URBA2MC

2024 - 2025

Advanced Master in Town and Country Planning

At Louvain-la-Neuve - 60 credits - 1 year - Day schedule - In French
Dissertation/Graduation Project : **YES** - Internship : **YES**
Activities in English: **NO** - Activities in other languages : **NO**
Activities on other sites : **NO**
Main study domain : **Art de bâtir et urbanisme**
Organized by: **Faculty of Architecture, Architectural Engineering and Urban Planning (LOCI)**
Programme acronym: **URBA2MC** - Francophone Certification Framework: 7

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Learning outcomes

The objective of the Advanced Master's course in Urban and Regional Planning is to offer holders of a standard second cycle degree an advanced second cycle program opening on to the disciplines concerned with the organisation of space as the basis for the processes of social, economic and cultural development. It will trace a path through the current issues and the skills needed in urban planning and management, and will be supported by critical questioning of the concepts of development and the relation between societies and their environment.

This program rests on the postulate that a global and interdisciplinary approach is more than ever needed. More than simply acquiring a cerebral mastery of the theories and models produced by the various disciplines, students will need to display their capacity to work in interdisciplinary teams. The experience and the complementarities of each will be put to the service of a group understanding of problems, the design of technologically and culturally appropriate plans, and the methodological imagination of the group which is necessary to arrive at creative solutions. For the urban and regional planners, for instance, it is a question of better integrating the social and environmental dimensions into the management of space and to pose the global question about regional planning ; and for the other professions concerned with development, it is a question of taking more account of the diversity of practices and concepts of development and to learn to integrate the spatial dimension better.

On successful completion of this programme, each student is able to :

2. Travailler en équipe, mobiliser et utiliser des savoirs interdisciplinaires permettant d'observer, de comprendre et de décrire les évolutions d'un territoire, individuellement et en équipe

1.1. Lire les structures et les formes urbaines et territoriales à différentes échelles (micro, méso, macro), les analyser et les représenter ;

1.2. Identifier et interroger les perceptions et les usages de l'espace , ainsi que les pratiques et les modalités de son appropriation en tant que territoire;

1.3. Analyser et comprendre la genèse des villes et des territoires et caractériser les processus de mutation qui les ont recomposés au fil du temps ;

1.4. Développer une capacité de compréhension et d'analyse critique des dynamiques et des facteurs d'évolution : démographiques, économiques, sociaux, culturels, institutionnels et techniques ;

1.5. Identifier et caractériser les systèmes d'action concrètement liés à la recomposition transformation des villes et des territoires ;

1.6. Evaluer ces systèmes d'action au regard des visions de la ville et du développement social et économique auxquels on peut les référer, et des processus de régulation et de gouvernance dont ils résultent et auxquels ils donnent lieu.

2. Développer une culture professionnelle de projet

2.1. Dégager et anticiper les problématiques territoriales émergentes : mobilité, énergie et environnement, sécurité, espaces ouverts, …

2.2. Enoncer des scénarios possibles d'évolution et formuler des stratégies de répartition spatiale et d'aménagement de l'habitat, des activités, équipements et infrastructures en fonction d'ambitions et d'objectifs clairement explicités ;

2.3. Concevoir des projets urbanistiques à travers trois dimensions du design (programme de développement, agencement spatial, jeu d'acteurs et montage opérationnel) ;

2.4. Maîtriser les techniques de représentation prospective et le dessin de projet ;

2.5. Maîtriser les outils d'orientation et de management stratégique et savoir composer entre les différentes échelles de pouvoir et d'action ;

2.6. Concevoir des stratégies de communication et de mise en coopération des acteurs impliqués dans la gestion et la transformation des territoires ;

2.7. Maîtriser les méthodes d'évaluation technique, économique et environnemental nécessaires à la prise de décision politique territoriale.

Programme structure

This program comprises a core curriculum of 57 credits and an elective of 3 credits
The program is structured around four kinds of activities:

Interdisciplinary theoretical courses (24 credits)
7 compulsory courses of 2 to 4 credits + 1 elective of 3 credits to be chosen from the UCL second cycle program.

Workshops (16 credits)
The idea of "workshop" goes back to the idea of learning seen from an interdisciplinary, integrated perspective. A large part of the workshop is devoted to group work.

Every workshop will run for 15 weeks on one day per week. The Advanced Master's program has two workshops:

- Strategic planning (8 credits in the first semester)
- Operational urban planning (8 credits in the second semester)

The workshops will be prepared and led by a pedagogical team of four or five teachers. A coordinator will be charged with stimulating interaction between the teachers during the preparation to ensure the coherence of the sessions, to organise the participation of the external contributors, and to coordinate the evaluation which will be made of the basis of individual and group work.

