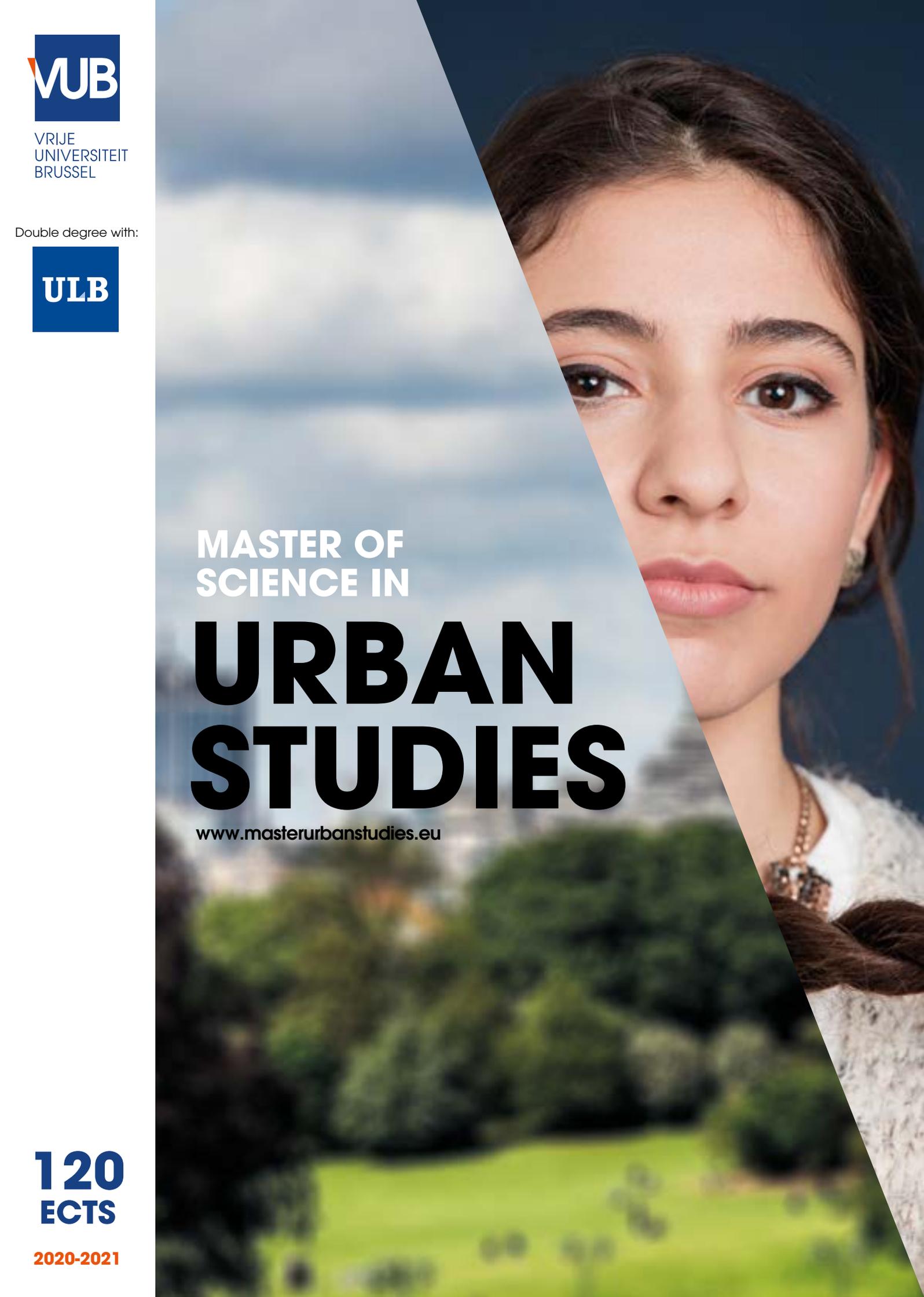




VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

Double degree with:

The background features a close-up portrait of a young woman with dark hair and eyes, looking directly at the camera. The image is split diagonally from the top right to the bottom left. The upper right portion shows her face against a dark blue background, while the lower left portion shows a blurred cityscape with green trees and a bright sky.

MASTER OF
SCIENCE IN
**URBAN
STUDIES**

www.masterurbanstudies.eu

120
ECTS

2020-2021

WHY BRUSSELS

VUB and ULB shape students to be strong individuals, critical thinkers and world citizens

Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) offer high-quality English-taught programmes, supported by state-of-the-art research. Being a student in Brussels means learning in the capital of Europe and one of the most cosmopolitan and diverse cities of the world.

