



COURSE OUTLINE

ENP105 Introduction to Sustainable Urban Development & Town Planning

School: School of Law and Society

2026 | Trimester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay

BLENDED
LEARNING

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to usc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

Urban development has shaped our planet. These impacts have not always been positive and as we face uncertain futures improved processes are required. Urban development and town planning is central to achieving a more sustainable world. This course will introduce the history, practice, policy, and theory associated with urban development and town planning. You will explore and apply the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to case studies in the global and local context. You will gain the knowledge and skills to consider the impact of your area of UniSC study and its role in sustainable cities.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Readings; pre-recorded concept videos and associated activity	1hr	Week 1	11 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus tutorial	2hrs	Week 1	11 times

1.3. Course Topics

Urban development and the processes of urbanisation

Sustainable urban development and the role of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Global risks, challenges, complexity and the role of urban development

Theories of urban design, urban development and town planning

Urban morphology and spatial planning

Designing with nature and urban ecosystems

What makes a 'good place' – connecting people and place

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Competencies from multiple Professional Bodies (see below) *
① Apply the UN Sustainable Development Goals to the processes of urban development and town planning, from the global to the local context.	Empowered Sustainability-focussed	1, 2, 2.1, 3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
② Communicate the relevant theories, approaches, and data for interdisciplinary and community-led decision-making for sustainable urban development and town planning.	Engaged	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1.3, 3.3.4, 4.1.1, 5.3.5, 6.1.1, 6.3.4, 7.1.3, 7.3.1, 8.3.1, 9.1.1, 9.3.1, 10.1.1, 10.3.3, 11.1.1, 11.1.2, 11.1.3, 11.1.4, 11.1.5, 11.2.5, 12.1.1, 12.2.4, 13.1.2, 13.1.3, 13.2.5, 13.3.4, 13.3.5, 14.2.2, 15.2.3, 15.2.5, 16.3.1, 17.1.4, 17.2.3, 17.3.4
③ Explore the role that different discipline areas – health, education, science, arts, economics, environment, sociology, engineering, law - all have in shaping and establishing sustainable urban development and town planning.	Creative and critical thinker Ethical	2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 11.1.1, 11.1.2, 11.1.3, 11.1.4, 11.1.5, 11.2.2, 11.2.3, 11.2.4, 11.2.5, 11.3.2, 11.3.4, 11.3.5, 11.2

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	
1	No poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2	Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3	Good Health and Well-being: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
3.1.3	The learner understands the socio-political-economic dimensions of health and wellbeing and knows about the effects of advertising and about strategies to promote health and well-being.
3.3.4	The learner is able to publicly demand and support the development of policies promoting health and well-being.
4	Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
4.1.1	The learner understands the important role of education and lifelong learning opportunities for all (formal, non-formal and informal learning) as main drivers of sustainable development, for improving people's lives and in achieving the SDGs
5	Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
5.3.5	The learner is able to plan, implement, support and evaluate strategies for gender equality.
6	Clean Water and Sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
6.1.1	The learner understands water as a fundamental condition of life itself, the importance of water quality and quantity, and the causes, effects and consequences of water pollution and water scarcity.

CODE	COMPETENCY
6.3.4	The learner is able to plan, implement, evaluate and replicate activities that contribute to increasing water quality and safety.
7	Affordable and Clean Energy: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy for all
7.1.3	The learner understands the concept of energy efficiency and sufficiency and knows socio-technical strategies and policies to achieve efficiency and sufficiency.
7.3.1	The learner is able to apply and evaluate measures in order to increase energy efficiency and sufficiency in their personal sphere and to increase the share of renewable energy in their local energy mix.
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
8.3.1	The learner is able to engage with new visions and models of a sustainable, inclusive economy and decent work.
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Build infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
9.1.1	The learner understands the concepts of sustainable infrastructure and industrialization and society's needs for a systemic approach to their development.
9.3.1	The learner is able to identify opportunities in their own culture and nation for greener and more resilient approaches to infrastructure, understanding their overall benefits for societies, especially with regard to disaster risk reduction.
10	Reduced Inequalities: Reduce inequality within and among countries
10.1.1	The learner knows different dimensions of inequality, their interrelations and applicable statistics.
10.3.3	The learner is able to identify and analyse different types of causes and reasons for inequalities.
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
11.1.1	The learner understands basic physical, social and psychological human needs and is able to identify how these needs are currently addressed in their own physical urban, peri-urban and rural settlements.
11.1.2	The learner is able to evaluate and compare the sustainability of their and other settlements' systems in meeting their needs particularly in the areas of food, energy, transport, water, safety, waste treatment, inclusion and accessibility, education, integration of green spaces and disaster risk reduction.
11.1.3	The learner understands the historical reasons for settlement patterns and while respecting cultural heritage, understands the need to find compromises to develop improved sustainable systems.
11.1.4	The learner knows the basic principles of sustainable planning and building, and can identify opportunities for making their own area more sustainable and inclusive.
11.1.5	The learner understands the role of local decision-makers and participatory governance and the importance of representing a sustainable voice in planning and policy for their area.
11.2.5	The learner is able to feel responsible for the environmental and social impacts of their own individual lifestyle.
11.2.2	The learner is able to connect with and help community groups locally and online in developing a sustainable future vision of their community.
11.2.3	The learner is able to reflect on their region in the development of their own identity, understanding the roles that the natural, social and technical environments have had in building their identity and culture.
11.2.4	The learner is able to contextualize their needs within the needs of the greater surrounding ecosystems, both locally and globally, for more sustainable human settlements.
11.3.2	The learner is able to participate in and influence decision processes about their community.
11.3.4	The learner is able to co-create an inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable community.
11.3.5	The learner is able to promote low carbon approaches at the local level.
11.2	Socio-emotional learning objectives for "Sustainable Cities and Communities"
12	Responsible Consumption and Production: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

