



University
of Basel

Faculty of Humanities
and Social Sciences



Study Guidelines

Master of Arts

Critical Urbanisms

Study Guidelines for the Master of Arts in Critical Urbanisms at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Basel.

issued by the teaching committee of Social Sciences (Unterrichtskommission Gesellschaftswissenschaften) in collaboration with the Office of the Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and approved by the examination commission on June 9, 2020.

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Table of Contents

Preamble	4
1. Overview	4
1.1 Identity of the study program	4
1.2 Admission and extra requirements	5
1.3 Language skills	6
1.4 Group collaboration.....	6
1.5 Student counseling.....	6
1.6 Financial aid.....	7
2. Learning outcomes and qualifications	7
2.1 General learning objectives.....	7
2.2 Preparation for professional fields	8
3. Structure of the program	8
3.1 Distribution of credits.....	10
3.2 Explanation of modules	10
3.3 Progression through the program.....	13
4. Assessment of student work	15
4.1 General assessment.....	15
4.2 Assessment within the Critical Urbanisms Program	15
5. Master’s thesis and examinations	16
5.1 Master’s thesis	16
5.2 Oral examinations.....	17
5.3 Master’s certificate	17
6. Free electives	18
7. Further resources and contact information	18
Appendix: Study Progression Tables	21

Preamble

The Prüfungskommission (examination commission) of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Basel approved the following study guidelines. These guidelines govern the details of the program content and requirements for the Master of Arts in Critical Urbanisms. The paragraphs in these guidelines refer to the "Ordnung der Philosophisch-Historischen Fakultät der Universität Basel für das Masterstudium" (Regulations of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Basel for Master Studies) of 25 October 2018.¹

In case of contradictions of the study guidelines with the "Ordnung der Philosophisch-Historischen Fakultät der Universität Basel für das Masterstudium" (henceforth "Master-Ordnung") or with the Study Plan for the Master of Arts in Critical Urbanisms,² the "Master-Ordnung" or the Study Plan for the Master of Arts in Critical Urbanisms apply. Please consult the relevant documents at philhist.unibas.ch/studium/.

1. Overview

1.1 Identity of the study program

In our rapidly changing and contested global environment, cities are becoming increasingly important: they house a majority of the world's inhabitants and

act as catalysts of social, political, economic, cultural, and ecological change. The MA in Critical Urbanisms at the University of Basel offers a pedagogical platform for understanding these planetary transformations. Our aim is to expand the study of the urban by examining today's social struggles and global conflicts in relation to the legacies of empire and alternative practices of world-making and knowledge production. Our work starts from the premise that the world's urban and environmental challenges call for new ways of thinking as well as acting. Imagining alternative futures means rethinking the present—its historical making, its political unfolding, and the ways in which it is made sensible.

The University of Basel's Master in Critical Urbanisms is an English-taught four-semester program that trains a new generation of graduates to think and act beyond divisions of urban versus rural and North versus South in order to address the complexity of urban lifeworlds in the twenty-first century. The program is supported by an internationally recognized faculty who work on and with cities and territories from a global perspective. The curriculum trains students to develop theoretical and practical competencies, oriented toward both scholarly and public platforms, a combination essential to address the extraordinarily complex challenges of urbanization in the twenty-first century.

Two trademark elements of the program are:

- Interdisciplinary research practice that combines humanities and social sciences

¹ Ordnung der Philosophisch-Historischen Fakultät der Universität Basel für das Masterstudium vom 25. Oktober 2018.

² Studienplan für den Masterstudiengang Critical Urbanisms

ce methods with creative practice and visual representation. Drawing from the disciplines of architecture, geography, history, sociology, political science, and anthropology, the curriculum provides students with a unique grounding in urban research.

- Immersive learning in dynamic urban settings, with the choice between a semester of study and research on urbanisms from the global South, which takes place at the African Centre for Cities of the University of Cape Town, or a semester of study and multi-sited research exploring urban processes that work across North/South geographies.

The program targets students from a wide range of fields in the humanities and social sciences, as well as academically qualified professionals from the fields of architecture, landscape design, and urban and regional planning. It welcomes University of Basel graduates as well as students hailing from other national and international higher education institutions.

The Master's program is administered by the Urban Studies faculty members and staff within the Department of Social Sciences ("Departement Gesellschaftswissenschaften"), in cooperation with the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town and the Social Anthropology program at the University of Basel. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the University of Basel's other resources, including the eikones Centre for the History and Theory of the Image, the Institu-

te for European Global Studies, and the Centre for African Studies.

