

# Master in Geography and Spatial Planning

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Master académique





The Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education is located on Belval Campus in the south of Luxembourg.

The Faculty offers Bachelor and Master degrees in Educational and Social Sciences, Psychology, History, Political Sciences, Philosophy, Sociology, Geography, Language and Literature.

With 4 Bachelor, 15 Master degree programmes and 3 doctoral schools we offer innovative and attractive perspectives for the next generation of academics and professionals.



“Dear students,

We would like to invite you to the Master in Geography and Spatial Planning at the University of Luxembourg.

Making room for geographical thinking is key to strengthening your curriculum and fostering your understanding of the social, economic and environmental challenges of today’s world. Cities and territories are complex and changing systems. Spatial planning needs to embrace this complexity in order to propose better and more sustainable strategies at all geographical scales: from neighbourhoods to cities, from cross-border metropolitan areas to political regions and from countries to continents.

We have set a high standard of academic education and connected it with insights from spatial planning practice.

**Engage in geography! Cross the borders of disciplines and spatial planning cultures – join us at the heart of Europe!”**

Geoffrey Caruso, Course Director

## INTERDISCIPLINARITY AND EUROPEAN DIMENSION OBJECTIVES

The Master in Geography and Spatial Planning is designed to respond to the growing need for highly qualified experts that can embrace the multi-dimensionality and complexity of the evolution of cities and regions, reflecting global changes and local dynamics.

Despite the demand for European or transnational coordination in spatial planning, national planning cultures and concepts within Europe continue to be markedly heterogeneous. You will be prepared for understanding a wide range of European and transnational planning philosophies and processes, as well as transcending current limits.

The programme addresses key social, economic and environmental challenges with a geographical and multi-scalar perspective. Sustainable planning strategies require a holistic approach and push researchers and experts to enlarge the scope of their competences and move beyond singular disciplinary culture.

You will gain an understanding of integrative approaches and be trained in a wide range of approaches in geographical analysis and spatial planning. You will be prepared to meet the demands for sustainable spatial planning strategies and improved urban and territorial governance processes.

## WE OFFER YOU TO COMBINE NEW KNOWLEDGE AND DEVELOP YOUR OWN SKILLS!

The Master in Geography and Spatial Planning offers a high standard academic education with a strong emphasis on the evolution of urban regions and systems, sustainable planning strategies, cross-border issues, and the patterns of spatial development and governance in Europe.

We provide a unique combination of academic courses and practical work. You will learn to identify and explain conceptual and theoretical models and work with geographic information systems, computer-aided cartography, statistical tools as well as qualitative assessment and survey methods.

The Master relies on the diversity of students and their background knowledge in order to foster group interactions. The programme is designed for small groups (25 students) to enhance these interactions. You will acquire a set of soft skills that are increasingly required in professional life such as working in groups, debating within interdisciplinary and intercultural teams, preparing and presenting projects.

# WE ARE INTERNATIONAL!

Our programme is entirely taught in English and benefits from a proximity to European institutions and international research centres.

Our students come from about 20 countries and so does our research group!

# A MIX OF ACADEMIC SCHOLARS AND PRACTITIONERS

The programme builds on a mix of experienced researchers and practitioners. Teaching staff includes academic scholars from the University of Luxembourg and partner universities in order to stand at the forefront of research concepts and analysis techniques. In addition, distinguished

experts from European and regional institutions and agencies contribute to the teaching programme, thus sharing best practice and enhancing the dialogue between academic research and planning practice.



"I chose to study the Master in Geography and Spatial Planning to complement my existing BSc in Spatial Planning. I chose this programme because it offers courses in European governance and spatial planning, and spatial analysis. These courses have provided me with skills to understand complex governance processes, to better grasp spatial planning from a European perspective, and to analyse spatial development patterns. I believe these skills will greatly benefit me in my career as a spatial planner.

Some of the additional benefits of this course include: teaching staff with research and practical backgrounds, thereby providing a mix of theoretical, research-based, and practical approaches; small class size and direct contact with professors; a multi-cultural learning environment featuring a diverse mix of students from different countries and different backgrounds.

The course also gave me the opportunity to attend a summer school in Shanghai for one month to study sustainable urban and rural planning there. I would recommend the Master in Geography and Spatial Planning to anyone wishing to pursue studies in this area. The course is challenging but enjoyable and the university offers good facilities to its students."

Bernadette Quinn, Ireland



# HOW IS THE PROGRAMME ORGANISED?

The Master of Geography and Spatial Planning runs over two years (four semesters) with a total of 120 ECTS and includes a variety of learning activities, such as lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences, and urban field work.

