

Curriculum for the joint master’s programme in Urban Studies (2019 version)

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# § 1 Objectives and qualification profile

1. The objective of the joint master's programme in Urban Studies at the University of Vienna is that students acquire the knowledge, skills and competences in urban studies from the perspectives of social sciences, economics and cultural studies they need for a later employment in related professional fields (urban planning, social planning, project management, political consulting, cultural and science journalism, research and others) and that prepare them for a subsequent doctoral programme.
2. Graduates of the master's programme in Urban Studies of the University of Vienna are qualified beyond a bachelor's programme
	* to analyse urban societies and spaces in Europe using subject-specific and advanced knowledge of theories and methods;
	* to understand theoretical approaches of urban studies that are taught by international and interdisciplinary teaching staff, and apply them in analytical activities;
	* to develop solutions for urban areas of concern and acquire principle approaches to scientific political consulting;
	* to independently develop and manage projects and target project presentations to specific target groups;
	* to work in a multidisciplinary and international team and reflect on differences in languages for specific purposes in other disciplines as well as problems in intercultural communication.

In this joint master's programme, students can select from three specialisations: 1) Classical Track, 2) Practice Track and 3) Research Track. As a supplement to the general degree programme in Urban Studies in the Classical Track, the Practice Track provides a practice-oriented education, whereas the Research Track offers an education focussed on research aimed at a subsequent doctoral programme.

# § 2 Duration and scope

1. The workload for the master's programme in Urban Studies comprises 120 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to a degree programme duration of four semesters.
2. The programme is deemed completed if 90 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on compulsory modules, 25 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on the master’s thesis and 5 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on the master’s examination have been obtained.

# § 3 Entry requirements

1. To be admitted to the joint master's programme in Urban Studies students must have completed an eligible bachelor's programme or an eligible degree programme at the same level of university education at a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution.
2. The bachelor's programmes in Geography, Sociology, Social and Cultural Anthropology as well as Political Science at the University of Vienna are certainly eligible.
3. To compensate for significant disciplinary differences, supplementary examinations can be stipulated, which have to be completed until the end of the second semester of the master's programme. The Rectorate may specify which supplementary examinations are a prerequisite for taking examinations specified in the Curriculum of the master's programme.
4. If the significant disciplinary differences according to para. 3 exceed the extent of 30 ECTS credits, this is not considered an eligible degree programme and the student is not admitted to the master’s programme.
5. The language of instruction in the joint master's programme in Urban Studies is English. Students must have English language proficiency corresponding to level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).
6. The selection procedure for the joint master's programme takes place at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel annually. The applicant has to specify their preferred specialisation in the degree programme already during the application procedure. The selection committee decides on the specialisation during the application procedure, taking into account the applicant’s prior education (e.g. practical experience) with regard to the preferred specialisation selected by the student.

# § 4 Academic degree

Graduates of the master's programme in Urban Studies are awarded the degree "Master of Science", abbreviated as MSc.

Where the academic degree is stated this must be after the name.

# § 5 Structure – Modules and module descriptions with allocated ECTS credits

1. The master's programme in Urban Studies is offered jointly by six universities in four European university cities, who have agreed to run the programme in a written agreement as part of the UNICA network.

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| ULB | Brussels: Université libre de Bruxelles - Institut de Sociologie / CRU - Centre de Recherche Urbaine and Institut de Géographie / IGEAT - Institut de Gestion de L'Environnement et d'Aménagement du Territoire |
| VUB | Brussels: Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Departement Geografie / Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research |
| UW | Vienna: University of Vienna – Department of Geography and Regional Research |
| UK | Copenhagen: Københavns Universitet – Institut for Kunst- og Kulturvidens- kab |
| UAM | Madrid: Universidad Autónoma de Madrid – Departamento de Geografía / Catedrático de Geografía Humana |
| UCM | Madrid: Universidad Complutense de Madrid – Departamento de Sociología II |

In the modules 14, 15, 16 and 17, subject to availability and in agreement with the responsible higher education institution, students can complete courses and the internship also at partner universities. These are usually institutionally connected with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) through ERASMUS+ mobility programmes.