1.2 Admission and extra requirements

For the official admission requirements, please see the German-language Study Plan ("Studienplan"), which is the legally binding document and which is available [online](#).

Students holding a bachelor's degree from a higher education institution recognized by the University of Basel in one of the following subject areas will be admitted to the Master's Degree Program in Critical Urbanisms without additional requirements:

- Architecture, Interior Architecture
- Humanities
- Art and Design
- Law
- Social Sciences
- Urbanism, Urban Planning, Spatial Planning
- Economics

provided that they obtained 15 credit points in the field of Urban Studies and have submitted a written paper, approved by said higher education institution, in compliance with the standards regarding scope and methodology of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Basel.

Students who do not fulfill these admission requirements might be admitted with extra requirements, i.e. the completion of a seminar paper and of a maximum of 15 Credit Points of course work in the field of Urban Studies.

Please note that in order to speed up the admissions process, applicants should submit a written paper together with their application.

1.3 Language skills

The Master's program in Critical Urbanisms attracts a high number of international students and faculty members. The primary language of instruction is English. It is the students' responsibility to ensure that they have the competency in English to express themselves orally and in writing in a nuanced manner suitable for tertiary education, at least at C1 level as per the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Students are invited to make use of the extensive selection of courses offered by the Language Centre of the University of Basel (at the students' own expense) in order to further develop their language skills. For courses offered within the Urban Studies department, reading, writing, and class presentations will be in English, unless special permission is given by the instructor for assignments to be completed in German or French. Courses offered by other university departments may be conducted in German. Students are strongly encouraged to pursue any language learning that would assist them in their areas of interest. A comprehensive list of languages taught at the University of Basel may be found here: <https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Degree-Programs/Language-Center.html>

1.4 Group collaboration

The Critical Urbanisms program accepts students from different disciplinary backgrounds who bring diverse skills and different forms of knowledge to the program. As a wide range of skills—in scientific writing, graphic representation, textual analysis, and urban fieldwork—is demanded in the curriculum, students with complementary areas of competency will be asked to collaborate on group assignments. A willingness to work in groups and to be assessed on the basis of group work is crucial to succeed in the program.

1.5 Student counseling

Individual counseling for students is an important component of the program. At the beginning of the master's program, each student will meet with an advisor for a mandatory consultation to discuss their study trajectory and option module choices. They will receive financial counseling and practical advice to support their choice of studying in Cape Town or of conducting multi-sited fieldwork research.

Based on the student's current academic interests as well as previous experience and areas of study, faculty will advise on options and priorities that support the student to achieve their personal and professional goals. There will also be a mandatory consultation with designated examiners before registering for the master's thesis and the master's examinations. Students can make appointments at any time to speak with faculty members or post-doctoral fellows as well as staff at the

Urban Studies office about issues mentioned above, problems regarding assignments, or other questions concerning their studies. Students are strongly advised to make regular use of this offer over the course of their studies.

For further information, please refer to the "Master-Ordnung" available online, via the Urban Studies website. For planning your study trajectory, please also refer to the University of Basel's academic calendar, which can be found online ("Semesterdaten"), or to the ideal study progression tables, which can be found in the Appendix.

1.6 Financial Aid

For information on tuition costs and living expenses, see the University's FAQs: <https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/FAQ-Studies.html>

The program awards travel grants to assist in studying and conducting fieldwork abroad. Students will be informed of these opportunities during their first counseling session. For information on the University's schemes for financial aid and scholarships, please see:

<https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Advice/Funding/Scholarships/Funding-From-the-University-of-Basel.html>

For students with partners and children, further information on financing their education and living costs can be found here: <https://www.unibas.ch/en/Staff/Family-Health/Family-Services/Studying-and-Having-a-Family/Financial-Aid.html>

2. Learning outcomes and qualifications

2.1 General learning objectives

The Master of Arts in Critical Urbanisms is designed to create a cohort of competent researchers able to develop new forms of interdisciplinary urban research, both independently and in collaboration.

During their studies, students develop fluency in spatial, social, and visual research methods, and acquire relevant practical and theoretical knowledge of the social, economic, cultural, and political processes that make up cities and territories.

Interdisciplinary research practice and site-based learning experiences will enable graduates of the program to effectively interact with a broad range of actors and institutions that play a vital role in shaping the future of cities in a global context. Through this training in Critical Urbanisms, students will be equipped to:

- conduct individual and collaborative interdisciplinary urban research combining humanities and social science methods with creative practice and visual representation;
- comparatively analyze urban contexts and their global entanglements;
- understand the interconnectedness between different urban settings, environments, and historical contexts;
- critically assess and challenge conventional ways of understanding the urban and learn to professionally engage with new disciplinary and methodological approaches.

dological approaches;

- analyze urban space as a way of understanding global political, social, and economic transformations and conflicts;
- design interdisciplinary urban research projects and effectively communicate research findings.

