

TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNERS must be intelligent and creative. They must have good visual perception and the ability for three-dimensional perception.

The fast growing world population places ever increasing spatial demands on the land for the provision of housing, businesses, industries, services, schools and recreative facilities. It is the task of the town and regional planner to investigate and plan for the most efficient and sustainable use of urban and rural land when providing for the necessary amenities for urban and rural populations.

Suitable spaces to accommodate human activities must be created such as factories and offices for their working needs, houses for homes, shops, cinemas, parks and sports facilities for cultural and creational needs. A transport network must link all these facilities with one another. Provision must also be made for water, power and waste disposal. The various regions in the country each have its own unique character. Town and regional planners must identify the available resources and the potential for growth of each region. In metropolitan development, where certain patterns of development have already been established, town and regional planners study alternative settlement patterns to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants. At the urban level, town and regional planners plan totally new developments. Town and regional planners can give advice as to which specialists have to be brought together and to co-ordinate their specialized contributions for example, in group or sectional title housing schemes and in the carrying out of environmental impact assessments. Town and regional planners also act as important links between other professional groups such as architects, engineers, economists and sociologists.

Town and regional planners are not only involved in the design of new urban developments, but also do the administration, management and legal aspects of development. They can also specialize in, for example, the use of computers in solving and planning problems.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Mathematics.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The entrance qualification for a degree course in Town and regional Planning is a Senior Certificate (matric exemption) with a pass in Mathematics. It is advisable to obtain further details on entrance qualifications from the university of your choice.

TRAINING

UNIVERSITY

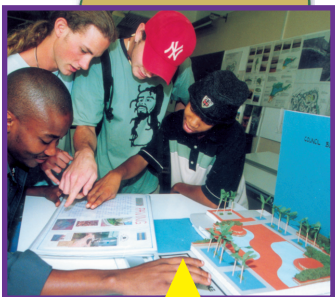
Training in Town and Regional Planning is offered at most universities. All Town and Regional Planners may register at the South African Council for Town and Regional Planners after completing at least three years of approved postgraduate practical experience.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

A three-year NDip: Town and Regional Planning is followed by the BTech: Town and regional Planning and the MTech: Town and Regional Planning.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Town and regional planners can work in different environments and come into contact with a variety of subjects. The working environment can change from a property developer, a provincial or municipal planning department, a private consultant and others. Town and regional planners can also work at an academic institution which is directed at research and training.



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