



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), Spring and 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	–
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 that combines methods from spatial and design disciplines, the humanities, and the social sciences. One of its trademark elements is its immersive international learning approach, with either a semester of study and research based at the world-leading African Center for Cities at the University of Cape Town, or alternatively a multi-sited fieldwork track that engages with questions of migration and infrastructure in different places across Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Career Opportunities

Employment	Government planning departments, development aid organizations, NGOs, architecture and design firms, journalism and media houses, museums, urban planning and policy offices, international organizations, universities, consultancy firms. Employment in architecture firms and planning departments 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 and confidence in arguing them. – communicate effectively and persuasively in written, visual, and oral form. – represent complex ideas in compelling multimedia formats. – work collaboratively on research projects, in a timely and goal-oriented manner. – Deal with pressing problems productively with critical consideration of conceptual alternatives. – learn to engage and work with new disciplinary and methodological approaches. – learn to design research projects, from conception to implementation, choosing suitable approaches and methods. – read, understand, revise, write, give and receive feedback on 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 form, using various medias and formats. – 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 urbanization and our current urban condition.

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 deal with 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 a wide range of context-sensitive methods of research, analysis and communication and are able to use these methods to comparatively analyze urban conditions.
- know urban conditions in and beyond Europe and are able to precisely analyze and think across 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 comprehensibly in written and oral form.