

The Diploma

IN PUBLIC SERVICES

How to become a... Planning Officer

£20,000-£34,000 per year (depending on seniority, £80,000 for Chief Planning Officer)
Promotion to: Senior planner, Principal planner, Chief planning officer

Job Description:

Planners make decisions on how the space in town, villages, cities and the countryside is used. They contribute to work in housing, conservation, economic development, environmental education, recreation, sport, tourism, transportation and community development.

Planners prepare long-term plans, make proposals for new developments or examine the proposals of others, and give professional advice to decision makers, such as government departments and local councillors. Work can include; visiting sites, collecting and analysing data, presenting proposals, negotiating between groups, redesigning street layouts, conservation, developing plan for new housing and improving transport networks.



Personal Competencies

Strong analysis skills

Good understanding of maps & plans

Ability to handle conflict

Good negotiating skills

Good presentation skills

Able to work to deadlines

Sarah has always been a keen environmentalist and also wanted to do something to improve people's quality of life. She studied the Advanced Diploma in Public Services to find out what sector she might be able to work in.

Sarah soon found that planning was really interesting and would bring together all her interests and skills. She focussed on this area for her extended project researching the history of a recent application for a new supermarket that had been rejected. She decided to follow this passion to university and applied for a degree in planning. At her interview Sarah demonstrated her passion, presentation skills and ability to handle conflict when she spoke about her Diploma and work experience in a local authority planning office.

Sarah can't wait to start her course this September.

For more information try visiting:
Connexions-direct.com/jobs4u
www.askwhatif.co.uk
www.assetskills.org/FindYourWay/CareerIdeas

Training and Qualifications

There are two main routes into planning for school leavers both through universities. Students can take either take a first degree in planning accredited by the RTPI (Royal Town Planning Institute), a first degree in another subject followed by an RTPI course. Entry to these degrees is normally with at least two A Level and five GCSEs (A*-C) including maths and English.