

Candidate Information

Position: Lecturer in Planning
School/Department: School of Natural and Built Environment
Reference: 26/113543
Closing Date: Monday 17 August 2026
Salary: £46,936 - £64,890 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date: Friday 4 September 2026

Job Purpose:

The Planning discipline at Queen's University Belfast, based in the School of Natural and Built Environment, has a very strong reputation for teaching and research at national and international levels. To maintain and further strengthen that position, we are now recruiting a Lecturer in Planning who will join a small and highly dedicated team of well-established and early career academics. This is a full-time, permanent position.

The successful applicant will deliver professionally accredited modules in Planning at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, linking planning practice with contemporary and future societal challenges, within a theoretically-informed context. The role involves contributing to the teaching, assessment, organisation and administration in the School of Natural and Built Environment. This will consist of assisting with coordination and delivery of interdisciplinary modules, participating in a range of teaching activities including lectures, group work, fieldtrips, project supervision and other forms of student-based learning.

The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the existing research profile of the School by actively contributing to the knowledge and impact in the field of planning and related areas linked to UN Sustainable Development Goals and Queen's Global Challenges. This requires a strong interdisciplinary engagement, and distinctive and critical research agenda in spatial planning and its engagement with pressing socio-spatial challenges emerging from the entanglement of human environments, technological, economic and environmental change, questions of justice, health and governance of urban and rural places. The successful candidate is expected to build a research profile based on securing external competitive funding to undertake an independent programme of research, publishing in leading peer-reviewed journals, supervising PhDs and generating research impact and public engagement through knowledge exchange activity.

The post is designed to extend our research portfolio and/or consolidate existing areas of research strength within an increasingly inter-disciplinary context. The successful candidate is expected to make a strong contribution to more or more of the Schools research groups, particularly the Environmental and Spatial Governance (ENSGOV) group and the Futures, Presents, Pasts group. While research specialisms from a wider range of planning fields will be considered, it would be advantageous if candidates were able to strengthen existing research strengths of marine governance, urban regeneration, climate action, energy transition, planning governance, public health and urban futures, in the context of the research priorities of QUB's Strategy 2030.

Major Duties

Education:

1. Coordinate and contribute to Planning and other SNBE modules at undergraduate and postgraduate levels (BSc, MPlan and MSc), with an emphasis on planning in the context of Queen's Global Challenges (such as healthy, equal societies, healthy living for all, human-environment relations, and/or resilient sustainable planet).
2. Develop and apply appropriate assessment processes to accurately measure the attainment and progress of students learning and provide constructive feedback, in line with University requirements and procedures.
3. Contribute to the enhancement of a quality learning environment within the Discipline, School and Faculty.
4. Contribute to and participate in international and local study trips and other experiential learning experiences.
5. Continually improve impact on student learning through self-reflection on performance and constructively respond to student and peer feedback.

6. Contribute to curriculum development and innovative approaches to learning, teaching and assessment, including developing new approaches to connected learning and engaging with current pedagogical debates.
7. Develop networking links with relevant professional bodies to ensure that teaching reflects current best practice and contemporary challenges.

Research:

1. Engage in rigorous, original, collaborative research activity that generates impactful findings that engages planning expertise with key societal challenges and the priorities of QUB's Strategy 2030.
2. Develop a strong independent programme of interdisciplinary research by securing competitive external funding supported by robust research networks.
3. Contribute to original knowledge through high impact, international, peer reviewed outputs.
4. Foster strong research impact through a range of knowledge exchange activity and develop future REF impact case studies.
5. Contribute to the development of planning thought through activities such as engagement with national and international conferences and key policy.
6. Develop extensive professional networks with international researchers and with key non-academic stakeholders, including relevant professional bodies to ensure that research reflects current knowledge and best practice.
7. Develop a programme of supervised PhD research, attracting funding and high-quality candidates to the School.

Leadership and Administration:

1. Provide pastoral care for students to ensure that any concerns are dealt with in a timely, sympathetic and effective manner.
2. Carry out administrative duties associated with education and research commitments, including assessment and feedback at Undergraduate, Master's, and PhD level.
3. Collaborate with non-academic partners to maximise opportunities for research impact and the learning experiences of students.
4. Be responsible for the record-keeping associated with student-learning and the preparation of teaching materials.
5. Contribute to the School's outreach strategy, including student recruitment and marketing, by developing collaborative partnerships with relevant external bodies.
6. Act as mentor for students in the capacity of personal tutor.
7. Participate in School, Faculty and University administration as requested by line manager.
8. Undertake all duties in line with the University's Staff Charter.

Essential Criteria:

1. Relevant degree (1st class or 2.1) or international equivalent and a completed PhD in Planning or a cognate subject.
2. Strong background in professional and/or academic practice with an established portfolio of relevant, high-quality research outputs commensurate with career experience.
3. Demonstrable experience in delivery of good quality education to undergraduate and/or postgraduate students.
4. Demonstrable abilities in administration, self-organisation and project management.
5. Demonstrable experience in providing pastoral care in a learning environment.
6. Proven ability in effective team working.
7. Proven ability to present ideas in a clear and inspiring way.
8. Commitment to contribute to collaborative research and learning culture of the School, guided by University strategies.

Desirable Criteria:

1. Master's degree in a relevant subject such as Planning or cognate discipline.
2. Registered Chartered Planner or having demonstratable attributes that would facilitate personal accreditation in a relevant professional institute.
3. Completed PGCHET or an equivalent teaching qualification.
4. Demonstrable experience of:
 - Securing and managing externally funded research.
 - PhD supervision and completion.
5. External indicators of high research quality including citations, prizes or speaking invitations.
6. Demonstratable evidence of existing research impact.
7. Evidence of high teaching evaluations, teaching awards and/or pedagogical development.
8. Evidence of contributions to curriculum development.
9. Experience of novel development of online learning environments.

10. Experience of key administrative roles in an educational context and evidence of related achievements.
11. Evidence of innovative and engaging techniques.

Additional Information:

Informal enquiries can be directed to: Dr Heather Ritchie - heather.ritchie@qub.ac.uk.