Bachelor of Applied Science (Planning)

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER DOING THIS PROGRAM?

Two main reasons: If you want to help change cities, regions and societies, then planning is the ideal profession to choose. Planning has many aspects to it, and provides great career opportunities, and all are related to shaping the future of our urban and regional areas. Also, if you are seeking a program in which there is a high demand for its graduates, this is it. There is a shortage of planners across Australia, both in the government and private sector. RMIT planning graduates are highly sought after.

WHAT IS THE ENTER SCORE?

In 2010 it was 72.15. In recent years it has ranged from 72 to 77.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS?

Current Year 12: Units 3 and 4–English (any).
Non-Year 12: None. Applicants are encouraged to apply and should either be currently employed in industry or have evidence of experience and/or ability to meet the demands of the program.

HOW MANY STUDENTS PER YEAR ARE ACCEPTED?

Approximately 37 students

HOW MANY CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK ARE THERE?

Full-time students are expected to attend 12 hours of classes and undertake approximately 24 to 36 hours of extra study and research, weekly.

HOW MANY STUDENTS PER CLASS?

There are 100 or so in some first-year classes, around 30 in later years. Larger lecture classes are broken down into smaller tutorials of approximately 20 students.

THE PROGRAM TITLE MENTIONS APPLIED SCIENCE – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The title is historical and the emphasis in the current program is on applied social sciences such as geography, sociology, politics and economics.

WHAT DO GRADUATES SAY ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

Go to Alumni profiles: www.rmit.edu.au/environmentplanning/alumni
WHAT DO I STUDY IN THIS PROGRAM?

You begin by studying the origins of the profession and the key ideas behind planning practice. You study how major plans are constructed and implemented. You study planning law and gain an appreciation of urban design. Social and transport planning are covered. You undertake work practice. Finally you write either a thesis or a group report. Importantly, the outcome from all of this is that you develop the skills and confidence to work in a range of professional capacities where you will be demonstrating critical thinking, communication abilities, team work competency, and change-agent skills.

WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF THIS PROGRAM?

The focus is very much on cities and regions, particularly Melbourne and Victoria. However, this is undertaken in the context of our increasingly internationalised world. As a result you will be contrasting Australian practices with the best international examples, and, through RMIT’s exchange programs and study tours, you will have the opportunity to consider international experience first hand.

HOW ARE WORK PLACEMENTS ARRANGED?

Most Melbourne planning agencies offer work placements to RMIT students. It is paid. Work practice enables students to meet prospective employers before graduating.

CAN I STUDY OVERSEAS AS PART OF THIS PROGRAM?

Exchange agreements exist with universities in Canada, Finland, The Netherlands, Sweden and The Philippines. These enable you to spend a semester overseas in your second year.

WHERE CAN I FIND WORK ON GRADUATING?

The better question is: which job offer do I take? Some graduates start full-time work at a council to learn how plans and planning law are actually applied in an often political setting. Others work with non-government organisations to promote social and housing issues. Some move to the private sector; there are many highly-regarded planning consultants in Melbourne. Increasingly, graduates are going to work in State and Federal Government agencies that are involved in planning our future infrastructure and communities. Building on their international interests developed during the program or personally, others go interstate or overseas where there are demands for RMIT-trained planners.

ARE THERE FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS?

Yes. You can go onto an honours degree with the Bachelor of Social Science (Planning) (Honours). You can also choose to apply to and study a Master degree in Environment and Planning at RMIT, as well a number of other related fields.

Please note: Information supplied in this document was correct at the time of publication, August 2010. Every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate. Prospective students are advised to confirm details with the appropriate school or area prior to application.