



GEOP4090

Planning and Design

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Zahra Nasreen

zahra.nasreen@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

B268 25 Wally's Walk

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to BPlan and (130cp at 1000 level or above) including ENVG370 or GEOP370 or GEOP3080

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

How does planning influence the design of cities, neighbourhoods, streetscapes and sites? This unit explores the relationship between planning and design. It builds upon the student's skills developed across the many subject areas of the planning program, including real world creative problem solving, collaboration, plan preparation and evaluation, inquiry based skills, and workplace readiness. The unit examines the tools available to planners to guide the built outcomes of places and provides an overview of the elements of urban design. Through exposure to subject matter experts, site visits and workshop exercises students will further develop the knowledge skills required of planners.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Evaluate the role of planning for healthy built environments.

ULO2: Identify and discuss the planner's role in communicating issues to different audiences.

ULO3: Prepare strategic planning documents that show an understanding of the relationship between planning and design.

ULO4: Explain and discuss the interplay between planning and design and the planner's various roles in this process.

ULO5: Communicate and present complex issues clearly and succinctly.

ULO6: Apply practical skills expected of a planner in the workplace.

General Assessment Information

Assessment requirements, submission and feedback Detailed requirements and marking rubrics for each assessment task are available in iLearn under the "Assessments" label. All assessments should be submitted via Turnitin using the relevant link provided in iLearn. Feedback and marks for each task will be provided via Turnitin by the posting date nominated in iLearn.

Late Assessment Submission Policy

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, **a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied** each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, **a mark of '0' (zero)** will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm.

A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-time sensitive assessment (incl. essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Preparing a submission	30%	No	21/08/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Analysis report	30%	No	18/09/2026	Individual and Group	No	Open
Plan preparation	40%	No	02/11/2026	Individual	No	Open

Preparing a submission

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **21/08/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

You are to prepare a submission as a planner (1,000 words) on a draft policy/plan

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Prepare strategic planning documents that show an understanding of the relationship between planning and design.
- Communicate and present complex issues clearly and succinctly.
- Apply practical skills expected of a planner in the workplace.

Analysis report

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **18/09/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

This is a group project that will include a report (1,500 words) based on research and critical evaluation of constraints and opportunities as background for planning a small business centre, together with a presentation of findings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the role of planning for healthy built environments.
- Explain and discuss the interplay between planning and design and the planner's various roles in this process.
- Communicate and present complex issues clearly and succinctly.
- Apply practical skills expected of a planner in the workplace.

Plan preparation

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **02/11/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

You are to prepare a structure plan for a small area within NSW. Your assessment submission will include a short report (1,500 words) explaining the context and basis for the plan and a plan

illustrating your proposal.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and discuss the planner's role in communicating issues to different audiences.
- Prepare strategic planning documents that show an understanding of the relationship between planning and design.
- Explain and discuss the interplay between planning and design and the planner's various roles in this process.
- Communicate and present complex issues clearly and succinctly.
- Apply practical skills expected of a planner in the workplace.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- [Academic Success](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

The unit will be delivered over a series of seven workshops. The weeks are 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13. Teaching will include a combination of presentations by the convenor, guest presentations, group work, in-class activities, student-led discussion groups, field work, and some self-directed activities such as online recordings. Note, the delivery mode of this unit is on-campus only. Make sure you organise your time and commitments to enable attendance.

IMPORTANT You should regularly and often check the unit iLearn site, and open and read any emails and announcements from the convenor as these may contain advice regarding delivery of the unit.

Unit Schedule

The unit will incorporate fortnightly scheduled lectures and workshops. The topics for the unit workshops are as follows:

WEEK 1: Introduction to Planning and Design - 27 July Monday

Overview of unit, assessments, concepts of design and planning, and their application in the public domain.

WEEK 3: Regulation and Policy - 10 August Monday

Regulation and Policy relating to design in the NSW planning system.

WEEK 5: Public domain - 24 August Monday

Case Studies: Bankstown town centre, Parramatta square

WEEK 7: Planning for centres - 7 September Monday

Structure planning

WEEK 9: Master Plans 5 October (Public Holiday)

Case studies: Bowral South New Living Area, Bays West Master Plan, Campbelltown City Centre Master Plan (Recorded Lecture)

WEEK 11: Neighbourhoods - 19 October Monday

Neighbourhood character and local character analysis.

WEEK 13: Assignments 3 – 2 November Monday

Presentation (in-class) and Report submission 11:55 pm

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released

directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2026.01R of the [Handbook](#)