1. Every university is responsible for certain modules, as specified in the following paragraph (3). The path within the degree programme and the associated student mobility are depending on the selected specialisation within the degree programme (Classical, Practice or Research Track). Students from all three specialisations begin their studies at the universities in Brussels (VUB and ULB) in the winter semester. They continue their studies at the University of Vienna (UW) in the summer semester.

Afterwards, the programme and mobility paths are different. In the Classical Track, students have to study at the University of Copenhagen in the winter semester following their 2nd semester and to study at the two universities in Madrid (UAM and UCM) in the summer semester. Students in the Practice Track or Research Track complete the compulsory module Elective Courses in their 3rd and 4th semesters and a mandatory internship at a) partner universities or b) the three host universities VUB, ULB and UW.

The courses or modules successfully completed at the participating universities are considered as completed and have to be accepted by all higher education institutions, in particular by their competent body responsible for study matters.

For the Classical Track specialisation, students complete the modules 1 to 13. For the Practice Track and Research Track specialisations, students complete the modules 1 to 8 as well as the modules 14 and 15 or the modules 16 and 17.

**Overview of the modules**

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| No. | Designation | ECTS credits | Responsibility |
|  | For students in the Classical Track, Practice Track and Research Track: |  |  |
| 1. | European Cities in an Urbanising World | 6 | VUB |
| 2. | Urban Social Geography | 6 | VUB |
| 3. | Urban Sociology | 5 | ULB |
| 4. | Political Economy | 5 | ULB |
| 5. | Urban Analysis I and II | 8 | VUB, ULB |
| 6. | Urban Transformations | 7 | UW |
| 7. | Urban Planning and Development | 7 | UW |
| 8. | Urban Analysis III | 6 | UW |
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|  | Only for students in the Classical Track: |  |  |
| 9. | Urbanism and Architecture | 8 | UK |
| 10 | Urban Culture and Cultural Theory | 8 | UK |
| 11 | Urban Analysis IV | 4 | UK |
| 12. | The Sustainable and Liveable City | 10 | UAM, UCM |
| 13. | Governance and Local Welfare | 10 | UAM, UCM |
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|  | Only for students in the Practice Track: |  |  |
| 14. | Practice Elective Courses | 25 | VUB and others |
| 15. | Practice Internship | 15 | VUB and others |
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|  | Only for students in the Research Track: |  |  |
| 16. | Research Elective Courses | 25 | VUB and others |
| 17. | Research Internship | 15 | VUB and others |
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|  | For all students: |  |  |
|  | Master’s Thesis (25 ECTS credits) and Master’s Examination (5 ECTS credits) | 30 | VUB, ULB, UW, UK, UAM, UCM |
|  | Master's programme in Urban Studies in total | 120 |  |

**Module descriptions**

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| **Responsibility:** Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) |
| **Module 1: European Cities in an Urbanising World** | **ECTS credits** | **6** |
| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** This introductory module offers an orientation framework for the entire Curriculum by giving an overview of the numerous perspectives regarding theories and topics in geographies of globalisation. It addresses the role of Europe and the significance of its cities and regions in globalisation processes in detail. The focus is on processes of de-territorialisation and re-territorialisation, which are considered intrinsic elements of globalisation. Analytically and empirically, it refers to the emergence of ‘Europe’ and the European Union as they are an important standard for political, economic and social measures. This importance is exemplified by the restructuring of states, subnational regions and cities resulting in the development of new territories, regions, scales and networks. The role of cities and regions within this constellation is crucial to develop an advanced understanding of the geographies of a globalising Europe.This module is a combination of lectures and seminars focusing on discussions. |
| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (6 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) |
| **Module 2: Urban Social Geography** | **ECTS credits** | **6** |
| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** This module is aimed at giving students an overview of the theoretical core debates in urban studies that are especially related to spatial and geographical dimensions of cities and urbanisation. In this regard, the module uses a pluralistic approach to theoretical urban studies. Its contents include urban system perspectives and perspectives of economic geography (e.g. world city formation). The module discusses urban diversity and segregation as well as transport and mobility. It also examines overlaps between culture and urban development.This module combines lectures, discussions, guest lectures and excursions to selected cities in Belgium. |
| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (6 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) |
| **Module 3: Urban Sociology** | **ECTS credits** | **5** |
| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** This module develops a sociological approach to urban studies related to mutual interrelations between society and city. Based on the general assumption that cities are social products (a physical and social space shaped by social, economical and political rules), this module also addressed the aspect of the investment environment consisting of social representations and meanings. |

