produce a physical portfolio or a digital one.
- There is no set format for your portfolio 'artefact' but it must include:
 1. A short written piece (500 words) as to why you're interested in this area
 2. At least 2 examples of developments or projects (using pictures, articles, images, drawings etc) that are relevant to your topic, with a short (500 word) reflection on each development or project that you choose..
 3. A short (500 word) reflection on where you see this area develop in the future and how you wish to contribute to it.

Learning outcomes:

- Develop specialist knowledge of a subject area within your field
- Practice independent study skills and research skills, using primary and secondary sources of information
- Develop communication skills by explaining novel ideas to your audience.
- Practise time management organisation.

You must upload your portfolio to Teams by Friday 22 May.

Some examples of specialist areas and hot topics are:

Local or historical buildings or developments

This area might focus on a specific building or development that you're interested in - the history, design, planning, value etc that has gone into the development or the building. You might look at how this building or development might be marketed for sale

Urban planning

This discipline covers the planning process as well as the economics of development alongside the environment and sustainability issues. The student learns how planners influence the places in which we work, play and rest. IT also includes understanding design and its impact on our surroundings.

Architecture

Architecture is as creative as it is technical. Whether designing houses or entire cities, you will need to consider societal, economic, technological, legal and environmental issues amongst others. The subject also draws on the history of architecture through the ages to gain a perspective of how it has changed over time.

Can we rely purely on green energy sources?

For any building, energy efficiency is key, making sure a building is thermally efficient including installing the latest solar, wind or other clean energy sources where possible. But how viable (and reliable) is green energy as a total source of supply for a building? What about the capital cost? Will the aspiration to have all building running on green energy sources ever be within reach?

Green belt developments

When planning properties for residential or commercial purposes, should the Government and councils do more to stop developers from building on greenfield sites? What impact has such developments had so far on our wildlife and landscapes – and what does this mean for our own future? Why are there so many brownfield sites across the UK that are not being developed? These are some of the questions and more that are being asked by the public and organisations that set

out to protect our rural landscapes. Planners have a huge opportunity to find new ways to nurture our surroundings whilst supporting business growth and prosperity.

Interior design

The focus of this subject is on enhancing the interior of a building. Here the student will learn how to interpret a brief, plan, research and manage interior design projects. It is an art as well as a science, requiring creativity and analytical skill with the ability to develop ideas conceptually, understand the nuances of the building, to communicate well with clients and of course deliver on the final design.

Environment

Environment studies incorporates everything from building safety and regulations to green energy solutions. Whether carrying out environmental land surveys prior to development or planning, managing and installing energy efficiency solutions in building, it pulls from many Additional activities

OPTIONAL TASKS and ideas for research

Journals

These are a great way to get up to date knowledge and research on current topics. Have a look at the below to help with your planning and research

RICS journals

The latest news and views, expert advice and in-depth features spanning the breadth of the surveying profession around the world. The built environment, construction, land and property journals are all available here: <https://www.rics.org/uk/news-insight/publications/>

Building and Environment: The International Journal of Building Science and its Applications

An international journal covering original research papers and review articles about building science, urban physics and human interaction with the indoor and outdoor built environment.

[Read now](#)

Landscape and Urban Planning

Aimed at advancing conceptual, scientific, and applied understandings of landscape, this international journal promotes sustainable solutions for landscape change. With landscapes becoming increasingly urban in nature, there is great ecological and cultural sensitivity around changing these environments. It takes a care to align the interests of all and support the best outcomes for both people and nature.

[Read now](#)

Videos to watch



[7 principles for building better cities | Peter Calthorpe - YouTube](#)

www.youtube.com

More than half of the world's population already lives in cities, and another 2.5 billion people are projected to move to urban areas by 2050. The way we bui...



[Buildings that blend nature and city | Jeanne Gang - YouTube](#)

www.youtube.com

A skyscraper that channels the breeze ... a building that creates community around a hearth ... Jeanne Gang uses architecture to build relationships. In this...



Why great architecture should tell a story | Ole Scheeren - YouTube

www.youtube.com

For architect Ole Scheeren, the people who live and work inside a building are as much a part of that building as concrete, steel and glass. He asks: Can arc...



Peter Haas: Haiti's disaster of engineering - YouTube

www.youtube.com

<http://www.ted.com> "Haiti was not a natural disaster," says TED Fellow Peter Haas: "It was a disaster of engineering." As the country rebuilds after January'...

Podcasts to listen to



[Real Estate Insights, from Savills on Apple Podcasts](#)

podcasts.apple.com

Keep yourself informed on the 'real' behind the real estate headlines, our new podcast series brings you engaging and insightful discussion with experts across our global business on the issues that matter most in property.

BBC: Seventy Years in the Planning

Will Self, United Kingdom

Walking the London green belt, Will Self searches for the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act, which should have signaled an end to the post-war conflict between 'field and city'. His father was a journalist and town planner, and an advocate of the Act. However, 70 years on, opportunities have not been seized and we are left with the housing crisis of today. Will argues that it is not the fault of the planning system but rather our desire to make the planning system work.

[Listen now](#)

Royal Academy Architecture Podcasts

Various, United Kingdom

The podcasts cover many different aspects of architecture from modern day to exploring some of the works of earlier architects, particularly those that have pushed the boundaries. It also looks at the psychology and social aspects of the discipline.

[Listen now](#)