The programme is divided into nine categories, each one reflecting different thematic areas and methodological approaches of geography and spatial planning.

Most courses are organised in interactive and problem-oriented forms, providing you with advanced conceptual and methodological knowledge as well as realistic situations that challenge your scientific and organisational problem-solving capacities. We highly value individual participation and initiatives that foster group interactions and interactivity within the classes.

1 Urban and Spatial Planning
2 European Territorial Trends and Policies
3 Territorial Governance and Policy Analysis
4 Quantitative Spatial Analysis
5 Cartography and GIS
6 Geographical Modelling
7 Projects and Practice
8 Research Methods and Seminars
9 Master Thesis
0 Open Course
L Language (optional)

The Master combines both the strength of a very integrated programme via a set of common mandatory courses, and the strength of a flexible programme via specialisation options from the second semester on. You can specialise in either advanced territorial and urban governance analysis or in advanced spatial analysis and modelling tools. Within the latter, you will participate in the "Geographical Modelling" Erasmus Intensive Programme with seven other European universities.

To complete your degree, you are required to conduct a Master thesis during the fourth semester. You will have to prove your ability to work independently and scientifically on a research topic of your choice. The thesis can also be linked to an internship within a research or non-research institution

"What I appreciate the most is the methodological and academic nature of the Master's which opens up the opportunity to students to find work afterwards in both "academia" and "the professional world". I especially gained qualifications in quantitative geography and analysis such as statistics and modelling as well as GIS. Furthermore, tools related to qualitative geographical analysis such as spatial governance and European policies are covered which are most practical for a wide range of possible future jobs. During my two years of study, I was given the chance to specialise more and more on courses and research topics most interesting to me.

The University of Luxembourg is well-known for its multicultural study environment and especially this Master's programme taught me how to collaborate in English in multicultural teams. I find its familiar atmosphere and the intense contact between research/teaching staff and students to be major distinctions to other programmes. Through workshops, conferences, an internship or mobility semester and seminars also frequently held by external experts I already gained insight into work practices and a far-reaching academic network during my studies.

As a current PhD student at the University of Luxembourg I'm glad to have chosen this Master which provided me with the relevant skills and spatial analysis tools I needed and gave me the opportunity to get in touch with open-minded students from many different countries."

Mirjam Schindler, Germany



# PROGRAMME MODULES

MODULE	COURSE Title	Hours (Lectures – Practicals/Seminars)
<b>Semester 1</b>		
Common Modules		
11 Urban Studies and Spatial Planning – Introductory	Urban and Spatial Planning Theory and Concepts	24 (24 – 0)
11 Urban Studies and Spatial Planning – Introductory	Integrative Spatial Planning and Case Studies	30 (8 – 22)
21 European Territorial Trends and Policies – Introductory	Introduction to the EU – Theories of Integration, Institutions and Territory	30 (30 – 0)
21 European Territorial Trends and Policies – Introductory	Global Environmental Change in the Anthropocene	24 (24 – 0)
31 Territorial Governance and Policy Analysis – Introductory	Qualitative Research Methods	30 (8 – 22)
41 Quantitative Spatial Analysis – Introductory	Statistics and Econometrics for Geographical Data	60 (30 – 30)
51 Cartography and GIS – Introductory	Introduction to Cartography and Geographical Information	30 (30 – 0)
51 Cartography and GIS – Introductory	Geographical Information Systems: Analysis and Mapping	30 (2 – 28)
Language Modules (optional)		
LL Language	English 1	20 (0 – 20)
LL Language	French 1	20 (0 – 20)

MODULE	COURSE Title	Hours (Lectures – Practicals/Seminars)
<b>Semester 2</b>		
Common Modules		
22 European Trends and Policies – Intermediate	Socio-Economic Development Trends in Europe	30 (30 – 0)
70 Projects and Practice	Urban Planning Techniques and Project Appraisal	24 (24 – 0)
70 Projects and Practice	EU, Cross-Border and National Territorial Policies	30 (30 – 0)
81 Research Methods and Seminars – Introductory	Foundations and Trends in Geographical Research	16 (16 – 0)
81 Research Methods and Seminars – Introductory	Urban Fieldwork (7 days mid-May)	7 days
Choose track A or B		
Option A: Spatial Development and Governance		
32 Territorial Governance and Policy Analysis – Intermediate	Political Geography Approaches	30 (30 – 0)
32 Territorial Governance and Policy Analysis – Intermediate	Concepts and Methods in Governance Research	30 (30 – 0)
Option B: Spatial Analysis and Modelling		
42 Quantitative Spatial Analysis – Intermediate	Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis and Geostatistics	30 (30 – 0)
52 Cartography and GIS – Intermediate	Web GIS and Geoprocessing	30 (2 – 28)

