

Planning 101

First-year's guide to the School of
Planning



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT
SCHOOL OF PLANNING

Welcome to the School of Planning

Dear planning students,

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo. We are glad you have chosen to study with us and look forward to having you in the program. As Canada's largest Planning School, we offer courses in a number of different areas of planning at the Undergraduate, Master's, and Doctor of Philosophy levels. Our faculty are not only successful researchers and practitioners but also highly dedicated teachers. As you know, we are partially returning to campus this fall and select classes will be held in person – we are working on bringing the School back to full on campus operation for the winter term and hope to meet all of you on campus as soon as it is possible for us to do so. Although you are entering the program at a challenging time, we are absolutely committed to continue offering the highest quality planning education. There are several support services available at the University, and I encourage you to reach out to your program advisors if you have questions or concerns. We are here to help. I am excited for you to start classes and to begin interacting with fellow students, staff and faculty whether on-line or in-person. Welcome to the Waterloo planning community!

Sincerely,

Dr. Markus Moos PhD., MCIP, RPP
Director, School of Planning



Meet Your Professors



Martine August



- ▶ Degrees:
 - Ph .D. Planning, University of Toronto, 2014
 - M. SC. Pl., Planning, University of Toronto, 2007
 - B. A. Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg, 2004
 - B.SC.,
Physics, University of Winnipeg, 2002
- ▶ Research Interests:
 - Social Justice and Political Economy of Housing
 - Gentrification, displacement, and neighbourhood change inequality, poverty, urban marginality
 - Financialization of housing and neighbourhoods

Janice Barry



- ▶ My research is about how non-indigenous people can take steps towards repairing relationships with Indigenous peoples and about the professional responsibilities planners have to engage in this work. I chose to work at UW because I like the opportunity to work with a wide range of students who are just as passionate about planning as I am.
- ▶ Hobbies:
 - Hiking, canoeing, cross-country skiing gardening
- ▶ My favourite city:
 - Glasgow, Scotland

Jeff Casello



- ▶ Transportation is sometimes referred to as the lifeblood of cities. The movement of people and goods in urban environments can have very positive impacts on society, economies, and the environment, or can lead to social inequalities, economic limits, and profoundly negative environmental impacts. My work looks at local transportation systems and travelers' behaviour with the goals of planning, designing, operating and pricing systems that achieve positive outcomes.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Playing golf and watching any professional sport event, particularly when there is a tram from Boston playing
- ▶ My favourite neighbourhood:
The north end or Back Bay Boston; anywhere in Paris; or Karlsruhe Germany

Jennifer Dean



- ▶ Planning was a natural extension from my undergraduate study in geography and history, which sparked my interest in how people live/move over space and time. I research how and why people interact with their local environment, and how to create communities that support populations living healthy and full life. I like the pragmatic aspects of working in a professional school because there is a very direct way to effect change to our communities.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Yoga, watching live music, reading (non-academic books!), walking along new routes and cycling with my family
- ▶ Last place I've travelled:
New York (I wish it was somewhere farther!)

Brian Doucet



- ▶ I came to planning from geography, but I have always been interested in cities. I like the fact that planning is highly relevant to major challenges and issues in contemporary society and that working in a planning school means that you are taking a central role in these conversations.
- ▶ Hobbies:
I used to be a competitive curler and represented The Netherlands at the European Curling Championships in 2008, 2010 and 2011. Now I enjoy photography, cooking and woodworking.
- ▶ My favourite city:
Edinburgh, Scotland

Michael Drescher



- ▶ I originally studied ecology with a focus on resource conservation. I then worked for the government in forest management and came to understand that I have to work with people to have the greatest impact for conserving our natural environment. The School of Planning is a very diverse place with a great variety of people of different backgrounds that bring their respective perspectives, skills and knowledge to the table to help solve problems our society is facing.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Hiking, canoeing, backcountry camping, birding, movies
- ▶ Last place I've travelled:
Tyrol, Austria

Robert Feick



- ▶ My background in Geography and interest in using spatial analysis to understand change in human-built and natural landscapes led me to planning. If I were to explain my research to a first grader, I would say that I make maps that help people to make better places to live, work and play.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Hiking, canoeing, travelling, fixing broken things
- ▶ My favourite city:
Montepulciano, Italy

