

Bachelor of
Urban Planning

First Year Guide 2026



Welcome

Welcome to the School of Architecture, Design and Planning



Head of School
Professor Ali Cheshmehzangi



Program Convenor
Dr Sara Alidoust



Academic Advisor and
Director of Engagement
Associate Professor Stephanie
Wyeth



School Manager
Olivia Dwyer



Senior Technical Officer
Sam Butler



Technical Officer
Sonya Brown



This is a condensed version of the First Year Guide. For the full guide go to: www.adp.uq.edu.au/study/first-year-student-guide



We're here to help.

How to enrol

We're so happy you're joining us at UQ!

To enrol in your courses, you'll use a system called **mySI-net**, which is the control centre for student administration at UQ. Among other things, mySI-net lets you:

- enrol in courses
- drop courses
- update personal information

Once you've enrolled, you'll use a system called **My Timetable**. Through My Timetable you can register your preferred class times and swap classes if you need to.

During your time at UQ, you'll always use mySI-net and My Timetable at the beginning of each semester. You can access both from the my.UQ Dashboard, your personalised portal to UQ systems and notifications. Also ensure you check your student email frequently.



IMPORTANT DATES

For the academic calendar, teaching periods, summer semester dates etc. (relevant to both commencing and continuing students), head to: about.uq.edu.au/academic-calendar

Log in to **Starting at UQ** for a step-by-step guide on how to set up your mySI-net profile, enrol in your courses and register your class preferences.

General FAQs? Go to: adp.uq.edu.au/study/first-year-student-guide/frequently-asked-questions-first-year



Keep 'Starting at UQ' open in a separate window as you work through the 'Enrol' section.



Semester 1 CRITICAL DATES

23 February	Classes commence – YES, WE START IN WEEK 1 on Monday 23 February 2026
6 March	Last day to add courses
31 March	Last day to drop courses without financial liability
30 April	Last day to drop courses without academic penalty

UQ Organisation of Planning Students (OOPS)

The UQ Organisation of Planning Students (OOPS) is a UQ Union affiliated society. We aim to provide our members with opportunities in industry, sporting and social fields. As a small society, we take pride in truly knowing our members and providing tailored events for them. Additional to industry events, OOPS is recognised for partaking in well regarded social events such as; UQIC competition, often fielding teams in Touch Rugby League, Rugby Union, and Netball; pub crawls; trivia nights; and formal balls. OOPS regularly partners with other UQU societies, inter-uni societies and the new UQ School of Architecture, Design and Planning to provide cross disciplinary events. Memberships are on sale now!

linktr.ee/uqoops

Visit adp.uq.edu.au/student-societies for more details

Follow us on social media

Be part of the UQ Architecture, Design and Planning community, and keep up to date with the latest news and events.

Instagram: [@uqadp](https://www.instagram.com/uqadp)

LinkedIn: [UQ School of Architecture, Design and Planning](https://www.linkedin.com/company/uq-school-of-architecture-design-and-planning)



Your first semester in urban planning

Design studio classes offer a great opportunity to ask questions and seek feedback from tutors, lecturers and peers.

Your first semester in urban planning will provide you with the foundational knowledge, technical skills and creative imagination to shape our built environment and design the cities and spaces of tomorrow.

Visit <https://www.eait.uq.edu.au/study-plans/architecture-design-and-planning/urban-planning> for detailed study plans. If you have further questions about your study plan, you can request a meeting with an Academic Advisor via adp@uq.edu.au.

ADPS1000 Sustainability for Global Citizenship

This first-year interdisciplinary course equips students with knowledge and skills to engage with sustainability as a holistic and interdisciplinary concept. The course explores the evolution of sustainability, integrating environmental, economic, technological, and socio-cultural dimensions to foster an interconnected approach to global challenges.

Through active learning and cross-cultural inquiry, students will reflect on personal and collective assumptions, developing an appreciation for diverse worldviews and the role of architecture, design, and planning in shaping sustainable futures.

The course prepares students as global citizens to actively participate in a professional community, fostering a sense of responsibility, adaptability, and leadership in addressing sustainability challenges.