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|  This environment is represented by numerous resources and limitations that apply to both actors and social groups.The first part of the module addresses different theoretical approaches to cities. The second part concentrates on specific urban case studies all over the world which students discuss during reading and lecture units. |
| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (5 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) |
| **Module 4: Political Economy** | **ECTS credits** | **5** |
| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** This module takes the perspective of politics and economics towards socio-spatial configurations in cities and concentrates on Europe and other examples in the context of advanced capitalism. It aims at adopting both a critical and empirical approach to urban change. The module combines insights from theories of macroeconomic change and the conceptualisation of roles of actors and institutions driving urban change in different urban contexts. Here, processes of metropolisation through re-investment and de-investment in parts of cities as well as the application of entrepreneurial framework conditions in (political) steering processes in cities are taken into special consideration.A major aim of this module is to disentangle the far too popular representations that tend to the naturalisation, idealisation and de-politisation of urban changes in times of globalisation. Moreover, this module addresses cities as social and political constructs resulting from power constellations within social forces embedded in historical contexts. |
| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (5 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) |
| **Module 5: Urban Analysis I and II** | **ECTS credits** | **8** |
| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** In Urban Analysis I, students learn about different research methods in social sciences that are used to analyse urban environments, especially their structures and processes. Students mainly acquire competences of methods in secondary statistical analyses, urban semiotics and mental mapping, urban ethnography and qualitative interviews. In addition, students obtain practical research competences by applying different methods for the analysis of a part of Brussels in small groups.In Urban Analysis I, students are assessed based on a presentation of the interim results to their fellow students and course lecturers.Building on Urban Analysis I, Urban Analysis II further takes into account the perspective of inhabitants and users of parts of a city as well as their perceptions and experiences on the level of institutional actors (the so-called stakeholders). Here, their visions, projects and power influence is investigated. Thus, the dimensions of planning instruments and regulations, main actors and existing projects are added to the interim results of the city district analysis carried out in Urban Analysis I. |

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| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (8 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** University of Vienna (UW) |
| **Module 6: Urban Transformations** | **ECTS credits** | **7** |
| Participation in module 6 requires the successful completion of the modules 1 to 5. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |
| Courses with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** In this module, students examine the topics ofSocio-spatial urban diversity (with a focus on spatial migration effects) andUrban sustainability transformations (multidimensional change processes in sustainable urban development). Upon completion of the module, students are able to1. Describe and discuss, based on theories, central urban transformations resulting from demographic developments and multidimensional changes (ecological and social);
2. Analyse and interpret the processes underlying these changes by means of suitable indicators;
3. Assess the redesign of cities with regard to their effects and interrelations with socio-spatial integration processes and sustainable development potentials and to engage in discussions with relevant stakeholders.
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| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (7 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** University of Vienna (UW) |
| **Module 7: Urban Planning and Development** | **ECTS credits** | **7** |
| Participation in module 7 requires the successful completion of the modules 1 to 5. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |
| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** In this module, students address the two topics of principles of urban planning and urbanism as well as contemporary challenges in urban development.Upon completion of the module, students are able to(1) comprehend and assess the basic principles of European urban development and urban planning on the basis of historical and modern concepts; |

