

BUILDING PLACES AND SPACES

Transport
planner

Transport planners are in hot demand these days – and trainspotters needn't apply! These strategists work at the cutting edge of a council's operations. It's their job to make sure people can get to work, school, shops and leisure facilities with minimum impact on the environment but within the limitations of the transport budget. Transport planning is a key government issue so this job can take you all the way from working in a local council to chief executive level. There are numerous routes into transport planning – civil engineering being the most common. But you have to be prepared to keep on studying. Research is central to the job.

Degree needed

Most people come into transport planning with a degree, most commonly in civil engineering. A growing number have first degrees in transport, geography, mathematics, environmental studies or town planning with a transport option.



Chris Harte at work

Senior planner, Atkins Transport Planning



The emphasis is on further study and specialisation post-entry, leading to professional qualifications such as membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), or the Institution of Highways and Transportation (IHT).

Good courses

These are some of the courses recommended by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT):

- CILT(UK) Level 2 Introductory Certificate in Logistics and Transport (Dearne Valley College, Rotherham)
- CILT(UK) Level 3 Certificate in Logistics and Transport (West Suffolk College, Bury St Edmunds)
- CILT(UK) Level 5 Professional Diploma in Logistics and Transport (City College Birmingham)
- CILT(UK) Advanced Diploma in Logistics (Durham Logistics College)

There is high demand for people with a postgraduate degree in transport planning, transport management or engineering. Six universities (Napier, Southampton, Westminster, UCL/Imperial Joint Centre, Leeds, Newcastle) offer bursaries from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council to postgraduate transport planning students.

ask:
what if?

Your career – our future

Facts and figures

Starting salary

Around £20,000.

Working hours

Normally 37.

Days' holiday per year

25 or more.

Skills and experience

Transport planners need a willingness to understand people, places and movement, together with practical skills to assess plans and proposals and oversee their implementation.

Would suit

People who are creative, interested in the urban environment and good at communicating with all types of people.

Likely employer types

- Planning or transportation consultancies
- Large unitary local authorities or county councils
- Strategic bus, rail and train operators
- Large scale freight companies
- Universities and research establishments

How many jobs available?

No national statistics, but CILT believes there is a growing demand as transportation planning gains in importance.

Number of people employed in this field

There are no national statistics, the IHT, the umbrella organisation for those involved in transport planning, has 11,000 members.



Meet the expert

Chris Harte,
Atkins
Transport Planning



"I really enjoy the variety of transport planning, from understanding new policy developments and scheme proposals, to working with local authorities to get new transport schemes on the ground."

Did you know?

Despite its importance to the country's infrastructure, the first professional framework for transport planning was only drawn up only 10 years ago with the formation of the Transport Planning Society.

More information

- The Transport Planning Society www.tps.org.uk
- Detailed information on technical and professional issues is available from the Institution of Highways and Transportation www.iht.org.uk
- The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport has details of relevant courses www.ciltuk.org.uk