

Planning plays an important role in our society. It enables us make the best use of our resources and allows necessary and worthwhile development to go ahead. At the same time, it ensures that the environment and heritage of our towns, cities and countryside is protected.

Planning Authorities control the location, amount and type of development by deciding on planning applications. Everyone has a right to comment on planning matters, and to shape the planning and development of their area.

Planning involves how we plan and make decisions for the future of our cities, towns, village and countryside. People who work in planning are known as Planners. Planners work in the public, private and voluntary sector. Planners work can include designing our towns and cities, working with people and companies to make the best use of their land and buildings, plan transport, protect the environment and historic buildings of national importance.

Planners are required to think about the potential impact any development may have on the surrounding environment and ensure the environment is protected in the future, this is known as sustainable development.

Where can I study to become a planner?

The Irish Planning Institute inspects and accredits on invitation a number of planning courses. A list of currently accredited courses is shown below.

Accreditation by the IPI of a course indicates to future employers of graduates that the standard of education received has provided the person with the necessary skills to undertake a career as a planning professional, and is of considerable advantage to persons seeking to be recruited as planners to both the public and private sector. All courses are accredited in line with the Institute's education guidelines.

Technological University Dublin

DT106 BSc in Spatial Planning & Environmental Management (4 year undergraduate)

DT123 MSc Spatial Planning (2.5 year part-time postgraduate)

University College Dublin

Master of Regional and Urban Planning (MRUP) - 2-year course

Accelerated 3+1 degree combining: BA Planning, Geography and Environmental Policy and MRUP Accelerated

University College Cork

Masters in Planning and Sustainable Development - MPlan

Using these resources

Students should read the chosen article.

Split the class into groups;

- Some will play the role of the developer who want to build the proposed development,
- Others will play the residents/public,
- Another group will play the competent authority the Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála depending on the article chosen who will listen to the arguments made by the developer and the residents /public. The Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála group will negotiate between the groups and make the final decision.

Students should be given time to discuss the issues and then have a class debate. A planner will advise the students on how to make a decision ensuring the development is sustainable and follows proper planning regulations.

When in groups students should keep in mind the following;

- Developers think about how the development will benefit the area and how they can reassure the local community.
- The residents /public think about what problems the development could bring and what changes the developer could make.
- The Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála think about what is best for the area in terms of planning guidelines and ensure any potential development is sustainable for the future.