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| 1. Make use of relevant planning approaches and paradigms based on European examples and reflect on the role of different societal models and political framework conditions;
2. Recognise the complexity of current challenges in sustainable urban development, especially in view of global climate change, social disparities and digital change;
3. Carry out integrative assessments and develop solutions based on qualitative and quantitative indicators and analyses;
4. Recognise current challenges in the development of cities and urban regions with regard to their role as part of the grand challenges (especially climate change and demographic change) and their effects on current transformation processes and concepts of urban geography, and understand related strategies in spatial planning;
5. Compare urbanisation processes in city regions on other contents by using concrete examples of European city regions;
6. Engage in theory-related discourse with relevant institutions and stakeholders in research and practice, which can also be transdisciplinary and across topics.
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| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (7 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** University of Vienna (UW) |
| **Module 8: Urban Analysis III** | **ECTS credits** | **6** |
| Participation in module 8 requires the successful completion of the modules 1 to 5. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |
| Course(s) with continuous assessment |
| Learning outcomes (competences): In this module, students acquire further competences in methods already acquired in Urban Analysis I and II by integrating these in a concrete research design related to the student’s master's thesis.Upon completion of the module, students are able to1. Summarise relevant specialist discourses on the intended topic of the master's thesis in the form of a state-of-the-art description;
2. Prepare research questions and conceptualise these through a well-founded selection and application of mixed-methods approaches;
3. Prepare a consistent research design for academic papers.
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| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (6 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Københavns Universitet (UK) |
| **Module 9: Urbanism and Architecture** | **ECTS credits** | **8** |
| Participation in module 9 within the Classical Track requires the successful completion of modules 1 to 8. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |

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| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** The aim of this module is to familiarise students with the most important styles of architecture in the 19th and 20th centuries and to present the form and function of selected building types. The module focusses on examples in Copenhagen which are contextualised with relation to international developments.The following topics of urban development should be addressed:* Urban history and urban squares
* Modern institutions in cities: Parliaments, universities, schools
* Transport-related buildings: Harbours, bridges, train stations, airports, metro stations
* Cultural buildings for the civic society: Museums, theatres, concert halls
* Entertainment facilities for the mass culture: Amusement parks, zoos, lookout points
* Dwelling cultures of civic society and the working class
* Functionalism and modernity: Nordic functionalism
* Urban growth, suburbanisation and new cities
* Cities in attention economy
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| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (8 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Københavns Universitet (UK) |
| **Module 10: Urban Culture and Cultural Theory** | **ECTS credits** | **8** |
| Participation in module 10 within the Classical Track requires the successful completion of modules 1 to 8. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |
| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** The aim of this module is to develop principles of an approach to cities guided by cultural theory. The module comprehensively addresses ground-breaking texts from the tradition of the cultural theory of the 20th century. The aim is to define key concepts allowing us to understand the city as urbanity, i.e. as a complex cultural phenomenon. A variety of discourses can contribute to this project: Topics of architecture, literature, sociology and philosophy should be discussed when reading essential theoretical texts.Examples from the history of European metropolises from 1850 until modern days should help us to understand the analytical perspectives of cultural theory. This should lay the foundation for interdisciplinary urbanity research. |
| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (8 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Københavns Universitet (UK) |
| **Module 11: Urban Analysis IV** | **ECTS credits** | **4** |
| Participation in module 11 within the Classical Track requires the successful completion of modules 1 to 8. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |

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| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** Based on case studies, the principles of interdisciplinary urbanity research should be developed and tested. These case studies refer to spatial and socio-cultural conditions of a metropolis region, such as Copenhagen in the years around 2000. Different subject-related and academic approaches to current urban development are illuminated in this module. |
| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (4 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) and Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) |
| **Module 12: The Sustainable and Liveable City** | **ECTS credits** | **10** |
| Participation in module 12 within the Classical Track requires the successful completion of modules 1 to 11. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |
| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** The contents of this module focus on the complexity of the urban ecosystem from an integrative perspective. The components of urban ecosystems (biotic, abiotic and anthropic) are addressed with regard to the effects of human activities and their sustainability impact. In addition, this module addresses three other urban pillars (the physical, built and socio-economic ones) by means of a detailed approach to selected topics (such as transport, building typology, historical heritage) as archetypical situations in which urban sustainability and quality of life can be analysed from a theoretical and application-oriented perspective. The module also considers questions related to planning, how urban planning and urban planning practice can create a better urban living environment for all persons involved.Students acquire competences in application-oriented methods and techniques to analyse ecological and social processes in a city. Based on practical assessments, trends and development guidelines for urban systems are developed. Students learn how to search, select and use qualitative and quantitative data to develop a critical way of reasoning based on data. Finally, students develop application-oriented recommendations for action with regard to research topics. |
| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (10 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) and Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) |
| **Module 13: Governance and Local Welfare** | **ECTS credits** | **10** |
| Participation in module 13 within the Classical Track requires the successful completion of modules 1 to 11. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |

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| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** The general aim of the module is to investigate the system of local governance, especially the provision of public goods with regard to three aspects:1. Practices of dwelling: concerning basic patterns of dwelling, household changes, provision of social housing, use of public space and its changes
2. Access to and use of local services: Analysis of local services with regard to different social spaces and their cultural and economic diversity; supply and demand of local services.
3. Urban governance from the perspective of the inhabitants taking into consideration changes in the city district. Investigation of the inhabitants’ diversity with regard to their social and economic situation, age, gender, ethnicity, citizenship, household type and others. The module also examines local power structures in various European countries and decision-making structures within the framework of current, multi-scale competence distribution. Special attention is paid to different forms of citizen participation and the development of social movements and their change.

The module also addresses the change of local welfare provision and the associated power struggles and culture clashes. These processes are analysed by means of qualitative interviews. |
| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (10 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) |
| **Module 14: Practice Elective Courses** | **ECTS credits** | **25** |
| Participation in module 14 within the Practice Track requires the successful completion of modules 1 to 8. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |
| Course(s) with and without continuous assessment |
| Only students in the Practice Track specialisation have to select this compulsory module. |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** In this compulsory module, students further acquire knowledge of theory and methods concentrating on application orientation in advanced courses from disciplines related to the subject. Thus, students further develop their selected specialisation profile which qualifies them for a subject-related application in professional practice. The courses that students select in this module must be approved by the competent coordination unit at VUB in advance. |
| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (25 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) |
| **Module 15: Practice Internship** | **ECTS credits** | **15** |

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| Participation in module 15 within the Practice Track requires the successful completion of modules 1 to 8. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |
| An internship comprising 15 ECTS credits. |
| Only students in the Practice Track specialisation have to select the internship. |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** The aim is to provide students with first experience in practice and further subject-related contents with an application-oriented specialisation to further develop their selected educational profile. It is a compulsory module which students take at partner institutions or facilities, institutions or companies with a subject-related orientation of their choice. The competent coordination unit at VUB is responsible for the suitable assignment to an internship. |
| The proof of performance is based on a written traineeship report. |

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| **Responsibility:** Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) |
| **Module 16: Research Elective Courses** | **ECTS credits** | **25** |
| Participation in module 16 within the Research Track requires the successful completion of modules 1 to 8. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |
| **Course(s) with and without continuous assessment** |
| Only students in the Research Track specialisation have to select this compulsory module. |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** In this compulsory module, students further acquire knowledge of theory and methods concentrating on further academic qualification in the form of advanced courses from disciplines related to the subject. Thus, students further develop their selected specialisation profile which qualifies them for a subject-related application in academic practice (doctoral programme). The courses that students select in this module must be approved by the competent coordination unit at VUB in advance. |
| **Proof of performance:** Passing of all courses specified in the module (25 ECTS credits) |

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| **Responsibility:** Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) |
| **Module 17: Research Internship** | **ECTS credits** | **15** |
| Participation in module 17 within the Research Track requires the successful completion of modules 1 to 8. If students did not successfully complete individual courses within these modules, students can apply for remission of the prerequisite with the competent body responsible for study matters. Students have to provide proof of the successful completion of all modules when registering for the master's examination at the latest. |