Class contact:

- 1 hour lecture per week
- 1 hour tutorial per week

Coordinators:

Dr Ray Maher
r.maher@uq.edu.au

Dr Catherine Keys
c.keys@uq.edu.au

Required materials

Notebook / laptop for note taking

Refer to the current [ADPS1000 Sustainability for Global Citizenship electronic course profile](#) for the most up to date list of required materials

PLAN1000 The Planning Challenge

Practical work addressing real world planning problems and the development of a range of important planning skills (e.g. graphical presentation, sieve mapping, place making, report writing, critical thinking and team work).

Students will also gain an understanding of foundational values and skills of the planning practice including planning ethics, as well as skills in verbal, written and graphic communications. You will also gain experience in team-based project work which reflects how planners operate in a professional context.

Class contact:

- 2 hour lecture per week
- 1 hour practical per week
- 48 fieldwork hours per semester

Coordinator:

Associate Professor Stephanie Wyeth
s.wyeth@uq.edu.au

Required materials

Hat and sunscreen
Water bottle/ food
Notebook and A4 sketch book
Scale ruler
Tape measure
Translink GO Card (recommended).
Eraser; sketching pencils HB, 2B, 4B, 6B
Any other favourite drawing item
A few Artline (or similar) black felt tip pens 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, or mix of colours

Refer to the current [PLAN1000 The Planning Challenge electronic course profile](#) for the most up to date list of required materials.

Your first semester in urban planning

Design studio classes offer a great opportunity to ask questions and seek feedback from tutors, lecturers and peers.

Your first semester in urban planning will provide you with the foundational knowledge, technical skills and creative imagination to shape our built environment and design the cities and spaces of tomorrow.

Visit <https://www.eait.uq.edu.au/study-plans/architecture-design-and-planning/urban-planning> for detailed study plans. If you have further questions about your study plan, you can request a meeting with an Academic Advisor via adp@uq.edu.au.

PLAN1001 Introduction to Planning

The course covers the challenges in International development planning as well as the Australian planning context at National, State, regional and local scales. Historical and contemporary issues, debates and contentious issues in planning are also addressed. The course will leave students with a clear understanding of "what is planning" and some of the many challenges in shaping our cities and neighbourhoods.

This course provides a broad overview of the purpose, history and current practice of urban planning. It maps the history of modern urban planning and Australian cities to assist in understanding contemporary planning principles, practice and challenges. Specifically, the course considers the ways that urban planning manages and guides development for a sustainable future and includes Queensland and international examples.

Class contact:

- 2 hour lecture per week
- 1 hour workshop per week

Coordinator:

Dr Sara Alidoust
s.alidoust@uq.edu.au

Required materials

- Hat and sunscreen
- Water bottle/ food
- Notebook and A4 sketch book
- Scale ruler
- Tape measure
- Translink GO Card (recommended).
- Eraser; sketching pencils HB, 2B, 4B, 6B
- Any other favourite drawing item
- A few Artline (or similar) black felt tip pens 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, or mix of colours

Refer to the current [PLAN1001 Introduction to Planning electronic course profile](#) for the most up to date list of required materials.

GEOS1100 Environment & Society

Environment and Society is an introduction to physical and human geography. The course is managed by the [School of Environment \(Science\)](#) and provides an introduction to the diverse areas of physical and human geography. Think of it as a 'tasting' plate for all the content areas that geography covers. This includes:

Social systems such as human populations & urbanisation, and sustainability and human contributions to the environment.

Natural systems including climate systems, land-forming processes, food and agricultural practices.

Class contact:

- 3 hour lecture per week
- 2 hour practical per week
- 8 hour once off fieldwork
- 1 day once off field trip

Coordinator:

Associate Professor Angela Dean
a.dean@uq.edu.au

Required materials

- Hat and sunscreen
- Water bottle/ food
- Notebook and A4 sketch book
- Scale ruler
- Tape measure
- Translink GO Card (recommended).
- Eraser; sketching pencils HB, 2B, 4B, 6B
- Any other favourite drawing item
- A few Artline (or similar) black felt tip pens 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, or mix of colours

Refer to the current [GEOS1100 Environment & Society electronic course profile](#) for the most up to date list of required materials.