Language Modules (optional)		
LL Language	English 2	20 (0 – 20)
LL Language	French 2	20 (0 – 20)

MODULE	COURSE Title	Hours (Lectures – Practicals/Seminars)
<b>Semester 3</b>		
Common Modules		
12 Urban Studies and Spatial Planning – Intermediate	Cities, Masterplanning and Urban Governance	30 (30 – 0)
62 Geographical Modelling – Intermediate	Optimal Location and Transport Models	30 (30 – 0)
82 Research Methods and Seminars – Intermediate	Readings and Seminars in Geography and Spatial Planning	16 (0 – 16)
00 Open Course	Any 3 ECTS course (or <i>partim</i> ) from the University Programme	

Choose track A or B

Option A: Spatial Development and Governance

13 Urban Studies and Spatial Planning – Advanced	Contemporary Approaches to Regional Development	30 (30 – 0)
33 Territorial Governance and Policy Analysis – Advanced	Bounding Spaces	30 (30 – 0)

Choose 1 out of 3

13 Urban Studies and Spatial Planning – Advanced	Project in Urban Studies	16 (0 – 16)
33 Territorial Governance and Policy Analysis – Advanced	Project in Regional Development	16 (0 – 16)
33 Territorial Governance and Policy Analysis – Advanced	Project in Political Geography	16 (0 – 16)

Option B: Spatial Analysis and Modelling

63 Geographical Modelling – Advanced	European Geographical Modelling (Erasmus Intensive Programme)	8 days (February)
63 Geographical Modelling – Advanced	Urban and Environmental Economics	30 (30 – 0)
43 Quantitative Spatial Analysis – Advanced	Project in Spatial Analysis and Modelling	16 (0 – 16)

Semester 3 is also open to mobility within one of our partner universities for a total of 30 ECTS.

MODULE	COURSE Title	Hours (Lectures – Practicals/Seminars)
<b>Semester 4</b>		
Common Modules		
83 Research Methods and Seminars – Advanced	Master Thesis Workshops	12 (12 – 0)
90 Master Thesis	Master Thesis	

The thesis can be linked with an internship (not compulsory) within a research or non-research institution abroad or in Luxembourg. Attendance to Master Thesis Workshops in May and June is compulsory.

# STUDYING ABROAD

Spending a semester abroad can be a very valuable experience to enrich your personal development and research experience. During the third semester, you have the opportunity to open new horizons and join one of our ERASMUS partner universities. We have agreements with following universities: the Humboldt-Universität

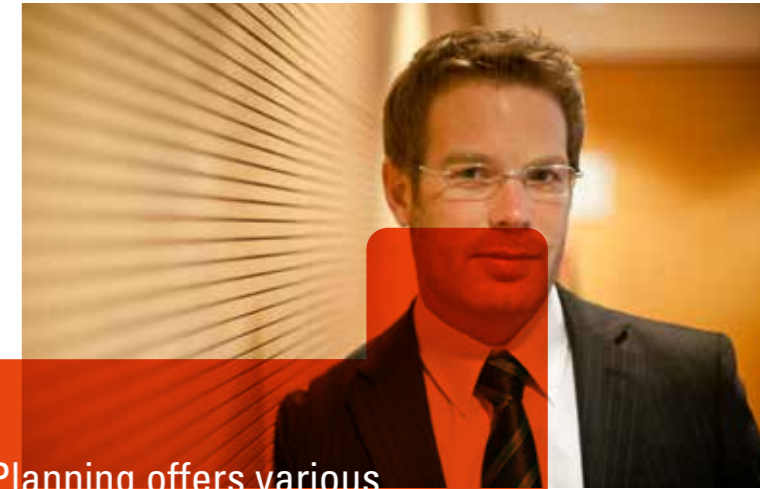
(Berlin, Germany), the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität (Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany), the Université de Liège (Liège, Belgium), the Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (Nijmegen, Netherlands) and the Université de Lausanne (Lausanne, Switzerland).

# YOUR FUTURE

Our Master leads to a variety of professional careers at different geographical scales and in various sectors, as well as an opening to PhD programmes.

Most of our graduates work in private and public spatial planning bodies, mobility and transport consultancies, urban and regional development agencies, European and cross-border institutions, as well as in universities and research centres.

You have the possibility during the 4th semester to undertake an internship within a practice or a research institution, in Luxembourg or abroad. This is usually an important experience, enhancing your employability and leading to full-time jobs.



