

Careers in Transport Planning

Transport Planning

Transport planners are responsible for creating, assessing, improving and maintaining efficient, safe and sustainable transport systems at local, regional and national/international level. Transport planners' work can involve working on a range of transport methods including cars, lorries and buses, rail networks, pedestrian systems for walking or cycling, and air travel. Their work is guided by government policies and initiatives and work undertaken is often to create transport systems, strategies and policies that meet these whilst also addressing an area's social, economic and environmental needs.

The role involves understanding the relationship between transport, towns and cities, people who use the transport and the environment striking a balance between them which is most effective, efficient and economical. Examples of typical tasks include:

- Investigating the effectiveness of bus service routes through designing, gathering and analysing travel survey data.
- Creating a report evaluating the effectiveness of creating a new railway line informed by data and government policies.
- Designing new transport facilities for a new residential area.
- Creating a strategy on changing people's attitude toward travel and encouraging environmentally friendly methods of transport.

Entry Routes

Although studying Geography, Transport Planning, Civil Engineering, is potentially useful; all degrees are generally accepted onto transport planning graduate roles. Employers in the sector are looking for people with certain skills in:

- Analysis
- Report writing
- IT
- Research and evaluation
- Verbal communication and negotiation
- Observation
- Numeracy

In addition to your degree/degrees there is a professional qualification associated with Transport Planning called the TPP (Transport Planning Professional). Just like the professional qualifications for lawyers, architects and accountants this qualification recognises that you have the competence, based on both knowledge and experience to work in the transport field and that you are committed to complying with the standards and ethics of that profession. The TPP is awarded jointly by the TPS (Transport Planning Society) and the CIHT (Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation).

There are a number of ways to gain the TPP (see link http://www.tps.org.uk/main/transport_planning_qualifications/), which require a combination of various activities which may include, for example showing continuous professional development, submitting a portfolio of technical knowledge, being able to supervise other transport planners, and undergoing a professional review interview. Some masters programmes are accredited by the TPS, here is the link to see the full list: www.tps.org.uk/main/masters-courses/ ,

Getting Experience

It is worth getting experience to gain an insight into the world of transport planning and to see whether it is a role you would enjoy. There are a few organisations that offer transport planning placement and graduate scheme opportunities. However the best approach to finding work experience is through speculative applications during your time at Loughborough. Careers Network staff are able to support you with this during a Quick Advice Appointment bookable on Careers Online.

Resources for Further information

- National Careers Service: nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/TransportPlanner.aspx
- Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk/transport_planner_job_description.htm
- Targetjobs: targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/logistics-transport-and-supply-chain/412760-transport-planning-explained-how-to-get-your-graduate-career
- Transport Planning Society: www.tps.org.uk/main/careers/
- The Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT): www.ciht.org.uk/en/education--cpd/index.cfm

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