At VUB and ULB, students have easy access to their teachers and assistants. Academic and administrative staff is available to answer questions; workshops in small groups ensure close interaction between students and teachers; and fieldwork and visits in- and outside of Brussels provide you with important hands-on experience for your later career.

VUB and ULB are the two main universities in Brussels with a shared history of almost two hundred years. Together, both universities have around 40.000 students, almost 30 % of whom are international students from across the world.

The root of our academic success

VUB and ULB were founded on the principle of 'free inquiry' as formulated by the French mathematician and philosopher of science, Henri Poincaré (1854-1912):

"Thinking must never submit itself, neither to a dogma, nor to a party, nor to a passion, nor to an interest, nor to a preconceived idea, nor to anything whatsoever, except to the facts themselves, because for it to submit to anything else would be the end of its existence."

Personal growth, a positive and critical attitude, sense of responsibility and an open mind are shared values at our university from professors and researchers to students and staff members. It lies at the root of our academic success.





Urban Studies in the capital of Europe!

You will learn to see the city, to hear it, to understand it, to engage it, and to choose your role in shaping it. As the world continues to urbanise and globalise, cities are becoming the predominant form of human settlement and the scale at which many of the most pressing societal issues are engaged. The Master in Urban Studies brings a distinctly European viewpoint to issues concerning urbanity and urbanisation that are simultaneously locally unique and globally networked.

The Master in Urban Studies is jointly offered by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB). The 120 ECTS curriculum combines the attractiveness of a flexible, modular and interdisciplinary programme that allows you to focus on your own interests with a common core of compulsory courses to ensure that you develop the necessary urban skills and competences.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN STUDIES



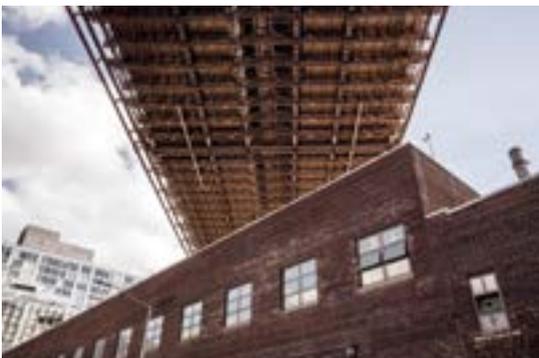
Urban studies at the heart of Europe

The core programme contains a course on Brussels, one on the European dimension of cities and urbanisation, and a number of theoretical and methodological courses introducing you to the field of urban studies. By using unique Brussels as a case study in the programme and by organising various site visits in and around Brussels and excursions to cities in Europe, we benefit from our location in the centre of Europe.



Professional and research internships

You can also choose to replace one elective module with an internship, allowing you to gain experience in a working environment that is relevant to urban studies, such as an NGO, local government administration, consultancy firm or European network or institution. If you want to pursue a PhD following your Master education, you can also choose to do a research internship by working in a university department or another research institution.



Pursue your own interests

Building on the core programme, you are encouraged to pursue your own interests and to develop a more specialised urban studies expertise by individually selecting from a large offer of elective modules and courses. The Master in Urban Studies currently includes six elective modules, incorporating a large variety of disciplines from across the social sciences and humanities: geography, planning and mobility, design, architecture, history, and criminology.



Study abroad

In the second year of your studies, it is possible to go abroad for a semester and study at one of our partner universities. The various departments linked to the urban studies programme have established collaborations with universities across Europe and beyond.



PROGRAMME	ECTS
Common core	
Geographies of a Globalizing Europe	6
Urban Social Geography	6
Urban Economic Geography	5
Urban Sociology	5
Urban Sustainability and Circular Economy	5
Global City-Region Brussels	6
Urban Analysis I	3
Urban Analysis II	5
Research Design and Methodology in Urban Studies	3
Excursion	6
Elective modules and courses	
Urban History (18 ECTS)	
Urban Criminology (15 ECTS)	
Urban Geography (12 ECTS)	
Urban Architecture (15 ECTS)	
Urban Planning and Mobility (14 ECTS)	
Urban Design (16/18 ECTS)	
<i>Besides the elective modules, we also offer a wide range of individual elective courses (in English, French or Dutch).</i>	
<i>For the complete overview of all modules and courses including descriptions, go to www.masterurbanstudies.eu.</i>	

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): 1 credit represents 25-30 hours of study activity.