A detailed workshop program will be announced at the beginning of the year or semester under the auspices of the degree committee and respecting the course descriptions listed below.

Interdisciplinary seminar on urban and regional planning (5 credits)
The interdisciplinary seminar on urban and regional planning will comprise three types of activities:

- A cycle of lectures and debates organised in partnership with ISURU (Institut supérieur d'Urbanisme et de Rénovation Urbaine) and the AULNE association (association des urbanistes de Louvain-la-Neuve), under the auspices of l'APERAU (Association pour la Promotion de l'Enseignement et de la Recherche en Aménagement et Urbanisme).

- One or two study trips, which normally form part of a partnership or exchange with students of similar European programs (Amsterdam 2003, Strasbourg 2004, Lausanne 2005, Naples 2006, Barcelona 2007)
- An assignment synthesising and critically analysing lecture notes or the students' personal notes of their study trips.
As for the workshops, a detailed workshop program will be announced at the beginning of the year or semester under the auspices of the degree committee and respecting the course descriptions listed below.

Placement and thesis (15 credits)
The program includes the writing and defence of a thesis demonstrating the students' capacity to master, by means of a piece of autonomous scientific work, an analysis and proposal which contribute to the resolution of a concrete problem of regional development.

The thesis will be based on a professional placement of at least 300 hours in public administration, an urban planning agency, an NGO or a private association, developing a project in the field of regional planning. This placement may be done in Belgium or abroad and students are free to propose their own plans. The placement is generally done in the second semester, but it is also possible to do it afterwards. Students working professionally in this field can, in parallel with the Advanced Master's, have their work recognised as their placement, with the approval of the degree committee. The placement will be under the direction of one of the teachers of the program and chosen by the student to be his/her thesis supervisor. This is governed by an agreement between the student, his/her supervisor and a placement superevisor in the host institution. The process of group assessment of the placement and thesis will involve three weeks during the year, which will correspond to the availabilities of the students :

- Seminar 1 Novemeber. Selection of the various placement projects and thesis topics. Drawing up of a placement agreement.
- Seminar 2 December. Exchange with the representatives of the organisations associated with the placement program. Drawing up of a plan defining the objective, method and structure of the placement report and the thesis.
- Seminar 3 April. Exchange of experiences of the placements, relating them to the thesis

The individual course of the placement and the thesis is monitored by the assignments supervisor, in concert with the student and the placement supervisor. The placement will conclude with a placement report which may form an integral part of the thesis or be added as an appendix. When students consider they have completed the assignment, they will first report to the supervisor who will decide if the combined "Placement and thesis" is acceptable as regards content and form. If the supervisor's advice is positive, the work will be given to two external readers, one of whom will be the person who supervised the placement in the host institution or a representative.There will be an oral public defence of the thesis before a board chaired by the president or secretary of the degree committee and consisting of the supervisor and the two readers. The thesis will be accompanied by an abstract which will be published in the bulletin of the program. The oral defences traditionally take place on the last Monday and Tuesday of the examination sessions.

URBA2MC Programme

The programme's courses and learning outcomes

For each UCLouvain training programme, a reference framework of learning outcomes specifies the the skills expected of every graduate on completion of the programme. Course unit descriptions specify targeted learning outcomes, as well as the unit's contribution to reference framework of learning outcomes.

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URBA2MC - Information

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Access Requirements

In the event of the divergence between the different linguistic versions of the present conditions, the French version shall prevail.

Decree of 7 November 2013 defining the landscape of higher education and the academic organization of studies.

The admission requirements must be met prior to enrolment in the University.

Unless explicitly mentioned, the bachelor's, master's and licentiate degrees listed on this page are to be understood as those issued by an institution of the French, Flemish or German-speaking Community, or by the Royal Military Academy.

In the event of the divergence between the different linguistic versions of the present conditions, the French version shall prevail.

SUMMARY

- General access requirements
- Specific access requirements

General access requirements

Translated from https://www.gallilex.cfwb.be/fr/leg_res_01.php?ncda=39681&referant=l02

Art. 112. of the "Décret définissant le paysage de l'enseignement supérieur et l'organisation académique des études" :

§ 1. In accordance with the general requirements established by the academic authorities, students who have:

1. a master's degree;

2. an academic degree similar to the one mentioned in the preceding paragraph awarded by a higher education institution in the Flemish Community or the German-speaking Community, or by the Royal Military Academy, by virtue of a decision of the academic authorities and in accordance with any additional requirements they may establish;

3. a foreign academic degree deemed equivalent to the one mentioned in paragraph 1, in accordance with this Decree, a European directive, an international convention or other legislation, in accordance with the same requirements.