2.2 Preparation for professional fields

The program prepares students for careers in a wide range of national and international contexts. These include the following professional avenues:

- local, regional, and national government planning offices;
- development organizations and other NGOs;
- institutions for cultural programming and independent curatorship;
- architecture and design firms;
- journalism and communication;
- urban planning and policy-making;
- university research and doctoral studies;
- consultancy and applied research firms.

3. Structure of the program

In the Master of Arts in Critical Urbanisms, students earn a minimum of 60 credit points by completing disciplinary as well as interdisciplinary and thematic modules. The modules form complementary teaching units, each with its own content and objective of imparting knowledge and skills (for a description, cf. below). The students further acquire 30 credit points for the master's thesis, and an additional 10 credit points for the two oral master's examinations. The remaining 20 credit points stem from free electives ("Freier Wahlbereich").

Program structure

(See "[Studienplan](#)" for the official, legally binding version)

Completing the study program, CP	Modules	Eligible course formats
3 CP	Introduction to Critical Urbanisms	All according to Master-Ordnung § 7 Abs. 4 and 5
12 CP	Ways of Knowing the City	All according to Master-Ordnung § 7 Abs. 4 and 5
15 CP of one of the three modules, including - 5 CP seminar paper	Urbanism from the South	All according to Master-Ordnung § 7 Abs. 4 and 5
	Urbanism across Geographies	
	Anthropological Fieldwork	
15 CP , including - 10 CP studio - 5 CP seminar paper	Interdisciplinary Urban Research	Studio Seminar paper
15 CP , including - 5 CP seminar paper	The Urban across Disciplines	All according to Master-Ordnung § 7 Abs. 4 and 5
10 CP	Master's examinations	
30 CP	Master's thesis	
20 CP	Free electives	
120 CP	Master of Arts	

3.1 Distribution of credits

Column “Completing the study program, CP”

This column lists the minimum requirements for the successful completion of the study program. Here you find instructions regarding the credit points to be acquired within each module and the course formats to be completed. The bold number represents the sum of the individual requirements for a particular module, or for several modules. The required seminar paper credit points are included in this tabulation.

All students are encouraged to attend courses and accomplish written work beyond the minimum requirements. These accomplishments will be reported in the certification documents.

Column “Modules”

A module is a combination of several courses in a learning unit; its internal coherence derives from the study objectives. A Study Plan stipulates learning objectives that have to be fulfilled in particular modules. Some modules include specific courses and assignments that must be completed by all students, while other modules allow students to select from a range of courses within a particular area of study.

Column “Eligible course formats”

This column lists the course formats that are eligible for each module.

3.2 Explanation of modules

Module “Introduction to Critical Urbanisms” (3 CP)

This introductory module conveys the interdisciplinary and epistemological foundations for Critical Urbanisms and provides space to critically reflect on these. Students acquire the ability to recognize theoretical and methodological challenges in the production of knowledge related to urban studies. They also learn how to use these insights as a resource in their own scientific and practical applications over the course of the curriculum. The module consists of a single block course in the first semester and a total of 3 credit points must be obtained.

Module “Ways of Knowing the City” (12 CP)

This module trains students in urban research methods, including fieldwork, archival work, interviewing, visual and material analysis, and mapping. Courses in this module emphasize both the mediated production of urban knowledge as well as site-specific learning through active fieldwork in urban settings and work with local communities and urban stakeholders. They focus on practical and creative skills as well as methodological reflection grounded in the disciplines of architecture, urban planning, geography, history, sociology, political science, anthropology and the arts. As such, this module combines practical skills with critical reflection on the political and ethical questions that arise from urban research practice in real-world settings.

Module "Urbanism from the South" / "Urbanism across Geographies" / "Anthropological Fieldwork" (15 CP)

Students will be informed about these three option modules during the first week of the program. After this first week, they register for one of the three modules, by submitting a registration form where they indicate their first and second choice. The current agreement between the University of Basel and the University of Cape Town limits the number of students for the "Urbanism from the South" module to 15. If more than 15 students elect this as their first choice, places will be assigned via a lottery system, in order to guarantee that all students have equal opportunities to select the module of their choice.

The "Urbanism from the South" and "Urbanism across Geographies" tracks are only offered in the spring semester. The "Anthropological Fieldwork" track is year-long and starts in the fall semester. Students are advised to take this into consideration when planning their studies and their progression through the program (please consult the Study Progression Tables in the Appendix).

