



CAREER INFORMATION 2026

BACHELOR OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING



FACULTY OF
ENGINEERING
& THE BUILT
ENVIRONMENT

DEPARTMENT OF
TOWN &
REGIONAL PLANNING

01 JAN - 31 DEC 2026

Bachelor's Degree of the Built Environment in Urban and Regional Planning (BBURPI)

NQF Level: 7

SAQA ID: 99018

Qualification Code: BBURPI

Location: Steve Biko Campus (S3 Level 4)

Description of the Programme

Urban and regional planners work within a diverse range of activities in which they develop land use plans and deploy tools in order to develop and help create communities and improve existing areas. Planners engage with the effects of population growth, migration, and their impact on settlements, including towns, cities, and city regions within the constitutional mandate of the country and its laws. The typical work of an urban and regional planner includes:

- Meeting with communities, public officials and developers about development plans and land use,
- Administering government policies and plans that affect land uses, for example the National Development Plan 2030 and Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act of 2013,
- Gathering and analysing data from a range of sources such as land use surveys, census information, and economic and environmental information, traffic surveys, housing, and community surveys for a variety of applications,
- Managing and accessing proposals for development including development controls in relation to land use applications such as special consent, rezoning, sub-division of land, etc.
- The design and layout of existing township extensions, commercial and industrial layout, housing projects, or informal settlement upgrading,
- Cartographic work including the preparation of cadastral plans using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Computer Aided Draughting (CAD) software and is used to integrate data such as population density with digital maps,
- Assisting in the community participation processes to establish their needs, issues, and goals. This is typically done through research, analysis of data and community engagement and collaboration to develop local strategies for development, and
- Collaboration with a range of other professionals in the built environments such as architects, civil engineers, surveyors, environmental practitioners, property developers, lawyers, and public officials.

Career opportunities

Urban and regional planning is projected to grow as the momentum for implementing the National Development Plan takes shape and has been identified as a scarce skill. Planners are typically employed in the private sector, planning firms, local provincial authorities, and service organisations. Both technical planners and professional planners work in government departments at municipal, provincial and national levels and in state owned enterprises. In the private sector, there are career opportunities in planning firms and a range of other sectors such as community organisations and property development.

Duration & Structure of Course

The duration of the programme is 3 years of full-time study. The programme is based on semester modules which comprise core planning modules and general education modules. Students are expected to complete 33 modules for this programme.

Explanation of Points scale:

SENIOR CERTIFICATE(SC)		
SYMBOL	HIGHER GRADE	STANDARD GRADE
A	8	6
B	7	5
C	6	4
D	5	3
E	4	2
F	3	1
A	8	6
B	7	5

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE(NSC)		
%	LEVEL	POINTS
90-100	7	8
80-89%	7	7
70-79%	6	6
60-69%	5	5
50-59%	4	4
40-49%	3	3
30-39%	2	2
20-29%	1	1

Entry Requirements BBE (Urban and Regional Planning)

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) (01 January 2009)		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) (PRE 2009)			NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (VOCATIONAL) (NCV)	
NSC DEGREE ENTRY		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)			(NCV) – LEVEL 4	
Compulsory Subjects	NSC Rating Code	Compulsory Subjects	HG	SG	Compulsory Subjects	Mark
English	4	English	D	C	English	60%
English First Additional	5	English Second Language	C	-	Mathematics	60%
Mathematics	4	Mathematics	E	D		

*** Either English Home OR English First Additional Language will be considered.**

Additional one Compulsory Subjects**

Geography	4	Geography	D	C	Geography	70%
History	4	History	D	C	History	70%
Life Science	4	Biology	D	C	Life Science	70%
Physical Science	4	Physical Science/Science	D	C	Physical Science	70%
And any two 20-credit subjects (not a language)	4	AND any TWO subjects (not a language)	D	C	OR any 20 credit subjects (not a language)	70%

** It is required that any one of the additional compulsory subjects is taking from the following pool of subjects (Geography, History, Life Sciences or Physical Science) at a minimum level 4. **No equivalent**

NB:

I. Applicant's will be required to sit for a suitable placement test, as part of the entry requirement to this programme.

In addition to the above, the DUT general rules will apply with regard to admission requirements based on work experience, age and maturity, and admission via Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). The admission of international students will be according to DUT's Admission's policy for International Students and General Rules.

OR

Admission Requirement based upon Work Experience, Age and Maturity

For admission to entry level DEGREE studies:

A person may, subject to such requirements as the Senate may determine, be admitted if such a person is in possession of a National Senior Certificate, Senior Certificate, or an equivalent certificate, but lacks the minimum requirements for admission to the degree provided that:

- The person shall have reached the age of 23 in the first year of registration and shall have at least:
 - three years' appropriate work experience; and/or capacity for the proposed instructional programme, which shall be assessed by a Senate-approved admission
 - assessment comprising of a DUT Standardised Assessment Test for Access and Placement (SATAP), Academic Literacies (AL)

& English for Academic Purposes (EAP) (2,5 hours) and/or an appropriate subject or programme specific written assessment designed and marked by the relevant Department; and the person has obtained

- (b) A conditional certificate of exemption from the Matriculation Board (when in possession of the Senior Certificate (SC)); OR has met
- (c) The requirements for Senate discretionary admission (when in possession of the NSC or equivalent), where Senate is satisfied the applicant has shown sufficient academic ability to ensure success, and that the person's standard of communication skills, and/or work experience are such that the person, in the opinion of the Senate, should be able to complete the proposed instructional programme successfully.
- (d) The person's application for admission in terms of with work experience, age and maturity is approved prior to registration.

Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications at least four months before commencement of the academic year.

Tuition Fees

To assist you with your planning, the **2025** fees have been indicated. An increase for next year to accommodate the inflation rate can be expected.

Please Note: DUT cannot be held liable for the fees in this brochure as the **2026** fees are not yet finalised

First Year Curriculum

Name of Module	Subject Code	HEQSF Level	SAQA Credits	2026 Fees
Semester One				
Planning Design 1A	PLDS111	5	16	R5290.00
Site Surveying I	SSRV101	5	12	R3970.00
Statistics for the Built Environment	STBE101	5	12	R3970.00
Academic Literacy	ACDL101	5	8	R2640.00
Settlement History	STHS101	5	12	R3970.00
TOTAL				R19840.00
Semester Two				
Planning Design 1B	PLDS121	5	16	R5290.00
Urban Planning Theory and Practice	UPTP101	5	16	R5290.00
Communication Literacy	CMCL101	5	8	R2630.00
Cornerstone 101	CSTN101	5	12	R3910.00
Sustainable Earth Studies	SERS101	5	8	R2450.00
TOTAL CREDITS SEMESTER 1&2			120	
TOTAL				R19570.00

Second Year Curriculum

Semester Three				
Planning Design IIA	PLDS211	6	12	R5290.00
Urban Planning Theory	UPTH201	6	12	R3970.00
Management Principles and Project Management	MPPM101	6	12	R3970.00
Research Methods I	RMDS101	6	12	R3970.00
Introduction to Principles of Law	IPLW101	6	8	R2640.00
The Global Environment	GENV101	6	8	R2450.00
TOTAL				R22290.00
Semester Four				
Planning Design IIB	PLDS221	6	12	R5290.00
Environment Management and Techniques	EVMT101	6	8	R2630.00
Regional Development and Planning	RDVP101	6	12	R3970.00
Geographic Information Systems I	GISY101	6	8	R5290.00
Economics for the Built Environment	ECBE101	6	8	R2360.00
Sociology and Society	SSCY101	6	8	R2260.00
TOTAL CREDITS SEMESTER 3&4			120	
TOTAL				R21800.00

Third Year Curriculum

Semester Five				
Planning Design IIIA	PLDS311	7	12	R5290.00
Planning Law	PLLW101	7	12	R3970.00
Transportation Planning and Infrastructure	TPLI101	7	8	R2630.00

Research Methods II	RMDS20I	7	8	R2630.00
Geographic Information Systems II	GISY20I	7	12	R5290.00
Applied Land Economics for the Built Environment	ALEB10I	7	12	R3970.00
TOTAL				R23780.00
Semester Six				
Planning Design IIIB	PLDS32I	7	12	R5290.00
Planning Sustainable Cities and Regions	PSCR10I	7	12	R3970.00
Research Project	RPRO10I	7	12	R3970.00
Public Management and Planning	PMPL10I	7	12	R3970.00
Restorative Justice	RSJS10I	7	8	R2600.00
TOTAL CREDITS SEMESTER 5&6			120	
TOTAL				R19800.00

NB: The course structure and requisite modules are subject to alteration.

Application

Applicants who wish to enrol for the programme must apply through the CAO system by no later than 30 September of the previous year.

CAO Online Application visit: <http://www.cao.ac.za>

CAO Contact Details

Private Bag X06
Dalbridge, 4014
Tel: (031) 2684444
Fax: (031) 2684422

CAO Code: DU-D-BUR

Closing date for applications: 30 September 2025

For Further Information

Contact the Department of Town and Regional Planning Durban University of Technology
P O Box 1334
DURBAN,
4000
Tel: (031) 3732673
Fax: (031) 3732805
Email: vashna@dut.ac.za

Professional Organisations

The following are planning and professional organisations that a graduate may wish to join: South African Planning Institute (SAPI)

E-mail: sapi@worldonline.co.za Phone: 011-425-4502

Fax: 011-425-4502

South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN) Postal Address:

The Registrar

The South African Council for Planners P O Box 1084

Halfway House

Midrand

1685

Graduates are encouraged to join the Council and Institutes which provides a forum for technicians and planners.

Financial Aid

For Financial Aid application for a DUT programme please apply online at www.nsfas.org.za or call the NSFAS call centre on 0860 067 327.

For an explanation on how to fill out the application form, please go to www.nsfas.org.za or contact the call centre on the number above.

Please note that completing a form does not guarantee Financial Aid. For further assistance, please consult the Department of Financial Aid and Scholarships on (031)373 2931/2557/2054.

This is for information purposes only and is not binding on the Durban University of Technology