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| An internship comprising 15 ECTS credits. |
| Only students in the Research Track specialisation have to select the internship. |
| **Learning outcomes (competences):** The aim is to provide students with first experience in practice and further subject-related contents with an academic specialisation to further develop their selected educational profile. It is a compulsory module which students take at partner institutions or facilities, institutions or companies with a subject-related orientation of their choice. The competent coordination unit at VUB is responsible for the suitable assignment to an internship. |
| The proof of performance is based on a written traineeship report. |

# § 6 Master's thesis

1. The master's thesis serves to demonstrate the student’s ability to achieve adequate standards of content and methodology when independently addressing scientific topics. The assignment for the master’s thesis must be chosen in a way that the student can reasonably be expected to complete it within six months.
2. The topic of the master's thesis must be taken from one of the compulsory modules. If a different topic is selected or if there is uncertainty regarding the allocation of the selected topic, the competent body responsible for study matters decides on whether or not it is admissible.
3. The master's thesis comprises 25 ECTS credits.

# § 7 Master's examination

1. To be admitted to a master's examination the student must have successfully passed all required modules and examinations and the master's thesis must have been positively assessed.
2. Students have to take the master's examination in the form of an examination before an examination committee consisting of representatives of the universities VUB, ULB, UW, UK, UAM and UCM following the presentation of the master’s thesis as a public defence of the master's thesis.
3. The master's examination comprises 5 ECTS credits.

# § 8 Course classification

The following descriptions refer to the courses offered at UW.

Lectures (*Vorlesungen, VO*) [non-continuous assessment] aim at giving an introduction to facts, methods and doctrines in different fields of urban studies. Moreover, existing relevant knowledge and skills are consolidated. Furthermore, they present applications and relations to applications and inform about the use of various qualitative and quantitative methods (e.g. surveys and interviews, archive research, statistical analyses, spatial and temporal analyses). Lectures take the form of oral presentations. Students must consolidate the course contents beyond the classes through self-study as well as accompanying courses (exercises or introductory seminars). Lectures are concluded by a single exam at the end of the course.

Exercises (*Übung, UE*) [continuous assessment] serve the purpose of practising skills that are necessary for understanding the contents taught. This is based on specific tasks and assignments. During exercise classes, students work on tasks. Students are mainly supervised individually or in small groups. Lecturers are mainly tasked with guiding and monitoring students’ work. In exercises (UE), students can be assessed based on oral presentations, one or several written exam(s) during the semester or written assignments. In any case, at least one of these assessment methods is used.

Combined lectures and exercises (*Vorlesungen mit Übungen*, VU) [continuous assessment] combine contents in courses and exercises. The proof of performance are multiple independent written and/or oral achievements during the course.

Introductory seminars (*Proseminare*, PS) [continuous assessment] serve the purpose of acquiring and thoroughly working with course contents. Students are expected to actively participate in activities as deemed appropriate and to solve concrete tasks independently. They allow for numerous small feedback loops between teachers and students that are essential for acquiring related knowledge. Students must complete these tasks outside of the designated course hours. In the actual contact hours of the introductory seminar, the lecturer assesses and supplements the contributions prepared by the students (solutions, presentations, summaries, etc.) in a way considering the relevant participant's independent approach resulting in a comprehensive presentation for the other students.

Seminars *(Seminare, SE)* [continuous assessment] serve to induce academic debate. Seminars aim at giving students the ability to gain detailed knowledge of a selected sub-problem through the study of specialist literature and data sources as well as independent research. Students also learn to present their findings in an oral specialist presentation that is comprehensible to the audience, including the use of didactic and linguistic means. Usually, participants have to submit a written paper that conforms to the requirements of a full-fledged research paper regarding form and content. In seminars (SE), students can additionally be assessed based on one or several written exam(s) during the semester or additional written assignments.