Luna Khirfan



- ▶ I took a long – winding way to end up in Planning. I started in Architecture, then Archaeology, then, Heritage Management and finally ended up in Planning. Finally, as my studies progressed, I realized that it is the “life within” (i.e., the people) who make cities beautiful. So, in my work, I am passionate about bringing everyone’s voice into the planning process.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Ice skating, hiking, dancing Argentine tango, reading, and binge watching my favourite shows.
- ▶ My favourite city:
Barcelona, Spain it’s a wonderful example of civic life, good urban design, wonderful art and architecture, and beautiful natural setting.

Jane Law



- ▶ If I were to explain my research to a first grader, in the simplest of terms, I analyze maps. I arrived at the School of Planning by being offered a professorship and thus far my favourite part about working here is researching.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Reading, and listening to music.
- ▶ My favourite city:
Cambridge, UK

John Lewis



- ▶ I enjoy the close collaborations between the SoP and the wider profession. Much of my work is based on collaborating with municipal governments to develop strategic plans for age-friendly communities and community engagement. As a professional school, we are in a unique position to be able to work with civic leaders and residents to shape communities.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Fishing, back country camping and hiking, gardening, I'm also a history buff
- ▶ My favourite city:
Vancouver, BC

Leia Minaker



- ▶ I have always been interested in how our environments shape our opportunities for physical and mental health and connection with people. Planning is a great place to study these connections because we work so closely with policy-makers who can use our findings to improve the way they create cities.
- ▶ Hobbies:
I love cooking, learning how to do new things (including tik tok dances from my kids), foraging for wild plants, and running.
- ▶ Last place I've visited:
Prague! It was probably the most beautiful city I've ever seen.

Carrie Mitchell



- ▶ I was interested in the interconnections between poverty, the environment, and cities after spending a semester abroad in India during my second year of university. Planning seemed like a good fit. My favourite part of working for the SoP is mentoring students and talking to my colleagues.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Mountain biking, reading, cooking/baking, interior design
- ▶ My favourite city:
Hanoi, Vietnam

Markus Moos



- ▶ I am really interested in how we can make our communities/economies more environmentally sustainable and inclusive. Planning is where we get to deal with the interconnection of these types of issues in specific places, which fascinates me. It's a privilege to work in an educational setting: We get to see how students develop their skills over the years and go on to do such wonderful things in the world.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Guitar, photography, skiing, hiking, movies, gardening, poetry, live music, reading legal thrillers, painting. Does eating awesome pastries count as a hobby?
- ▶ My favourite neighbourhood:
Kitsilano in Vancouver, BC

Kate Nelischer



- ▶ After studying landscape architecture and design criticism, I worked for a consulting firm in Toronto that focused heavily on planning. That experience really opened my eyes to how interesting and varied planning is, and I was hooked! I went on to work in the public sector for a few years before I shifted into academia. My research looks at participatory planning processes, including in smart cities.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Running, seeing live music, hiking, and I've recently taken up surfing!
- ▶ Last place I've travelled:
Los Angeles, where I lived for the past two years (hence the surfing)

Dawn Parker



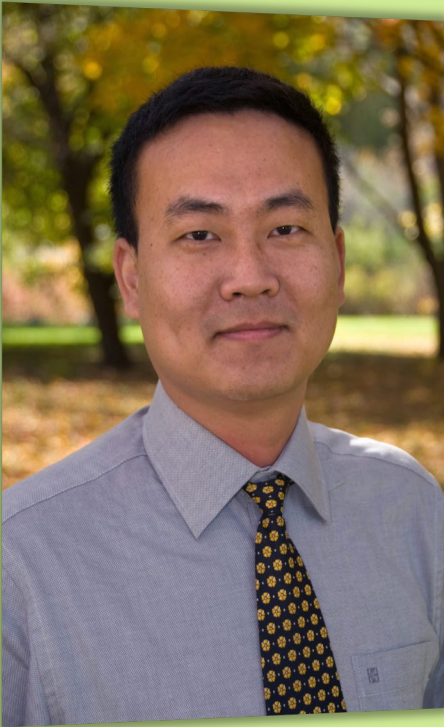
- ▶ My research views cities as systems whose form and function is shaped through interactions of diverse residents, planners, and development actors, with each other, the built form, and the natural environment. Being in the School of Planning creates great opportunities to build deep understanding of these systems with colleagues and partners from which we build computer simulations of housing markets and residential land management.
- ▶ Hobbies, pandemic version:
Cooking, sharing food with friends, gardening, bee-watching
- ▶ Favourite city:
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Jeremy Pittman