The additional admission requirements referred to in paragraph 2 are intended to ensure that the student has acquired the knowledge and skills required for the studies in question. When the additional admission requirements consist of one or more additional course units, these may not represent more than 60 additional credits for the student, taking into account all the credits that he or she may otherwise use for admission. These course units are part of the student's study programme.

§ 2. In accordance with the general requirements established by the academic authorities, a student who holds a title, diploma, degree or certificate of higher education, in the French Community or outside it, which does not grant him or her eligibility for admission to a specialised master's course by virtue of the preceding paragraph, may nevertheless be admitted by the jury of the course in question, in accordance with the additional requirements that it establishes, if the totality of the higher education that he or she has completed or the expertise that he or she has acquired is valued by the jury to be at least 240 credits.

§ 3. By way of derogation from these general requirements, the academic authorities may also admit to a specialised master's course holders of a title, diploma, degree or certificate awarded outside the French Community which, in that system of origin, grants direct eligibility for postgraduate studies, even if the studies sanctioned by these credentials are not organised into distinct degree courses or within a time period of at least five years.

Specific access requirements

The program is open to Belgians and foreigners with a university degree (or equivalent) testifying to second cycle studies of at least 300 ECTS as recognised by the program degree committee.

The number of enrolments is limited to 25 per academic year.

Selection is made by the degree committee on the basis of the quality of the candidate's application. The candidate's interest in the program and its importance in his/her career, as clearly set out in a letter of motivation, are one of the main criteria in the selection of candidates. Selection is made as the applications arrive at two periods in the year: a maximum of 12 enrolments will be accepted between 1 April and 30 June of the academic year ending; the second selection period will begin on 1 July and will end on the Friday preceding the first day of the academic year. The committee reserves the right to reject candidacies beyond that date.

In function of the origin of the degrees, the degree committe may require certain candidates to follow a supplementary upgrading program. If this supplementary program exceeds 15 ECTS, the student's program will entail a supplementary year of studies prior to enrolment in the advanced master's.

Among the degrees accepted without a supplementary program are: architecture, civil engineering, agronomy (bio-engineering), industrial engineering, holders of a « licence » or master's in science, economics, sociology, politics, law, tourism, history, art history and archeology ...

Accessible to adults

The advanced master's is a one year full time daytime program organised in two blocks of 15 weeks, of 2 to 3 days of activities per week, in order to allow students to carry on working at the same time as their training. It can even be spread over two academic years.

In the same spirit, candidates with a job in the field can have this work recognised as their placement, with the approval of the degree committee. Finally it should be noted that the lecture cycle organised in the framework of the interdisciplinary seminar URBA/ISURU/ AULNE takes place in the evening and is also seen as an activity of continuing education.

Teaching method

The pedagogical approach of the program has been devised according to three main principles :

A pedagogy of interdisciplinarity

The program opens students to the main theoretical angles of approach to the problems and practice of regional development. The group activities stimulate openness and interdisciplinary encounters. In the practical work, the need to communicate influences the formulation of syntheses revealing the complementarity of approaches.

A pedagogy of project work

The program stresses the development of knowledge, interpersonal skills and the knowhow necessary to manage the processes of regional change in a complex decisional context. It is about being able to anticipate social evolutions and propose scenarios to which a global regional strategy can be related and on which specific operations can be founded : the (re)development of sites, the development of transport networks, design of new neighbourhoods etc.

A pedagogy based on concrete regional experiences

The program devotes much space to the critical analysis of experiences, in particular those of the participants. It is also based on the field work where real problems are encountered, and is directed as a team with the participation of the teachers concerned, its objective being to arrive at collective proposals for intervening which can be submitted to public debate.

Evaluation

The evaluation methods comply with the regulations concerning studies and exams. More detailed explanation of the modalities specific to each learning unit are available on their description sheets under the heading "Learning outcomes evaluation method".

The theoretical interdisciplinary courses
Evaluation procedures determined by each teacher (see course descriptions)

The workshops
Intermediate evaluation midway in the form of a group presentation before the workshop teachers. Final evaluation on the basis of a public defence of the results of the group work by a board consisting of the teachers and an external person.