CODE	COMPETENCY
12.1.1	The learner understands how individual lifestyle choices influence social, economic and environmental development.
12.2.4	The learner is able to envision sustainable lifestyles.
13	Climate Action: urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
13.1.2	The learner understands the current climate change as an anthropogenic phenomenon resulting from the increased greenhouse gas emissions.
13.1.3	The learner knows which human activities – on a global, national, local and individual level – contribute most to climate change.
13.2.5	The learner is able to recognize that the protection of the global climate is an essential task for everyone and that we need to completely re-evaluate our worldview and everyday behaviours in light of this.
13.3.4	The learner is able to promote climate-protecting public policies.
13.3.5	The learner is able to support climate-friendly economic activities.
14	Life below Water: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
14.2.2	The learner is able to show people the impact humanity is having on the oceans (biomass loss, acidification, pollution, etc.) and the value of clean healthy oceans.
15	Life on Land: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
15.2.3	The learner is able to connect with their local natural areas and feel empathy with nonhuman life on Earth.
15.2.5	The learner is able to create a vision of a life in harmony with nature.
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
16.3.1	The learner is able to critically assess issues of peace, justice, inclusion and strong institutions in their region, nationally and globally.
17	Partnerships for the Goals: Strengthen the implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
17.1.4	The learner recognizes the importance of cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, and knowledge sharing.
17.2.3	The learner is able to take ownership of the SDGs.
17.3.4	The learner is able to support development cooperation activities.
PLANNING INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA	
2.1	Professional and Ethical Planning Practice
2.2	Plan Making, Land use Allocation and Management, and Urban Design
2.3	Governance, Law, Plan implementation and Administration
3.1	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' and Indigenous peoples' rights, interests and planning approaches
3.2	Economic Planning
3.3	Environmental Planning
3.4	Social Planning
3.5	Transport Planning
3.6	Urban Design

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

In week 3 of this course there will be an early assessment of a draft copy of your essay topic and structure and this will be peer reviewed in your tutorial

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1a	Plan	Individual	0%	2 pages	Week 3	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	1b	Essay	Individual	30%	1500 words	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Report	Individual	30%	1200 words	Week 9	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Quiz/zes	Individual	40%	2 hours	Week 11	Online Test (Quiz)

All - Assessment Task 1a: Draft

GOAL:	A review of your essay topic and structure for assessment 2		
PRODUCT:	Plan		
FORMAT:	Essay structure		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Organisation		

All - Assessment Task 1b: Application of UN Sustainable Development Goals to Urban Development

GOAL:	To contextualize your chosen area study with the range of UN SGDs, and identify how it relates to sustainable urban development and planning, offering opportunities for more sustainable and inclusive settlements.	
PRODUCT:	Essay	
FORMAT:	You will reflect upon and write about your current area of study at UniSC (e.g. urban design and town planning, business and commerce, engineering, etc) and the role that it currently plays in urban development and town planning.	
CRITERIA:	<p>No.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Exploration of discipline specific knowledge and practice to the broader range of UN Sustainable Development Goals and the practices and processes of urban development 2 Conveying the connections between discipline specific, and urban development and town planning, practice and theory 3 Communication of insights made for future sustainable development, and quality of the syntax and mechanics of the essay. 4 Application of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to the processes of urban development and town planning, from the global to the local context. 	Learning Outcome assessed
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy	

All - Assessment Task 2: Urban Development & Town Planning Report

GOAL:	To enable you to identify, apply and interpret urban development, town planning and social, economic and environmental data and information through the use of a case study.	
PRODUCT:	Report	
FORMAT:	A case study analyses of an urban location which includes a written component, but will also include a range of maps and the presentation of a range of social, economic and environmental data. From your analyses, recommendations for change in line with UN SDGs will be made for the case study location.	
CRITERIA:	<p>No.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Communication of the relevant theories, approaches, and data for interdisciplinary and community-led decision-making for sustainable urban development and town planning. 2 Identification of additional data, including but not limited social, economic, and environmental issues as they relate to your case study location. 3 Application of the the UN SDGs to convey appropriate recommendations for change in the case study location 4 Exploration of the role that different discipline areas – health, education, science, arts, economics, environment, sociology, engineering, law - all have in shaping and establishing sustainable urban development and town planning. 	Learning Outcome assessed
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Applying technologies, Information literacy	

All - Assessment Task 3: Sustainable Urban Development and Town Planning Quiz

GOAL:	To demonstrate key urban design and town planning concepts through the application of land use zoning codes, site suitability assessments, and overlay evaluations for sustainable urban development scenarios using online planning tools.	
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes	
FORMAT:	In-class quiz, using online resources	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1 Communication of terminology, knowledge, concepts and theories related to sustainable urban development and town planning.	2 3
	2 Application of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to the processes of urban development and town planning, from the global to the local context.	1 3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy	

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site— Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty

From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty

More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.8. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:

- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **UniSC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **UniSC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **UniSC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au