Urbanism from the South

This module explores the urban from the perspective of the global South and entails a semester of study at the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town, led by the University of Cape Town and University of Basel Professor of Urban Studies. The module includes a mandatory course on everyday urban practices across the global South, exploring dif-

ferent forms and manifestations of agency in different cities. This perspective makes political, economic and social practices that exceed state-driven processes of planning, participation and democratization visible.

Through collaborative and immersive methods, the course work offers opportunities to engage in and conduct research on global southern practices of encroachment, occupation, resistance and cooperation. The module draws on humanities and social sciences inspired literature on southern city-making. In doing so, it engages everyday practices that celebrate and contest the multiple and diverse subjectivities that constitute contemporary African and southern city life.

Urbanism across Geographies

This module explores how cities and territories are produced through translocal processes that cross the Global North/Global South divide. Building on postcolonial and other scholarship, students study how global systems of circulation, accumulation, and displacement produce unequal yet interconnected urban conditions. This includes understanding how colonial legacies shape the urban present, and how infrastructure and migration connect places globally. These studies are accompanied by multi-sited fieldwork that may include Swiss, European, and African sites. As such, the module extends the study of urban lifeworlds to include global politics of mobility and resource extraction as well as spatial dimensions of global conflict. Drawing from diverse disciplines, such as architecture, political sci-

ce, and anthropology, in addition to urban studies, the module helps students to develop site-based understandings of the urban, while opening up the possible geographies from which that knowledge is produced, circulated, and applied.

Anthropological Fieldwork

This module can only be taken by students who have legitimate reasons not to join the modules above and requires written approval from the program director. The module entails a year-long, methods-based field course offered by the social anthropology program. This includes a preparatory course in the first semester, followed by a field trip during the January-February break, and a follow-up course on methods during the second semester. The specific location of the field trip changes from one year to the next (recent trips have taken place in Colombia, Zambia, Burkina Faso, and China).

The course trains students in anthropological methods for studying everyday urban practices. Depending on the location of the field trip, students may need to be proficient in French or another language. Please see the ideal study progression plan for the Anthropology track in the Appendix.

Module “The Urban across Disciplines” (15 CP)

This module covers selected topics in urban studies from a range of disciplinary perspectives. Its aim is to provide students with disciplinary breadth in approaches to studying the urban. As part of this

module, students complete a mandatory seminar paper associated with a course of their choice. The module comprises courses taught by Urban Studies faculty members as well as selected courses from across the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and from across the University of Cape Town, for students in this track.

Module “Interdisciplinary Urban Research” (15 CP)

In this module, students are trained to integrate different methods into a single research project. The module is built around a research studio which is co-taught by faculty. It puts intellectual debates and analytical methods into dialogue in order to foster new forms of interdisciplinary learning. Teaching formats within the studio include lectures and seminars, workshops, guided field trips, one-on-one tutorials, as well as group discussions of student work. The module is offered in the fall semester, and can only be taken by students who have completed the "Urbanism from the South" / "Urbanism across Geographies" / "Anthropological Fieldwork" module. The module also includes a compulsory seminar paper.

The research studio takes place in a space that is reserved for the students to use at any time, and that thus acts as a laboratory for working both collaboratively and individually. All classroom-based activities related to the studio occur in this space, as physically expressed by the presence of maps, drawings, photographs, sketches, texts, and models on the walls and desks. This ensures that the material

that is worked on does not only exist in the minds of students and faculty, or on their computers, but is constantly visible and debatable in the studio setting.

The teaching covers one full day per week, but students are expected to work at least one additional day in the studio. They can also come back at any other time throughout the week to continue working on their projects. Regular presentations of student work are moments of mutual engagement, in which faculty and students review the work. On both an academic and social level the studio builds a spirit of joint endeavor, in order to develop confidence and experience in research and communication skills which are essential in urban studies.

Further information on how to complete the program, i.e. on the master's thesis and master's examinations as well as free electives, can be found in Sections 5 and 6, on pages 16ff.

3.3 Progression through the program

Full-time students usually progress through the program as follows (and as indicated in the "Study Progression Tables" in the Appendix), taking a total of 30 CP per semester: The program begins with the "Introduction to Critical Urbanisms" (3 CP) block course, which takes place during the first week of the fall semester. During this first semester, students take a range of methods courses from the "Ways of Knowing the City" module. In order to expand their skill set, students are advised to select courses that

offer methods they are yet unfamiliar with. Additionally, students take courses from the "The Urban across Disciplines" module. Please note that students who want to finish the program in four semesters need to write a seminar paper in this module during the first semester, as part of a course of their choice, because the seminar paper is one of the requirements to register for the master's thesis (cf. "Master-Ordnung").