Master thesis

30 ECTS of your 120 ECTS programme are dedicated to the Master thesis. In the first year of your studies, you will choose a topic and develop your research design, whereas in the second year you will conduct most of the empirical research and write the actual thesis. Throughout the two-year process, there will be various moments of collective and individual supervision.

Excursions and visits

Experiencing the city is key to understanding the city. During the two years, several excursions and visits will be organised to illustrate and discuss topics treated during the courses. This includes visits to public and private institutions and organisations that are important for the local political, economic, and cultural dynamics of the respective city and wider region. A set of national and international excursions are also planned, ranging from one to several days. During these excursions the objective is to raise awareness of regional and international differences in urban development. The excursions consist of guided tours and visits to relevant institutions and organisations, such as planning departments, development agencies, cultural actors, and more.

URBAN RESEARCH IN BRUSSELS

Both the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) have an established track record in internationally visible, but locally relevant and engaged urban studies research. With more than thirty research groups at both universities doing research on urban issues, Brussels is one of the key centres for urban studies research in Europe. By studying the Master's in Urban Studies, you will benefit from this critical mass of expertise. If you are interested in pursuing a PhD or research career following your Master degree, you are encouraged to participate in research seminars, lectures and workshops offered by the various research groups and the Brussels Graduate School for Urban Research.

The following research groups currently contribute to teaching within the Master in Urban Studies:

COSMOPOLIS CENTRE FOR URBAN RESEARCH

Cosmopolis is a VUB research centre dedicated to research and teaching in human geography, spatial planning and urban design. Committed to pursuing both academic and practice-relevant research, Cosmopolis actively engages policy makers, governments, citizen networks and other urban partners to transform knowledge into action.

Together with the Institute for Environmental Management and Land-use Planning (IGEAT) at the ULB, Cosmopolis is responsible for the overall coordination of the Master in Urban Studies.

More information: www.cosmopolis.be

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND LAND-USE PLANNING (IGEAT)

IGEAT is a ULB institute with research foci on urban change, geospatial analysis, transport policies, regional surveys, environmental impacts, socio-political aspects of sustainable development, climate and energy policies, as well as interactions between tourism and territorial and social dynamics. IGEAT is characterised by a strong interdisciplinary research perspective, offering a holistic and critical vision on urban, social, economic, cultural and environmental issues.

Together with Cosmopolis at the VUB, IGEAT is responsible for the overall coordination of the Master in Urban Studies.

More information: <http://igeat.ulb.ac.be>

Æ-LAB

æ-LAB is the research laboratory of the department of Architectural Engineering at the VUB. The research within æ-LAB is focused on "the use of engineering tools to create architecture". This approach is applied on three topics that ask for interdisciplinary studies: the design of lightweight structures, renovation and re-use, and the incorporation of transformations.

More information: www.vub.be/ARCH.

ART STUDIES AND ARCHAEOLOGY (SKAR)

SKAR is an interdisciplinary team at the VUB that carries out research on art and material culture, studied as transitional, cultural 'objects' with material characteristics and invested with immaterial values. SKAR studies the cultural biographies of artistic and material culture, the heritage values accorded to it, and its negotiation with society by cultural brokers.

More information: www.vub.be/SKAR

BUILDING, ARCHITECTURE & TOWN PLANNING (BATIR)

BATir is a unique multidisciplinary and comprehensive engineering department with research on the built environment, from soils and rocks to materials and structures, from architecture to sustainable urbanism; with modelling, experimental and/or design perspectives.

More information: <http://batir.ulb.ac.be>

CRIME & SOCIETY (CRIS)

CRiS at the VUB builds on more than 30 years of research expertise in critical analysis of the social phenomena of crime and deviance and of the formal and informal reactions to these phenomena. Over the years, four main research areas developed: penology; youth justice studies; security, prevention and policing; and crime and the city.

More information: www.crisresearchgroup.be

GROUP FOR RESEARCH ON ETHNIC RELATIONS, MIGRATION AND EQUALITY (GERME)

GERME is a ULB research group studying processes of inclusion and exclusion in the context of diverse societies that are marked by social inequalities. Research topics include citizenship practices, multiculturalism, migrant integration policy, urban policy, policy implementation (street level bureaucracy), gender relations, xenophobia, labour market inclusion, education, culture, religion, political participation, social movements, social networks ('classic' and virtual) and social stratification.