Excursions (*Exkursionen*, EX) [continuous assessment] exemplify and expand the knowledge acquired during courses in the lecture hall and self-study. The academic excursions by foot or drive serve the purpose of directly illustrating the object of academic interest taught in the courses and expanding the knowledge of this object on site. The proof of performance is based on one or multiple written or oral assignment(s).

Practical courses (*Praktika*, PR) [continuous assessment] are courses complementing lectures, exercises and seminars and aim at consolidating practical skills and knowledge. (Students independently work on small projects, individually or in small groups. These supervised projects require continuous effort over several weeks in the lecture hall, in the laboratory and/or in the field.) The proof of performance is based on one or multiple written or oral assignment(s).

# § 9 Courses with a limited number of participants and registration procedure

1. The following general limits on the number of students apply in the different courses at the University of Vienna:

No more than 60 students can participate in the course types ‘exercise’ (UE), ‘combined lectures and exercises’ (VU), ‘introductory seminar’(PS), ‘seminar’ (SE) and ‘practical course’ (PR) in this Curriculum. No more than 30 students can participate in excursions (EX).

1. Modalities concerning the registration for courses and examinations as well as the allocation of places in courses at the University of Vienna are governed by the stipulations in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

# § 10 Examination regulations for courses and modules at the University of Vienna

1. Proof of performance in courses

The lecturer of a course is responsible for making the necessary announcements according to the stipulations in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

1. Examination content

The examination content relevant to preparing and holding examinations must be in line with the required number of ECTS credits. This also applies to module examinations.

1. Examination procedure

The examination procedure is subject to the stipulations in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

1. No double recognition

Courses taken and examinations passed in the three-year bachelor's programme, which constitute entry requirements for the master's programme, cannot be recognised again in the master's programme. Courses taken and examinations passed from another compulsory module of this degree programme cannot be recognised again within another module within the same degree programme. This also applies to recognition procedures.

1. Examination results must be allocated to the relevant module by the stated ECTS figure and must not be allocated to different proofs of performance.
2. Courses and modules at the other participating universities are subject to the relevant universities' regulations.

# § 11 Entry into force

1. This Curriculum enters into force upon announcement in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna as of 1 October 2019.
2. The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 27 June 2022, number 343, 45th edition enter into force on 1 October 2022.

**§ 12 Transitional provisions**

1. This Curriculum applies to all students who commence their degree programme as of the winter semester of 2019/2020.
2. If, at a later stage of the degree programme, courses are no longer offered which were compulsory under the original curricula, the competent body responsible for study matters decides ex officio (equivalence regulation) or at the request of the student which courses and examinations have to be completed instead.
3. Students who have started the master's programme in Urban Studies before this date may voluntarily accept the provisions of this Curriculum by simple confirmation.
4. Students who pursue the master’s programme in Urban Studies, which entered into force prior to this Curriculum are entitled to complete their degree programme by 30 April 2022.
5. Students who voluntarily accept the provisions of this Curriculum (para. 3) or who have to change to this Curriculum after the master's programme in Urban Studies has been phased out (University Gazette published on 24 June 2008, 35th edition, number 301, first (minor) amendment in the University Gazette published on 30 June 2016, 44th edition, number 308) (para 4.) can only purse the Classical Track specialisation.
6. The competent body responsible for study matters specified in the organisational regulations is entitled to determine in general or on a case-by-case basis which of the courses taken and examinations passed will be recognised for this Curriculum.