The second semester is organized around the option modules. Students in the "Urbanism from the South" module will spend the semester at the University of Cape Town. Their 30 CP in course work includes the mandatory courses in the "Urbanism from the South" module (15 CP), the accompanying mandatory "City Immersions" methods course (7 CP) from the "Ways of Knowing the City" module, and one additional course at the University of Cape Town (8 CP), which can count towards the "The Urban across Disciplines" module. For this course, students will be able to choose between a number of offerings selected from the fields of African studies, social anthropology, environmental and geographical sciences, sociology, political studies, and urban planning.

Students in the "Urbanism across Geographies" module will spend part of the semester in Basel and a total of six weeks doing guided field-work. Their 30 CP in course work includes the mandatory courses in the "Urbanism across Geographies" module (15 CP), the accompanying mandatory "Site Immersions" methods

course (7 CP) from the "Ways of Knowing the City" module, and one additional course (3 CP + 5 CP paper), which can count towards the "The Urban across Disciplines" module. If students have already fulfilled their requirements for the "Ways of Knowing the City" or "The Urban across Disciplines" modules during the first semester, they can also count some of the second-semester course work towards their free electives.

Students in the "Anthropological Fieldwork" module take a preparatory course (2 CP) in the fall semester. They then complete their fieldwork over the January-February break (6 CP), and take a post-fieldwork course (2 CP) in the spring semester. In this semester, they also write the compulsory paper (5 CP). They can take additional courses from "The Urban across Disciplines", "Ways of Knowing the City", or "Free Electives" to reach the full-time load of 30 CP per semester.

The third semester is organized around the "Interdisciplinary Urban Research" module (15 CP). Any remaining course work from the other modules or free electives can be completed during this semester. During the fourth semester, students generally focus on writing their thesis (30 CP) and passing the oral exams (10 CP).

If you study the MA program on a part-time basis, please note that the modules "Urbanism from the South", "Urbanism across Geographies", and "Anthropological Fieldwork" only take place in the spring semester, and the "Interdisciplinary

Urban Research" module only in the fall semester. Please consult with a faculty advisor when you enter the program in order to create a feasible progression plan.

4. Assessment of student work

4.1 General assessment

The MA program Critical Urbanisms integrates courses from several disciplines, each of which emphasize different methods of learning as well as different skills and aptitudes. The criteria for assessing student achievement are determined by disciplinary expectations and by the faculty teaching a given course. As assessment criteria will vary somewhat according to different disciplines and instructors, course instructors are responsible for clarifying expectations. Rules concerning teaching and student assessment are found in the "Master-Ordnung".

4.2 Assessment within the Critical Urbanisms Program

Seminars: Seminars involve weekly readings and group discussion. Students are typically required to write reading response papers or give a presentation, and are assessed on the basis of:

- critical and creative engagement with the readings;
- ability and willingness to participate in thoughtful discussion with peers and instructors.

Seminar papers: Over the course of the program, students are required to write at least three seminar papers. Seminar papers are usually assessed according to:

- originality, accuracy, and thoroughness of research;

- integration of research methods and literature from different disciplines;
- insightfulness, clarity, and persuasiveness of arguments;
- effective use of evidence;
- attentiveness to diverse perspectives and positions;
- ability to collaborate with team-members (where relevant).

Studio: With guidance from instructors, students will be expected to:

- identify a compelling object of research within the field of urban studies;
- identify relevant intellectual debates to contextualize the object of research;
- develop an original thesis;
- work effectively with group members, drawing from each other's respective skills and disciplinary training;
- present and participate in reviews of student work throughout the semester. This involves giving insightful, constructive feedback to others' presentations as well as thoughtfully responding to peers' and instructors' comments and questions.
- analyze and incorporate evidence from a range of sources: visual, spatial, textual, oral, archival, and/or personal observation;
- articulate the reasons for choosing a particular research methodology and presentation style.

Other student work: Forms of relevant work that are not listed in the course directory, such as guided independent study or non-university internships, are possible in principle and regulated in

learning contracts, which need to be approved by the student's faculty advisor and the teaching committee of Social Sciences ("Unterrichtskommission Gesellschaftswissenschaften").

5. Master's thesis and examinations

5.1 Master's thesis

The purpose of the master's thesis is to prove a student's ability to produce independent reflection and work. The master's thesis identifies a research problem in urban studies and, by engaging with the problem, develops knowledge that can answer theoretical and conceptual questions or formulates answers to practical questions. The research and writing process allows the student to apply their skills to independently develop a research question, justify the work procedure, present the findings in a stylistically adequate way, and critically reflect on them.