- ▶ I study how people come together to make decisions that affect the environment. My favourite part of working for the School of Planning are my great students and colleagues. I chose to study Planning because I like applied research.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Music, reading, hiking
- ▶ Last place I've visited:
Uruguay

Zhu (Joe) Qian



- ▶ I am particularly interested in the cultural and historical aspects of built environment. How planning has influenced culture, history, and human activities in cities in different parts of the world attract my attention both as an academic and as a tourist.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Travelling, reading, hiking, canoeing, cooking, visiting the zoo.
- ▶ Favourite city:
Hangzhou, China

Mark Seasons



- ▶ I create plans that explain where we need to provide places to play and enjoy nature, places to work and live, and how to connect everything through good walking and cycle trails, roads and public transit systems. Geography was my undergraduate major. Much to my surprise, I found a job in planning right after graduation and carried on from there! I had a first career for almost 20 years in planning practice in Toronto, Ottawa and Calgary, and in New Zealand. I have built upon that experience with this second career as a professor of Planning at Waterloo since 1998. I've had a great run!
- ▶ Hobbies:
Photography, cycling, kayaking, snorkeling.
- ▶ Favourite city:
Oxford, UK

Su-Yin Tan



- ▶ I am originally an environmental scientist and biologist by training (BSc, University of Guelph). I became interested in using computational tools including GIS and remote sensing for studying the environment (MA, Boston University). I soon discovered that environment problems are complex and multifaceted, and I became interested in studying the human and policy dimensions of climate change (MSc, Oxford University). I specialized in the application of geomatics tools and spatial analysis to health services and the links between crime and inequality in cities (PhD., University of Cambridge). I am jointly appointed to Planning and Geography. Teaching is my passion and I love learning about new places, cultures and people.
- ▶ Hobbies:
Exploring new localities and getting lost!
- ▶ My favourite place:
Rabaul, Papua New Guinea (my hometown)
- ▶ Last place I've travelled:
Granada, Spain

Clarence Woudsma



- ▶ I ended up in Planning through my interest and research in transportation and transportation planning. I have always been fascinated by location decisions –why things are located where they are and the role of transportation and “planning” (as in traditional perspectives on land use planning) are central. If you’ve ever ordered something online, my research essentially studies where that package comes from, the stops it’s made and how it traveled to get to your house.
- ▶ Hobbies:
I play hockey (haven’t missed a year since 1970) and I’m a pretty big fan of the game itself. I really enjoy cooking and baking. I also play squash.
- ▶ Last place I’ve visited:
Nashville Tennessee! Not for the music (I’m a metal fan) but to watch the Leafs play.

Planning Students Association

The Planning Student's Association (PSA) was created to represent the interests of undergraduate Planning Students. Each semester, new representatives are voted in by the student population. The PSA holds many planning specific events throughout the year for both professional development and community building. The PSA is a great way to get involved in the School of Planning.



Visit the PSA'S social media accounts to stay up-to-date on future announcements and events



[Planning Students's Association](#)



[@uwaterloopsa](#)



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Resources Planning Specific

Academic Advisor:

Your academic advisor is here to provide you with course advice, help you plan for future terms and specializations, and provide you with resources to help you prepare for life after graduation. They are a great resource to help you reach academic success.



Tiffany Chen is the current academic advisor for undergraduate planning students.

If you would like to have a meeting with your academic advisor, [click here](#) to book a 10-minute or 30-minute appointment.

School of Planning Research Guide:

The School of Planning's research guide is supported by the University of Waterloo's library services. This website is a starting point for assignments requiring planning-related research. Topics ranging from environmental science to governments and societies can be found on this [site](#). If you need assistance, you can contact the School's Librarian, [Agnes Zientarska-Kayko](#).

