

Digital Planning Directory: Education and Training Listing

Call for Entries

1. About the Digital Planning Education and Training Listing

Seed-funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the [Digital Planning Directory](#) was launched in January 2025 by the [Digital Task Force for Planning](#). The Directory has quickly established itself as a central resource for the sector, currently featuring **120 digital service providers** and **120 case studies**, and reaching over **26,000 users** since its launch.

Building on this success, the Digital Task Force for Planning is developing a **Digital Planning Education and Training Listing**, which will be hosted on the Directory in 2026. This free, publicly accessible resource will **showcase digital planning education programmes and training opportunities in spatial planning**, giving institutions an industry-recognised platform to highlight their digital planning education and training offerings.

2. Purpose of the Listing

The Digital Planning Directory Education and Training Listing aims to:

- **Map current educational and training offerings** in digital planning, making it easier for students and professionals to find relevant learning opportunities.
- **Enhance the visibility and discoverability** of programmes and courses, positioning listed institutions as leaders in digital planning education.
- **Attract students and learners** by highlighting high-quality, innovative, and forward-thinking content.
- **Support collaboration** in developing shared or modular training opportunities for mid-career professionals and local planning authorities.
- **Encourage universities and training providers** to embed digital content into their curricula or services, particularly where accreditation, resources, or awareness may otherwise limit adoption.

Note: For the purposes of this Directory, “digital planning” refers to the application of data-driven tools, technologies, and methods to support planning processes, decision-making, design, and urban governance. This includes, but is not limited to, GIS, urban analytics, AI, visualisation, simulation, 3D modelling, digital twins, and smart city systems.

3. Scope of Disciplines Covered

The Directory adopts an inclusive approach, recognising the breadth of spatial planning and related fields. Cross-disciplinary courses from non-planning disciplines (e.g., computer science, environmental sciences) are welcome to apply if they include digital content directly applicable to spatial planning.

Relevant disciplines include (but are not limited to):

- Planning (town, country, and spatial planning)
- Urban Analytics
- Smart City Technologies

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- Urban Studies
 - Geography
 - Transport Planning
 - Architecture and Urban Design
 - Landscape Architecture
 - Environmental Studies
 - Housing Studies
 - Real Estate and Land Surveying
 - Computer Science
 - Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, and drone technologies
 - Civil Engineering
 - Social Sciences
 - Environmental Psychology & Neuroscience
 - Ecology
 - Public Health
 - Behavioural Science
 - Geological Engineering
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4. Digital Planning Education Listing – Academic Taught Course Programmes

[\(Submissions accepted only from UK-registered universities at this stage\)](#)


The directory aims to include a wide range of academic offerings, including:

- Undergraduate and postgraduate degrees
- Degree apprenticeships
- Distance learning programmes
- Executive education programmes

Eligibility Classification

- 1)  **Eligible – Digital Specialist Courses:** Digital specialist programmes focused heavily on data analytics and digital tools

Courses providing in-depth exploration of advanced digital topics relevant to planning, such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital twins, simulation, and data science.

- 2)  **Eligible – Integrated Courses:** Integrated planning programmes with a strong digital focus or dedicated specialism

Courses focused on the practical application of integrated digital tools and techniques within planning contexts, including GIS, urban analytics, spatial data analysis, and 3D modelling.

- 3)  **Not Eligible**

- Programmes with only minimal or incidental digital content, added solely to meet basic learning outcomes.
- Research-only programmes and standalone modules are not eligible at this stage.

- 4) **Upcoming Courses:** As some universities are currently developing digital planning programmes, these will be included in an Upcoming Courses list:



New Courses to Come

New programmes focusing on digital innovation and integrated planning. **Courses may only be listed if they are scheduled to launch by October 2026.**

5. Digital Planning Training Listing – Professional and Skills-Based Training

(Submissions are only accepted from organisations legally registered in the UK, including universities, training providers, and professional bodies. Digital Task Force for Planning and MHCLG have the final decision on the suitability of organisations for inclusion in the listing.)

Eligible formats include:

- Non-degree short-term learning programmes (online, in-person, or hybrid)

Eligibility Criteria for Training Providers

To be included, training must meet the following criteria:

- **Minimum duration:** At least one full day in length.
- **Certification:** A recognised certificate of completion must be issued upon successful completion.
- **Structured and outcomes-based:** The training must have clear learning objectives and measurable outcomes (not informal or awareness-only).
- **Relevant competencies:** Content must deliver practical or conceptual digital skills applicable to spatial planning.
- **Intended audience:** Training must be designed for planning professionals, related built environment practitioners, or students preparing for digital practice.

✗ Not Eligible: Informal talks, one-off webinars, or events without measurable learning outcomes.

6. Application Process and Submission Requirements

Self-Nomination Process

The listing operates on a self-nomination basis. Providers submit their entries via online forms. All submissions are reviewed by a panel of subject experts to ensure consistency and relevance.

Eligibility Statement (Required)

Each course or training application must include an **Eligibility Statement** (maximum 200 words) that clearly outlines the course details. **This statement is for assessment purposes only and will not be displayed on the listing.**

- The course or training's relevance to digital planning
- The intended audience and learning outcomes
- How digital theory, tools, or methods are integrated
- *(For training only)* Confirmation of minimum one-day duration and issuance of a certified certificate

Submission Requirements

Each submission must include:

- **Eligibility Statement** (as outlined above)
- **Course or Training Description** (maximum 100 words; to be displayed on the listing if eligible), including:
 - Target audience
 - Expected learning outcomes
- **Specialism Keywords** (up to 5 keywords) for improved search and categorisation

Additional Required Information

- Name of university or training provider (Your organisation's logo will be required once your listing has been approved)
 - Title of the course / programme
 - Professional accreditation or certification details
 - Department(s) or delivery unit(s)
 - UCAS Course Code (if applicable)
 - Duration
 - Course / training type (e.g., undergraduate, postgraduate, degree apprenticeship, distance learning, executive programme)
 - Direct links to the course or programme webpage
 - Course focus: **Specialist / Integrated**
 - Tags for search (e.g., beginner / intermediate / advanced; specialisation keywords up to 5; online / in-person / hybrid)
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7. Listing Display

- The Education Listing and Training Listing will be displayed separately, as they target different user groups and provide different types of information.
 - The listing will be grouped by university/provider names, with only programme names shown in the initial view.
 - Users can click to expand any entry to view full details.
 - Filters and search tools will allow navigation by:
 - Course type
 - Delivery mode
 - Keywords
 - Skill level
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8. Timeline and Updates

<u>Milestone</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
Call for Entries Opens	9 September – 15 October 2025
Assessment	16 October – November 2025
Notification and Clarification	November – December 2025
Web Development & Content Input	December 2025 – Early 2026
Directory Launch	Early 2026

The listing will aim to be updated annually, with a reminder email sent to all listed providers. Providers may request ad hoc updates throughout the year if course content or structure changes significantly.

9. Support and Queries

For questions about eligibility or submissions, please contact Dr Wei Yang, Digital Task Force for Planning at: info@digital4planning.com.

10. Application Form Links

- For **established courses**, please submit FORM 1(A): [Education Listing – Established Course Submission](#)
- For **upcoming courses**, please submit FORM 1(B): [Education Listing – Upcoming Course Submission](#)
- For **training programmes**, please submit FORM 2: [Training Listing Submission](#)

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Developed by

**Digital Task Force
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