The prerequisites for beginning thesis work (including course work and credit points) can be found in the "Master-Ordnung" (§ 17). Students register for the master's thesis at the Student Administration Services of the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Prior to registration, course work of at least 20 credit points must be completed, one seminar paper must be assessed and extra requirements must be fulfilled.

Skills and interests developed in prior course work may serve as the basis for a student's individual thesis. While thesis work is independent and distinct from the work pursued in prior course work, it ideally builds upon it.

The topic and format of the master's the-

sis are set by the student and a faculty member from Critical Urbanisms serving as thesis advisor. Students submit a brief proposal which must be approved by the thesis advisor before submitting the official registration form.

Generally, the written thesis should not exceed 80 pages in length. Even though theses will be submitted in conventional text form, students are encouraged to supplement their written work with a practice-based and/or visual component. This serves 1) to make their findings accessible to broader audiences than might otherwise be the case, and 2) to address the program's orientation toward visual and spatial analysis. The thesis may be submitted in languages other than English upon approval of the student's thesis advisor.

For the development and completion of the master's thesis, students are permitted to take up to nine months. The master's thesis needs to be submitted on or before the due date with copies provided directly to the thesis advisor (main assessment) as well as to the second supervisor (second assessment). A third copy needs to be submitted to the Urban Studies office. The supervisors communicate the decision whether or not the thesis is accepted to the Student Administration Services of the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences six weeks before the end of the semester.

5.2 Oral examinations

In two oral exams of 60 minutes each,

two examiners assess to what extent the candidate is competent to bring together different bodies of knowledge in urban studies and present them coherently. Examiners are chosen by the student from among eligible instructors who have taught in the program. Prior to the exams and in collaboration with the examiners, students develop reading lists pertaining to two exam topics.

During the exam, students are asked to demonstrate their command of the major themes and positions articulated in the texts included on the reading list. The emphasis is on the student's general understanding of the contours, controversies, and stakes of the identified debate.

The administration of the exams (application for the exam; organization of exams, including the assignment of the chairperson) is managed by the Student Administration Services of the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Students and examiners agree on the examination language being English, German, or French.

5.3 Master's certificate

Successful candidates for the Master of Arts in Critical Urbanisms receive a certificate signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. In the transcript of records, the chosen modules, the completed courses, seminar papers, credit points and grades are listed in detail.

6. Free electives

Free elective courses (20 CP) allow students to pursue an area of interest regardless of their subject of study or program. Students are free to choose any courses to acquire the 20 credit points. Their goal can be:

- to gain disciplinary competences which might be missing at the start of their studies;
- to enhance specific thematic and practical knowledge;
- to acquire specific language, writing, or technological skills;
- to accomplish the achievements required to be accepted as a PhD student in a specific subject.

All courses from BA and MA level curricula in all departments are eligible, as are activities in the University's self-government and individual study achievements, the conditions of which are settled prior in an individual Learning Contract. Students are referred to the guidelines for free elective courses at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.³

7. Further resources and contact information

Mobility: Besides Basel, other universities and universities of applied sciences in Switzerland offer relevant courses. Students who attend such courses are supported in the frame of the promotion of student mobility. The same applies to the universities of the tri-national region Oberrhein (EUCOR: Strasbourg, Colmar, Mulhouse, Karlsruhe, Freiburg i.Br.). With the EUCOR student pass, students from Basel are permitted the same access and benefits as the students enrolled there.

University of Cape Town: The African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town is a UCT Signature Theme that straddles three faculties at the University of Cape Town: Engineering and the Built Environment, Humanities, and Science. As a Signature Theme, ACC's mandate since its establishment in 2007 has been to foster interdisciplinary urban research on vital issues and to find practical ways of connecting the University to "live" urban development challenges in the Cape Town city-region, the national context and the global South, with special emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa. The mission of ACC is to engage in collaborative research and develop imaginative policy discourses and practices to promote vibrant, just, and sustainable cities. The ACC operates as an interdisciplinary research and teaching program across faculties at the University of Cape Town, focused on critical scholarship and

³ Wegleitung für den Freien Wahlbereich an der Phil.-Hist. Fakultät

practice on the dynamics of urbanization in Africa and the global South. Students will have access to an array of courses and scholars based at the University of Cape Town, one of the top universities in South Africa and on the African continent.