More information: <http://germe.ulb.ac.be>

HISTORICAL RESEARCH INTO URBAN TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES (HOST)

Urban history is a broad and dynamic research area in which scholars from very diverse disciplines can encounter and inspire one another. In HOST the focus is on European cities in the early modern period and long nineteenth century, with special attention for the role of cities as catalysts for processes of economic innovation, social exclusion/integration, and political-institutional change.

More information: <http://research.vub.ac.be/urban-history>

LABORATORY ON URBANISM, INFRASTRUCTURES AND ECOLOGIES (LOUISE)

LoUlsE is associated with the Faculty of Architecture of the ULB with research oriented towards knowledge, understanding and comparison of the transformation dynamics of metropolitan territories. These dimensions are mainly investigated through observation, critical analysis, and the design of urban and landscaping projects.

More information: <http://archi.ulb.ac.be/recherche/clara/louise>

MOBILITY, LOGISTICS AND AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE (MOBI)

MOBI is leader in electromobility and socio-economic evaluations for sustainable mobility and logistics. The strength of MOBI resides in proposing a unique combination of socio-economical, environmental & technical competencies, together with tools specifically developed for sustainable logistics, electric and hybrid vehicles, and sustainable mobility.

More information: mobi.research.vub.be/

4CITIES: FROM BRUSSELS TO VIENNA, COPENHAGEN AND MADRID

Do you want to live and study urban studies in four different European cities? Then the Erasmus Mundus Master 4CITIES might be the programme for you!

4CITIES is a unique two-year interdisciplinary and international programme. It has been selected as an Erasmus Mundus Master Course. 4CITIES takes students to Brussels, Vienna, Copenhagen, and Madrid as well as a number of surrounding cities. The programme adds a European perspective to the field of urban studies: it wants to break up and to open the national perspective on urban problems.

Organised in collaboration with UNICA, the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe, and co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, 4CITIES brings together 25–30 students each year from around the world and across the academic spectrum. The language of instruction is English and proof of fluency is required. Graduates receive a master of science (MSc.) degree in urban studies.

The programme begins in Brussels in mid-September and students remain there until the end of January. After a break in February, the Vienna semester runs from March through June. The third semester, in Copenhagen, starts in September and ends in mid-December. The final semester, in Madrid, begins in early February and wraps up at the end of May. Students then have three months to complete the master thesis, which is due on the first of September. Thesis defences and the graduation ceremony take place in Brussels in late September. Additional excursions to a diverse set of cities such as Rotterdam, Antwerp, Zagreb, Belgrade, Malmö, and Zaragoza are also organised in each semester. During summers and holidays, students self-organise trips to cities throughout Europe and occasionally beyond. It is not uncommon to visit 20 countries and more than 50 cities over the course of the programme.

For more information, check www.4cities.eu.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Admission is based on the review of each application. You need to have completed a 180 ECTS academic bachelor's degree or its equivalent in a discipline relevant to urban studies. Proof of fluency in English is also required.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

You need to provide a proof of sufficient knowledge of English. This proof can be provided by presenting a language test or a certificate of your home institution that your language of instruction is/was English. Language tests cannot be older than 2 years.

You should meet one of the following criteria:

- a diploma of secondary or higher education where English was the language of instruction
- having successfully completed at least one school year of secondary education where English was the language of instruction
- having successfully completed course units in higher education with a minimum total of 54 study credits where English was the language of instruction.
- having successfully completed one of the following language proficiency tests:
 - TOEFL IBT: minimum level 79
 - Cambridge English Qualification Scale: minimum level 170
 - ITACE: minimum level B2
 - IELTS minimum level: academic module 6.5

Students who do not have a (valid) proof of fluency in English at the time of applying are also eligible. In such cases offers of admission are conditional, meaning that a valid proof of English must be demonstrated before the offer of admission can be finalised.

Application deadline

Prospective students are advised to apply as soon as possible. Applications can only be submitted through the Master in Urban

Studies website: www.masterurbanstudies.eu

Please check this website for application deadlines, since these might be subject to change.

Tuition fees

Fees (tuition fee and administrative and logistical fee) are per academic year. For the 2019/2020 academic year, EU-students pay a total fee (tuition fee and administrative and logistical fee) of 1500 Euro. Non-EU students pay a total fee of 4200 Euro. The tuition fee does not include the cost of student housing, food, visas, certain excursions, or other expenses related to daily life in Brussels. The administrative and logistical fee includes the expenses for local and international site visits and most excursions that are part of the curriculum (transportation, accommodation, visits).

All fees are subject to change. For further information: urbanstudies.brussels/master/admissions-and-fees

Contact

www.masterurbanstudies.eu