

# Urban Planner



**Alternate title** Town Planner, Environmental Planner

**Description** Urban and regional planners develop policies and plans for the use of land and resources. They advise on the economic, environmental, social and cultural needs of particular localities or regions. They also work on large-scale projects such as new suburbs, towns, industrial areas, commercial and retail developments, urban renewal projects and transportation links.

**Typical duties**

- develop long-range objectives to cope with growth and change, in consultation with affected communities;
- perform surveys and site inspections;
- compile and analyse information on physical, economic, social, legal, political, cultural and environmental factors which affect land use; prepare and coordinate economic, social and environmental impact studies;
- discuss plans with private companies, government organisations and with local communities;
- consider new developments or redeveloping areas, and advise state and local governments on planning issues for projects such as new suburbs, transportation links, industrial estates, retail complexes and housing developments;
- draw up plans for development or re-development and evaluate proposals in terms of benefits and costs, recommending how schemes can be carried out;
- prepare urban and rural subdivision plans, taking into account various land uses, including residential, public open space, schools and shops;
- provide evidence for appeals in planning disputes;
- consult with, and act as an advocate for, community groups or developers;
- assist developers to obtain planning permits;
- design strategies to guide land and resource use and development in particular locations;
- recommend a course of action that ensures local and regional needs will be met, by taking into account factors such as amenity, community facilities, access to employment, retail housing and transport;
- supervise and work with associates and technicians.

**Personal requirements**

- interested in social, economic, environmental and cultural issues
- good oral and written communication skills
- able to produce detailed and accurate work
- good analytical and problem-solving skills



- Qualification**
- Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning
  - Bachelor of Urban Design and Planning
  - Bachelor of Social Science - Environment

**Entry requirements** To become an urban and regional planner you usually have to study town or regional planning at university. You may also consider other degrees that emphasise related fields of architecture, economics, environmental science, geography and sociology. The various universities have different prerequisites and some have flexible entry requirements. Contact the universities you are interested in for more information as requirements may change.

**Job prospects** The majority of urban and regional planners work in the metropolitan area but there are a growing number of opportunities in country areas. Some consultant planners have government and private-sector clients in the Asia-Pacific region.

Urban and regional planners work predominantly in state, territory and local governments, with opportunity for employment in specialised consulting practices or financial and real estate institutions. Planners also participate in conservation and development issues for large resource projects. Within the public sector there is a clear career structure in state, territory and local government services. The private sector is more varied and there are opportunities to work in many areas of planning.

**Specialisation** Planning is a broadly based discipline and it is possible to specialise in a wide range of fields, including strategic planning, urban design, environmental impact assessment, residential planning, commercial and industrial planning, heritage planning, tourism planning and social planning.

- Related Jobs**
- Architect
  - Surveyor
  - Landscape Architect
  - Quantity Surveyor
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**Further information**

- Planning Institute Australia <http://www.planning.org.au/>

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