Other resources: Students are encouraged to become familiar with the diverse learning resources within the area of Basel, including research institutions, archives, and museums. Please see our orientation booklet. We distribute news about events across the University and Basel via our mailing list. During the first semester, a student liaison is appointed to introduce all new students to these resources and events.

Addresses

S AM Swiss Architecture Museum

Steinenberg 7
CH-4051 Basel
<http://www.sam-basel.org/en>

University of Basel, Language Center

University of Basel
Language Center
Kornhausgasse 2
4051 Basel
<https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Degree-Programs/Language-Center.html>

Centre for African Studies Basel

Petersgraben 11, 2nd floor
CH-4051 Basel
Tel.: +41 (0)61 267 34 82
zasb@unibas.ch
www.zasb.unibas.ch

Basler Afrika Bibliographien

Namibia Resource Centre and Southern Africa Library
Klosterberg 23
CH-4051 Basel
<http://www.baslerafrika.ch>

Archiv der Basler Mission / mission 21

Bibliothek von mission 21
Missionsstrasse 21
CH-4055 Basel
<http://www.mission-21.org/forschung-und-wissenschaft/archiv/>

Museum der Kulturen Basel

Münsterplatz 20
CH-4051 Basel
<http://www.mkb.ch>

Kunstmuseum Basel

St. Alban-Rheinweg 60
CH-4010 Basel
<http://www.kunstmuseumbasel.ch/>

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

Socinstrasse 57
CH-4051 Basel
<http://www.swisstph.ch>

Website of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

(Information and documents concerning MA studies, Study and Examination Secretariat, other institutes, etc.)
<http://philhist.unibas.ch>

Website of the University of Basel

(Deadlines, etc. General information about studies under "Studium"/"Studies")
<http://www.unibas.ch>

Online course directory

<http://vorlesungsverzeichnis.unibas.ch>

University IT Services

(Universitätsrechenzentrum URZ; information about internet, email, access to network, etc.)

<http://www.urz.unibas.ch>

Appendix: Study Progression Tables

Module: "Urbanism from the South"

Ideal study progression plan for full-time students

Module	Semester 1 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 2 (Cape Town)	Semester break	Semester 3 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 4 (Basel)	Total
Critical Urbanisms: Introduction	3 CP seminar (block course)							3
Ways of Knowing the City	At least 5 CP of the courses listed in this module		City Immersions (7 CP)					12
Urbanism from the South			8 CP course work - including a 5 CP seminar paper; Additional 2 CP course work					15
The Urban across Disciplines	At least 7 CP of the courses listed in this module - including the seminar paper		UCT electives (8 CP)					15

Module: "Urbanism across Geographies"

Ideal study progression plan for full-time students

Module	Semester 1 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 2 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 3 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 4 (Basel)	Total
Critical Urbanisms: Introduction	3 CP seminar (block course)							3
Ways of Knowing the City	At least 5 CP of the courses listed in this module		Site Immersions (7 CP)					12
Urbanism across Geographies			13 CP course work - including a 5 CP seminar paper; Additional 2 CP course work)					15
The Urban across Disciplines	At least 7 CP of the courses listed in this module - including the seminar paper		8 CP of the courses listed in this module					15
Interdisciplinary Urban Research					Research Studio (10 CP) + 5 CP seminar paper			15

Module	Semester 1 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 2 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 3 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 4 (Basel)	Total
Electives	20 CP in any subject offered at University of Basel							20
MA thesis				MA thesis: from middle of term 2 to beginning of term 4; 9 months MA thesis registration requirements: - Students can only register for the MA thesis once they have completed 20 CP, their additional requirements ("Auflagen") course work, and at least one of the compulsory seminar papers (cf. Master-Ordnung, § 17).				30
MA examinations							at end of semester 4	10
Total	30		30		30		30	120

Module: "Anthropological Fieldwork"

Ideal study progression plan for full-time students

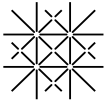
Module	Semester 1 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 2 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 3 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 4 (Basel)	Total
Critical Urbanisms: Introduction	3 CP seminar (block course)							3
Ways of Knowing the City	At least 12 CP of the courses listed in this module							12
Anthropological Fieldwork	Fieldwork preparatory course (2CP)	Six-week fieldwork trip (6 CP; counts in the spring semester)	Fieldwork and post-methods course (2 CP) + 5 CP seminar paper					15
The Urban across Disciplines	At least 13 CP of the courses listed in this module		At least 2 CP of the courses listed in this module					15
Interdisciplinary Urban Research					Research Studio (10 CP) + 5 CP seminar paper			15
Electives	20 CP in any subject offered at University of Basel							20