Studio culture and First Year Learning Studio

The studios and First Year Learning Studio are vibrant and creative spaces for collaboration, project work, study and discussion among peers. UQ's **studio culture** will help you establish the rhythms and processes of design, and gain essential skills needed to succeed in a professional design environment.

What is "studio culture"?

- Establishing a vibrant "studio culture" and facilitating active involvement in design studios is a focus of the UQ School of Architecture, Design and Planning. We encourage a studio culture where you **work iteratively and collaboratively** – to learn from interaction with your peers and teaching staff in both contact and non-contact hours.
- Participating in studio culture allows you to **learn the necessary rhythms and processes of design**, through a repetitive cycle of thinking, doing and reflecting. You will be actively guided and trained on how to work in design studios, gaining essential skills that will carry forward through the remainder of your studies and into your professional career as an architect or designer.
- All students will have the opportunity to **work in hand-drawn and digital media** for work-in-progress and final drawings, as well as multiple physical models at varied scales and stages, as foundations to developing design thinking.
- Studio culture at UQ provides students with **key foundational knowledge and modes of operating** in a design environment. It's also a lot of fun!

What can I do in the First Year Learning Studio?

Location: Zelman Cowen Building, Level 2, Room 223.

- Work collaboratively with your peers and learn from teaching staff
- Use the space for both structured activities and self-directed learning / study
- Learn and practice the rhythms and processes of iterative design:
 - **Think:** Observe, listen, see, feel, absorb, evaluate
 - **Do:** Test your observations and creative thoughts through physical doing, measuring, drawing, model-making and creative experimentation
 - **Reflect:** Self-directed and collaborative reflection and discussion on your 'doing'. What is working? What needs more testing?
- Use the computers available
- Use the materials space to assemble your architectural models
- Hang out with your mates IRL!
- Refill your water bottle
- Find out about the latest urban planning events

What is the Collaborative Workshop (COLAB)?

Location: Zelman Cowen Building, Ground Level.

- All Architecture, Design and Planning students have access to the [Collaborative Workshop \(COLAB\)](#), which provides facilities and equipment for model making and 1:1 scale prototyping. Students are welcome to explore the equipment and materials available. To use the specialised equipment, you are required to undertake relevant online training and attend induction sessions. These can be accessed through UQ Blackboard > COLAB.

How should I manage my time?

- Read dates carefully as not all classes are weekly
- Put together weekly and semester schedule
- Attend all required design studios, lectures, tutorials and field trips
- When possible, embrace opportunities for optional fieldwork
- Start each course by understanding how the course is structured, the requirements, learning resources and when the assessments are due. Course profiles: [my.UQ](#)
- BE ACTIVE! Attend all lectures, studios and tutorials; checkout Facebook groups for your courses; participate in learning activities; practice problems; revise and review your work; and if in doubt, ask!
- Utilise all of the learning resources available to you, such as:
 - Course tutors and studio assists
 - [Learning workshops: https://my.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/student-support/workshops](https://my.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/student-support/workshops)





THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE



"Definitely get practical experience during university to get ahead. It helps you get a leg up on everyone else, while also making practical sense of what you learn in the classroom."

UQ offers industry-focused planning projects in each year of your studies, plus the lecturers help link students with useful industry contacts."

Coby Tomlins

Graduate of Bachelor of Urban Planning

Need help?

Student Central

Prentice Building (42)

p 1300 275 870 (Option 1)

w [my.uq.edu.au/contact/
student-central](http://my.uq.edu.au/contact/student-central)

Student Services

w [my.uq.edu.au/information-and-
services/student-support](http://my.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/student-support)

Student Advocacy and Support

w [uqu.com.au/student-advoca-
cy-and-support/](http://uqu.com.au/student-advocacy-and-support/)

**School of Architecture, Design
and Planning Reception**

Level 3, Zelman Cowen Building (51)

p +61 7 3365 3537

e adp@uq.edu.au

w adp.uq.edu.au

**Faculty of Engineering,
Architecture and Information
Technology**

Hawken Engineering Building (50),
Level 2

p +61 7 3365 4666

e enquiries@eait.uq.edu.au

w eait.uq.edu.au