UW Library:

UW library provides many services for our undergraduate students, including hard copy and electronic articles, newspapers, books and videos. You have access to millions of resources through the UW library catalogue.

Undergraduate Calendar:

The [undergraduate calendar](#) provides a list of courses you must take to earn your degree. Course descriptions and courses required to complete specializations are also outlined.

Resources School-Wide



Systems you should know:

Academic well-being:

LEARN

LEARN is a web-based learning management system. Use this to access all course material and interact with fellow students and professors.

Quest

UW's online student information systems. Use this for enrolling in courses and viewing tuition financial statements and unofficial transcripts.

Waterloo Works

Waterloo Works helps students through the co-op process. Use this to see job postings, book interviews, edit applications and accept job offers.

Portal

Portal makes real-time information easily accessible. Use this to create to-do lists and reminders, make study plans and check availability of study spaces.

Student Success Office

The Student Success Office was created to help all students succeed. They hold many workshops on topics including how to improve study, writing and research skills.

Accessibility Services

Accessibility Services helps students who need academic accommodations for disabilities or disabling conditions. They help develop individualized accommodation plans confidentially.

Writing and Communication Centre

The Writing and Communication Centre helps you improve your academic writing and build strong communication skills. You can bring any communication piece to the Writing and Communication Centre, and they will help you review and edit it during a scheduled appointment or drop-in-session.



Resources School-Wide

Social Support and Well –Being:



UW MATES

MATES provides one-to-one peer support for individuals experiencing social difficulties and challenges associated with adapting to University life or different cultures. Mates are accessible through appointments and drop-in sessions.

 : [UWMates](https://www.facebook.com/UWMates)

 : [@UWMates](https://www.instagram.com/UWMates)

Glow Centre



The Glow Centre is a student- led service that supports the queer and trans community. They create a positive environment that welcomes everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The Glow Centre offers peer support, educational awareness campaigns, resources, and special events.

 : [Glow Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity](https://www.facebook.com/GlowCentre)

 : [@UWGlow](https://www.instagram.com/UWGlow)

RAISE



RAISE is a student-run service centered on creating an environment that promotes equality and unity. Focused on three pillars: Education and advocacy, peer-to-peer support, and community building. RAISE works to address racism and xenophobia across campus.

 : [UW RAISE](https://www.facebook.com/UWRAISE)

 : [@UWRAISE](https://www.instagram.com/UWRAISE)

Resources School-Wide

Social Support and Well –Being:

Women's Centre



The Women's Centre provides a female-positive environment for all women at UW. They hold events to educate on the various issues within feminism. The centre provides students with resources on issues ranging from intersectional feminism to sexual health.

 : [UW Women's Centre](#)

 : [@UWWomenscentre](#)

Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre



Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre works to share the knowledge of Indigenous people and provide culturally relevant information and support. Services provided by WISC are based on respect, understanding and trust. They recognize the different cultural values and right of Indigenous peoples and cultures.

 : [Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre](#)

 : [@UW_WISC](#)

Preparing for School

What you need to know about Textbooks:

Textbooks:

You will be able to find every textbook you need on the [W Store website](#). [UW Booklook](#) can be used to see the textbooks each course requires, often options such as hardcover, loose-leaf and e-book will be available.

Options for getting your books:

Ship to your door:

- ▶ Free shipping on online orders over \$150 before tax (Canada only)
- ▶ Canada: \$10 flat rate shipping on orders below \$150
- ▶ US: \$17.50 flat rate shipping
- ▶ International: \$39.99 flat rate shipping.

Curbside Store Pickup

- ▶ You can schedule your pickup time through [Portal](#), availability of appointment times range from two business days to one week.

Campus Housing Delivery

- ▶ If you live on campus, you can ship your books to your residence building's front desk.
- ▶ Orders are shipping to UWP, CLV and MKV front desks in 1-3 business days.
- ▶ For the most up-to-date front desk hours, please visit [Campus Housing's website](#).

If you live on campus or choose to put money on your WatCard, textbooks are one of the many items you can use your flex dollars on.

Please contact the [Association of Graduate Planners](#) for information about used textbooks and textbook exchanges.