The interdisciplinary seminar
Individual written work. Report and critical analysis of the lectures.

The placement and thesis
The placement ends with a report, which may form an integral part of the thesis or constitute an appendix. There will be an oral defence of the before a board chaired by the president or secretary of the degree committee and consisting of the supervisor and two readers (see also General presentation of the programme: the placement and the thesis)

Mobility and/or Internationalisation outlook

The interdisciplinary seminar forms a special basis for cooperation and international exchanges by means of :
- the annual lecture cycle URBA/ISURU/AULNE, participation in the APERAU network, and on the other hand
- the annual study trip which normally gives rise to exchanges with the European university students enrolled in similar programs (Amsterdam 2003, Strasbourg 2004, Lausanne 2005, Naples 2006).

Interuniversity cooperation
The following scientific partnerships with URBA also contribute to the internationalisation of the program : EPFL à Lausanne (post-graduate « Projets territoriaux et mutations spatiales »)/Université de la Sapienza à Rome / Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Paysages à Versailles, /Ecole d'architecture Ville et Territoire à Marnes la Vallée / Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris/ UMSS à Cochabamba (Bolivie) / Université catholique du Chili / etc. These exchanges give rise to exchanges between teachers and, increasingly, between students on their placements.

Networks associated with the placement program
Experience has shown that the placement program also constitutes a useful means of opening up the program to the outside world and greatly contributes to its appeal among the students. In this perspective, the advanced master's can call on the networks of organisations which have hosted the students doing their placements from the former specialised diploma in urban and regional development.

Last year, certain students did their placements in development projects abroad. The partner countries are the following : Bolivia (3), Cambodia (1), Chile (1), China (1), Equador (1), Spain (1), France (1), Mexico (1),Kenya (1).

In September 2006 the network of organisations associated with the program by means of placements comprises the following :
AGORA s.a. (Bruxelles) / Aménagement scc (Bruxelles) / ARIES Group scc (Bruxelles) / Atelier Group Teams (Bruxelles) / AUSIA sprl (Bruxelles, Belgique) / Ayuntamiento de Girona (Girona, Espagne) / Association Berger-Rogier s.a. (Genappe) / CHANTIERS NATURE (Lille, France) / Clerbaut et Pinon ADF (Bruxelles, B.) / Commune de Saint Josse Ten Noode (Belgique) / Commune de Molenbeek Saint Jean (Belgique) / COOPARCH (Bruxelles, B.) / COPLAUR (Guadalajara, Mexique) / Conseil Régional du nord – Pas de Calais (Lille, France) / Délégation du Pentagone (Bruxelles,Belgique) / ERU asbl (Bruxelles) / Habitat et Rénovation (Bruxelles) / Inter-environnement Bruxelles (Bruxelles, B .) / Handicap International (Lyon, France) / Ministère de la Région Wallonne – DGATLP (Namur, Belgique) / PLANECO sprl (Wavre)/ PRAHC-UMSS (Cochabamba, Bolivie) / RECYCL'ART asbl (Bruxelles, Belgique) / RENOVAs asbl, (Schaerbeek, Belgique) / TRANSITEC sa (Namur, Belgique) / Ville de Tournai (Belgique).

Possible trainings at the end of the programme

Students with at least a distinction on completion of this advanced master's are authorised to enrol in the thematic doctoral school in regional development. See the website: http://www.developpement-territorial.net

Contacts

Curriculum Management

Faculty

Structure entity	SST/LOCI
Denomination	Faculty of Architecture, Architectural Engineering and Urban Planning (LOCI)
Sector	Sciences and Technology (SST)
Acronym	LOCI
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	1348 Louvain-la-Neuve
	Tel: +32 (0) 10 47 28 15
Website	http://www.uclouvain.be/loci

Mandate(s)

- Dean : Eric Van Overstraeten
- Dean : Cécile Chanvillard
- Dean : Olivier Masson
- Dean : Renaud Pleitinx
- Administrative director : France Pécher

Commission(s) of programme

- Commission du bachelier en architecture (BARC)
- Commission du bachelier en ingénieur civil architecte (BIAR)
- Commission du master en architecture (MARC)
- Commission du master en ingénieur civil architecte (MIAR)
- Ecole d'urbanisme et d'aménagement du territoire (URBA)

Jury

- Président de jury: Martin Buysse
- Secrétaire du jury: Yves Hanin

Useful Contact(s)

- secrétariat URBA: info-mcurba@uclouvain.be