



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.