



Land Planning and Development

Creating the spaces where people live and work

“One year into my role as Contract Manager I find myself project managing large contracts, quoting and tendering, building a client base, dealing with contractual issues working on energy sites and large industrial plants, designing and setting out.”

Rob Sharp BSc (LP & D)
Contract Manager Downer Ltd

Built environments play a significant role in how we function as groups of people — suburbs, towns, cities, societies. Additionally, there is growing concern about how we respond to the natural environments within which all human activity takes place.

Land and land use decisions have cultural, social, legal, economic and ecosystem implications and this BSc degree offers a broad perspective on these issues.

While it may be noticeable if our built environments are poorly designed, through studying this degree, you will recognise the attributes of excellence in planning and urban development.

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Why study Land Planning and Development?

Land planning, land administration and the process of land subdivision have significant impacts on the layout and function of human and natural landscapes. These activities influence the way land is used, patterns of residential development and assessments of the economic potential of land. For some, land also has an important cultural value.

This degree provides an excellent foundation for those wanting a career in planning, land development and resource management, especially in relation to the subdivision and administration of land. It differs from other New Zealand planning degrees in that it emphasises engineering design and land administration, from Pākehā and Māori perspectives, as well as covering essential aspects of New Zealand legislation that relate to land development. It encompasses the practical aspects of planning and planning law.

Career Opportunities

This is a foundation degree for a career in aspects of surveying that relate to land development. This can lead to work in local government and private practice with surveyors, planners, land developers and urban designers.

Note: While this degree is a stepping stone to a career in land development, surveying and planning, professional membership to the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors currently requires an additional one year Diploma for Graduates qualification. Students wishing to become recognised as fully qualified professional planners have the option to undertake the two year Master of Planning (MPlan) at Otago, leading to membership of the NZ Planning Institute.

What will I study?

100-level

If you wish to complete the BSc in Land Planning and Development, you must take the following papers:

MATH 130 Fundamentals of Modern Mathematics I

SURV 101 Introductory Surveying

SURV 102 Geospatial Science

ENGL 228 Writing for the Professions

200-level and beyond

200-level papers include civil engineering, urban design, geographic information systems, land administration, land tenure and planning.

Papers at **300-level** and above include Resource Management Act processes and offers experience in designing residential subdivisions in concept and detailed layout phases. Students can add papers from other degree programmes (such as Geography, Economics or Surveying) to complement their programme of study.

How will I study?

Land Planning and Development is a practical course as well as an academic one. You'll have lectures, tutorials and workshops using computer software and Computer Aided Draughting packages, and Geographic Information Systems data gathering and analysis (including communicating spatial information).

You will also undertake engineering labs, infrastructure inspections, site visits to view landscape and construction examples and a one week hands on field course at the end of the academic year.

Background Required

A background in both human and physical geography is desirable, high standards of literacy and numeracy skills, an enquiring and critical mind and a strong interest in land and the legal, ecological, economic and social environment.

Can I combine Land Planning and Development with other areas of study?

The Land Planning and Development major lends itself to combining with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Geography, Business / Management, Environment and Society or Environmental Management. These compatible subjects are available as minors within the Science degree structure, allowing you to pursue a coherent line of study through to an advanced level, within the three- year degree.

You could also combine Land Planning and Development with a second major e.g., Geography or Geographic Information Systems, if you have a passion for a second area of endeavour.

PROFILE

Cassino Doyle - Land planning and Development (Whakatohea, Te Rawara)

Cassino Doyle wasn't that engaged at school but that was okay - he was pretty good at sport, and knew some influential people - so he thought his career would just fall into place. Sure enough, after leaving school Cassino got a chance to play rugby league professionally in the UK. Then at 23, he had a series of head knocks that changed his focus... he needed to reprioritise his sporting career and re-assess his options.

"I decided to study construction management at Tech and really enjoyed that, but discovered I had an interest in creating subdivisions, so I came to Otago to study Land Planning and Development. The degree covered all the practical skillsets I needed to get into the industry, including design, construction management, contract and project management as well as the consent planning side of things. There was also quite a large Māori land component, which I found very appealing."

After completing his Land Planning and Development degree, Cassino went into the construction industry for a time, but decided he wanted to complete the extra papers that would equate to the equivalent of a Bachelor of Surveying.

"As well as developing additional skillsets, the Diploma for Graduates structure allowed me to study part-time while working as a graduate resource planner."

Cassino then found employment with an international engineering and infrastructure consultancy based in Dunedin, discovering that the broad exposure he had gained in the Land Planning and Development programme was immediately applicable in the industry. His experience in construction management in addition to his planning and surveying skills, allowed him to have input in a wide range of civil construction projects - from development of the concept - through to completion of construction. Projects ranged in scale from installation of bus shelters, safety and beautification works on the state highway at the railway station, seawall construction, to the SH88 and South Dunedin shared cycle paths.

"These local experiences provided the basis for me to take up a two and a half year secondment in Fiji, helping the Fijian Government undertake a \$500M/year infrastructure upgrade programme. It was an opportunity that only came about because I had developed a broad baseline skillset and was adaptable, which started during my undergrad years."

"I grew up thinking that sport was my career path, and because I had mucked around at school and didn't achieve academically, that tertiary education wasn't even an option. But fortunately, I enrolled at Otago and found that with the many support networks available, and provided I put the work in consistently,

