



CAREER FOCUS TOWN & REGIONAL PLANNER

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Dear students

If you are interested in developing and planning than becoming a Town Planner could be the career for you. In this edition you will find more information about the characteristics and requirements following this career.

- Martina

BECOMING A TOWN & REGIONAL PLANNER

Since each region and town has its own unique character and geographical style, the town and regional planner has to identify available resources and the potential for growth and expansion in each region, distinguishing between the urban and rural setup. Plans must be flexible for new changes without changing the existing fundamental standards and safety.

Town and regional planners focus on improving the living conditions of people. They estimate future needs for housing, business and industrial sites, community facilities and open spaces to meet the needs of expansion and renewal.

The work also entails further investigating the nature and extent of problems concerning prospective development such as projecting future needs in traffic and transportation. They need to keep up with legal issues involving community development and changes in housing and building codes.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TOWN & REGIONAL PLANNERS

- Creating suitable spaces that are most beneficial to accommodate man and his activities, for example houses, shops and businesses. This should be done, considering the necessary infra structural network and other facilities, i.e., electricity, water supply, etc..
- Working jointly with specialists and other professionals, such as engineers and architects, to plan and design.
- Acting directly and being involved in management, administration and legal aspects of development.
- Planning and restructuring of already-established settlement patterns.
- Deciding on both regional and national level what development should be taken in hand and how it should be done.
- Identifying and finding the best solutions for problems regarding function and quality of the interior environment of buildings and making necessary designs, drawings and plans.
- Monitoring construction to ensure compliance with specifications.
- Planning and designing the development of land areas for parks, schools, institutions, airports, roadways and related projects and for numerical and residential sites.
- Planning layout and coordinating development of urban and rural areas.

SOFT SKILLS YOU NEED TO SUCCEED IN THIS FIELD

You will need to have:

- Creative thinking, problem-solving and analytical skills to come up with imaginative solutions to planning problems;
- Flexibility, initiative and innovation in order to be responsive to changes and to come up with regeneration solutions;
- Strong report-writing, communication and organisational skills for effective liaison with colleagues, developers, architects and possibly members of the public;
- The ability to work as part of a team and to manage an individual caseload; project-management skills;
- Self-motivation;
- An aptitude for listening to, and negotiating with, a diverse range of people;
- The ability to work with accuracy and attention to detail, in order to ensure planning details are exact.

SOME OF THE BEST URBAN DESIGNS IN THE WORLD



REQUIREMENTS

Secondary Education

Possession of at least a **HIGCSE** Grade 12 or equivalent qualification, or equivalent qualification, with matriculation exemption and a pass mark in Mathematics on the higher grade (HIGCSE level), is required for entrance to South African universities. A HIGCSE or outstanding **IGCSE** Grade 12, or equivalent qualification, is required to enrol at technikons in South Africa. The Polytechnic of Namibia (NUST) requires an IGCSE Grade 12, or equivalent qualification, with at least 25 points on the Polytechnics point evaluation scale.

Compulsory Subjects:

Mathematics, Physical Sciences

Recommended subject

Geography

Tertiary Education & Training

Undergraduate and postgraduate training in Town- and Regional planning is offered at some universities in South Africa, like Pretoria Witwatersrand and Potchefstroom. A **N. Dip.**: Town and Regional Planning is offered at Cape Technikon, ML Sultan and Technikon Witwatersrand.

The Polytechnic of Namibia offers a N. Dip.: Land Management, consisting of four semesters theoretical and two semesters practical training.

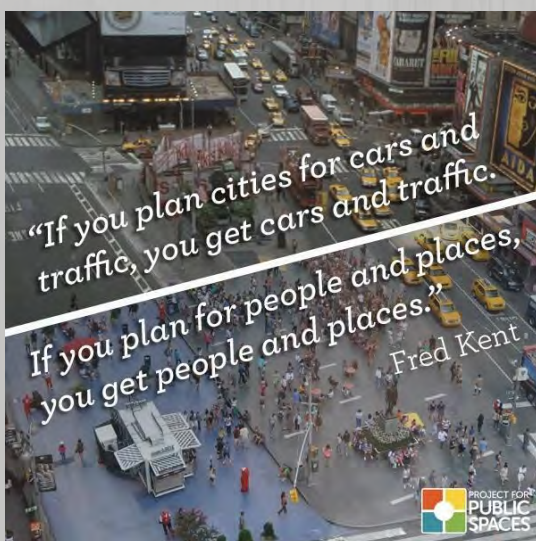
Personality

The prospective candidate must be creative and intelligent. The candidate must have good visual and three-dimensional perception and possess qualities such as integrity and objectivity. Fitness and good health are essential.

Work Opportunities

-Town and regional planners can work as property planners in regional and municipal planning departments, or as private consultants.

- Universities, universities of technology and research institutes



Reference : Pace careers and NamCareers

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<http://www.tucsin.org/index.php/en/project/documents-for-students/career-prospect>.