Module	Semester 1 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 2 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 3 (Basel)	Semester break	Semester 4 (Basel)	Total
MA thesis				MA thesis: from middle of term 2 to beginning of term 4; 9 months MA thesis registration requirements: - Students can only register for the MA thesis once they have completed 20 CP, their additional requirements ("Auflagen") course work, and at least one of the compulsory seminar papers (cf. Master-Ordnung, § 17).				30
MA examinations							at end of semester 4	10
Total	30		30		30		30	120

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Degree Profile

Master in Critical Urbanisms

Organizational unit	Department of Social Sciences, Critical Urbanisms
Degree	MA in Critical Urbanisms
Range, Duration, Start	120 ECTS; 4 Semester (if full time), Fall Semester
Language of instruction	English

Program Goals

Students develop solid practical and theoretical knowledge of spatial, social, economic, cultural and political processes related to contemporary urbanism. They acquire the ability to work in an interdisciplinary manner and to understand the complexity of modern urban conditions.

Program Characteristics

Orientation	Scientific education
Subject area	African Studies, Architecture, Geography, History, Political Science, Sociology
Majors	–
Program structure	The curriculum consists of the modules: Critical Urbanisms Introduction (3 ECTS); Interdisciplinary Research Practice (25 ECTS); Urbanisms from the South (15 ECTS); Projects and Processes of Urbanization (17 ECTS); master's examination (10 ECTS); master's thesis (30 ECTS).
Distinctive Features	The program offers collaborative interdisciplinary research-based learning, with the pedagogical format of a research studio that combines methods from design disciplines, the humanities, and the social sciences. One of its trademark elements is the international learning experience, with a semester of study and urban fieldwork training in Cape Town, facilitated by the world-leading African Center for Cities of the University of Cape Town, or alternatively six weeks of anthropological fieldwork in collaboration with the Division of Anthropology.

Career Opportunities

Employment	Government planning offices, development aid organizations, NGOs, architecture and design firms, journalism and media, museums, urban planning and policy offices, international organizations, universities, consultancy firms. Employment in architecture and planning offices usually requires a previously acquired BA in architecture or urban design.
Further Studies	Doctorate

Teaching

Approaches	Interdisciplinary research-based teaching, guided fieldwork, interactive learning, autonomous learning, problem-based learning
Assessments	Oral and written exams, active participation in courses, term papers, master's thesis

Competences

Generic Attitude / Communication Approach / Management	Students acquire the skills to ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – meet the world with critical openness. – act with a strong sensitivity to difference. – think across disciplines. – develop independent intellectual positions with confidence and openness to criticism. – communicate effectively and persuasively in written, visual, and oral form. – represent complex ideas in compelling visual form. – work collaboratively on research projects, in a timely and goal-oriented manner. – approach problems and questions critically and productively, and examine conceptual alternatives. – learn to quickly engage with new disciplinary and methodological approaches. – learn to test hypotheses and design research projects, from conception to implementation, choosing suitable approaches and methods. – read, understand, revise and write English scholarly and other texts.
Subject-related Knowledge / Understanding Application / Judgment Interdisciplinarity	Students acquire the skills to ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – understand and contribute to current urban debates from an interdisciplinary perspective. – communicate research on complex urban conditions in compelling visual form. – conduct collaborative, interdisciplinary research combining humanities and social-scientific methods with visual and spatial analysis and representation. – understand and study everyday forms of agency central to contemporary urbanism. – understand historical processes of urbanization and the multifarious conditions in which cities and landscapes are produced and experienced. – actively employ concepts and theories from geography, architecture, history, and anthropology in conceptualizing the urban. – critically assess and challenge accepted approaches and perspectives on the urban. – conduct interdisciplinary urban research while acknowledging the boundaries between different disciplines.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the master's program in Critical Urbanisms...

- are able to interact effectively with the broad range of constituents and institutions that play a vital role in shaping the future of cities in order to analyze the multiple dimensions of urban and regional development.
- are able to think beyond divisions of urban versus rural and North versus South and can apply this knowledge to discuss the complexity of urban lifeworlds in the twenty-first century in a differentiated manner.
- are able to critically rethink the urban present, its historical making and its political unfolding in order to imagine alternative futures.
- know methods of research, analysis and communication appropriate to a given context and are able to use these methods to comparatively analyze urban conditions.
- know urban conditions outside and inside of Europe and are able to precisely analyze different milieus, social realities and everyday forms of agency central to contemporary urbanism.
- are able to address, present and argue for the chosen scientific approach and to present their results for discussion to peers as well as the public clearly and adequately in written and oral form.