



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Town &
Regional
Planning.

Bursaries for Postgraduate Study

MA in Town and Regional Planning
MA in International Development and Planning

September 2010 Entry

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has set up a scheme to provide bursaries for students on RTP1-accredited one-year masters courses. The Department of Town and Regional Planning expects to offer around ten bursaries to allocate for its MA in Town and Regional Planning and MA in International Development and Planning. The exact number of bursaries available is awaiting confirmation from Communities and Local Government.

These MAs are 12 month, intensive courses accredited by the Royal Town Planning Institute. The courses develop the critical skills and knowledge required for professional practice in planning

Candidates with excellent qualifications (at least a 2(i) undergraduate degree or equivalent) in any academic discipline, who have a commitment to furthering their knowledge and skills in planning and who wish to pursue a career as a planner in the public sector are encouraged to apply for a place on the MA in Town and Regional Planning or MA in International Development and Planning with a bursary.

The bursary is expected to pay full tuition fees for the year and a maintenance grant of around £6000. The Economic and Social Research Council will administer the scheme and applicants should have a relevant connection to the UK (please see www.esrc.ac.uk). The Department for Communities and Local Government is expected to require bursary holders to sign a Public Sector Contract tying them to work for at least two years out of the first five following graduation within the public sector.

The Department of Town and Regional Planning will allocate bursaries on a competitive basis. We will consider application materials presented by the applicant (including references) as well

as drawing on a short interview with the applicant during an Open Day in order to make our decision. The deadline for applications will be 21st May 2010. Decisions will be made by 15th June 2010.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact:

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The Process of Applying for a DCLG Bursary

DCLG Bursaries will be allocated on a competitive basis to students alongside the process of applying for a place on the MA in Town and Regional Planning or the MA in International Development and Planning. Students resident in the UK who have submitted an application for a place on either these courses will be invited to an Open Day at the Department of Town and Regional Planning. Students will be asked prior to the Open Day whether they wish to be considered for a DCLG Bursary. At the Open Day, students will be interviewed by a member of academic staff. This, in conjunction with the application form (including personal statement) and references will provide the information required for us to make decisions on Bursaries.

Applicants will receive notification of a place on the MA in Town and Regional Planning or MA in International Development and Planning shortly after their Open Day visit. Those applicants who hold a place on the September 2010 entry to these courses will then be informed of whether they are successful in gaining a DCLG Bursary by 15th June 2010. As the Bursaries will be allocated on a competitive basis, decisions on Bursaries will *only* be made in late May/June, once all applications have been received by the department. If applicants who attended Open Days earlier in the year have gained work experience or have received information about results from previous degrees in the period between their Open Day visit and late May, we would encourage those applicants to contact the Department with this information.

Criteria for Allocation of ODPM Bursaries

<i>Essential</i>	<i>Assessed in</i>
Relevant connection to the UK ⁱ	Application Form
2(i) honours degree (or equivalent) ⁱⁱ	Application Form and Degree Certification
Evidence of excellent academic ability (indicated by degree result, references from academic tutors, evidence of clarity of thinking in interview)	Application Form/Degree Certification, References, Interview
Evidence of commitment to a career in public sector planning (this may be indicated by a period of work experience in the public sector (whether permanent, temporary, or voluntary (unpaid)), by evidence of	Personal Statement, References, Interview

research into planning as a public sector career (consulting information and literature or talking to public sector planners)	
<i>Desirable</i>	
Period of work experience in planning either in the public or private sector (including permanent, temporary and voluntary (unpaid) work)	Personal Statement, References, Interview
Evidence of research into planning as a career (investigation of literature and information sources about planning, talking with planners)	Personal Statement, Interview
Commitment to Sheffield's MA in Town and Regional Planning or MA in International Development and Planning (giving evidence of why this course has been chosen in particular)	Personal Statement, Interview

Applications for the bursary will be considered using:

1. Application forms (including, personal statement, evidence of degree results and other evidence of academic performance)
2. References
3. Interview at Open Day

Those applicants who have already been offered either an unconditional or conditional offer of a place will be considered for a bursary, unless they indicate otherwise. These applicants will not need to send further materials or attend an additional open day (although some candidates will be required to show evidence of their degree status once obtained).

The deadline for applications will be 21st May 2010

The final Open Day will be on 26th May 2010

Decisions will be made by 15th June 2010 (at the latest)

ⁱ This is to satisfy the ESRC's Residential Eligibility criteria. These include that "the candidate has been ordinarily resident in the UK throughout a 3-year period preceding the date of application for the award, and has not been resident in the UK, during any part of that 3-year period, wholly or mainly for the purposes of full time education, and has settled status in the UK within the meaning of the Immigration Act 1971 (i.e. is not subject to any restriction on the period for which he/she may stay). British citizens are not subject to immigration control but only those other nationals who have been granted written permission to stay in the UK permanently are considered to have settled status. It is important to note that residential eligibility is based on a physical presence in the UK. British citizenship in itself does not satisfy the residential eligibility requirement."

ⁱⁱ Suitable experience may be taken into account (this experience may include relevant work experience). Further postgraduate (advanced) study may allow an applicant with a less than sufficient undergraduate degree to be considered