# Appendix 1 – Recommended path

1. Classical Track

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 1 | Brussels (VUB, ULB) | 30 ECTS credits |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 2 | Vienna (UW) | 20 ECTS credits |
| Semester 3 | Copenhagen (KU) | 20 ECTS credits |
| Semester 4 | Madrid (UAM, UCM) | 20 ECTS credits |
| Semesters 1-4 | Master’s Thesis and Public Defence | 30 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| **Semester 1** | **Brussels (VUB, ULB)** |  |
| 1. | European Cities in an Urbanising World | 6 ECTS credits |
| 2. | Urban Social Geography | 6 ECTS credits |
| 3. | Urban Sociology | 5 ECTS credits |
| 4. | Political Economy | 5 ECTS credits |
| 5. | Urban Analysis I and II | 8 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| **Semester 2** | **Vienna (UW)** |  |
| 6. | Urban Transformations | 7 ECTS credits |
| 7. | Urban Planning and Development | 7 ECTS credits |
| 8. | Urban Analysis III | 6 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| **Semester 3** | **Copenhagen (KU)** |  |
| 9. | Urbanism and Architecture | 8 ECTS credits |
| 10. | Urban Culture and Cultural Theory | 8 ECTS credits |
| 11. | Urban Analysis IV | 4 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| **Semester 4** | **Madrid (UAM, UCM)** |  |
| 12. | The Sustainable and Liveable City | 10 ECTS credits |
| 13. | Governance and Local Welfare | 10 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| Semesters 1-4 | Master’s Thesis and Public Defence | 30 ECTS credits |

1. Practice Track

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 1 | Brussels (VUB, ULB) | 30 ECTS credits |
| Semester 2 | Vienna (UW) | 20 ECTS credits |
| Semester 3 | Brussels (VUB, ULB) or Vienna (UW) or partner universities | 25 ECTS credits |
| Semester 4 | Brussels (VUB, ULB) or Vienna (UW) or partner universities | 15 ECTS credits |
| Semesters 1-4 | Master’s Thesis and Public Defence | 30 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| **Semester 1** | **Brussels (VUB, ULB)** |  |
| 1. | European Cities in an Urbanising World | 6 ECTS credits |
| 2. | Urban Social Geography | 6 ECTS credits |
| 3. | Urban Sociology | 5 ECTS credits |
| 4. | Political Economy | 5 ECTS credits |
| 5. | Urban Analysis I and II | 8 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| **Semester 2** | **Vienna (UW)** |  |
| 6. | Urban Transformations | 7 ECTS credits |
| 7. | Urban Planning and Development | 7 ECTS credits |
| 8. | Urban Analysis III | 6 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Semester 3** | **Depending on the curriculum** |  |
| 14. | Practice Elective Courses | 25 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| **Semester 4** | **Depending on the curriculum** |  |
| 15. | Practice Internship | 15 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| Semesters 1-4 | Master’s Thesis and Public Defence | 30 ECTS credits |

1. Research Track

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Semester 1 | Brussels (VUB, ULB) | 30 ECTS credits |
| Semester 2 | Vienna (UW) | 20 ECTS credits |
| Semester 3 | Brussels (VUB, ULB) or Vienna (UW) or partner universities | 25 ECTS credits |
| Semester 4 | Brussels (VUB, ULB) or Vienna (UW) or partner universities | 15 ECTS credits |
| Semesters 1-4 | Master’s Thesis and Public Defence | 30 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| **Semester 1** | **Brussels (VUB, ULB)** |  |
| 1. | European Cities in an Urbanising World | 6 ECTS credits |
| 2. | Urban Social Geography | 6 ECTS credits |
| 3. | Urban Sociology | 5 ECTS credits |
| 4. | Political Economy | 5 ECTS credits |
| 5. | Urban Analysis I and II | 8 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| **Semester 2** | **Vienna (UW)** |  |
| 6. | Urban Transformations | 7 ECTS credits |
| 7. | Urban Planning and Development | 7 ECTS credits |
| 8. | Urban Analysis III | 6 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| **Semester 3** | **Depending on the curriculum** |  |
| 16. | Research Elective Courses | 25 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| **Semester 4** | **Depending on the curriculum** |  |
| 17. | Research Internship | 15 ECTS credits |
|  |  |  |
| Semesters 1-4 | Master’s Thesis and Public Defence | 30 ECTS credits |

# Appendix 2

Further information (e.g. about the selection procedure) is announced on the website [https://4cities.eu](https://4cities.eu/).