

URBA2MC - Introduction

Introduction

URBA2MC - Teaching profile

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 supervisor 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 November. 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.

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.

In September 2016, 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).