“The Master in Geography and Spatial Planning offers various advantages for students. First of all, it is located in Luxembourg, one of the founding members of the European Union and hence home to many European organisations and institutions (EUROSTAT, ESPON...). This situation offers an excellent opportunity to get in contact with those institutions, do internships and maybe discover your future job. Secondly, the Master is diversified and provides insights into a wide range of different qualitative and quantitative research methods. The work involved at various scales (local, regional and European) helps to better understand certain spatial and governance phenomena.

In my view the biggest advantage of this Master, besides its conceptual background, is its very practical approach. During interviews, conferences and courses, students get in touch with different stakeholders from ministries, European organisations, research centers, NGOs, etc. This consequently offers an excellent chance for students to get in contact with potential future employers. Finally, due to its diversity, this Master gives access to a wide range of different jobs. Personally, I found a job in a Luxembourgish company as a consultant for transport and logistics companies only a few months after I graduated. Conclusion: I would recommend it!”

Pascal Dickes, Luxembourg Trade Confederation („Confédération Luxembourgeoise du Commerce“)

# GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG

The University of Luxembourg is a research-oriented university focusing on fundamental research and knowledge transfer.

Research in Geography and Spatial Planning at the University of Luxembourg focuses on regional and local developments, European urban spatial policies and sustainable spatial planning and development. Major fields of research include environmental studies, economic geography, urban studies, metropolitan governance, spatial statistics and urban and transport modelling.

The Geography and Spatial Planning research centre hosts the National Contact Point for the EU ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observatory Network) programme and the CIPU ("Cellule nationale d'Information pour la Politique Urbaine", i.e. the National Information Unit for Urban Policy).

You learn directly from our experts and get first-hand information on the latest developments in geography and spatial planning. Research seminars and workshops with renowned guest speakers from national and international institutions and universities are organised on a regular basis. You may also choose to tie your Master thesis to one of our on going research project and work together with our international research team.



# ARE YOU ELIGIBLE? HOW TO APPLY?

The Master in Geography and Spatial Planning is open to students holding a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in Geography and or Spatial Planning. Students holding a Bachelor's degree from a related field such as architecture, urban studies, regional economics, urban or environmental sociology, anthropology, environmental science, etc. are also welcome to apply.

**"Interdisciplinarity is at the heart of geography and spatial planning. The diversity and complementarity of students are key to the Master's success"**

**The application process:** After completing your online registration on the University of Luxembourg's website [www.uni.lu](http://www.uni.lu), a pre selection based on your application file is carried out (step 1). After the pre selection process, you are asked to participate in an online essay (step 2) where you need to demonstrate abilities to deal with a spatial problem. The test essay has to be written in English.

Applicants with the best results are directly admitted to the programme. If you are less successful, you may be invited to a personal interview with the selection committee and, depending on the number of places remaining, can be nominated for a shortlist.

Further information on the selection process and deadlines are made available on the Master's webpages [www.spatial.uni.lu](http://www.spatial.uni.lu) and on the university website [www.uni.lu](http://www.uni.lu).

## The programme at a glance

<b>Duration</b>	120 credits (ECTS) over 4 semesters (7 semesters for part-time students)	<b>Language</b>	An integrated programme along with the possibility to specialise in territorial and urban governance or in advanced spatial analysis and modelling tools. The programme is taught in English. Free language classes (French, German, English) are offered to the students to reap a maximum of benefits from the multilingual context.
<b>Objectives</b>	Embracing the complexity of the evolution of cities and regions. Addressing the key social, economic and environmental challenges of spatial planning. Emphasizing sustainable planning strategies, cross-border issues, and the patterns of spatial development and territorial governance in Europe.	<b>Eligibility</b>	Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Geography, Spatial Planning or relevant related fields.
<b>Offer</b>	A high standard of education from a mix of academic scholars and practitioners. A strong proximity with EU institutions and international research centres. A wide range of cutting-edge approaches and techniques in geographical analysis and spatial planning.	<b>Small groups</b>	A programme designed for a maximum of 25 students to facilitate problem-based learning approaches and individual coaching.
		<b>Costs</b>	€ 200 / semester





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# THE UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG AT A GLANCE

Founded in 2003, the University of Luxembourg is the first and only university of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Multilingual, international and research-oriented, it is also a modern institution with a personal touch. At the University of Luxembourg, students and staff come from all over the world. You will study together with people from over 110 different countries.

## THE UNIVERSITY IN FIGURES\*

Ranked 193 worldwide in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking 2015

- 6287 students
  - › 3080 international students
  - › 3231 undergraduate students
  - › 1283 postgraduate students (Master)
  - › 1204 other students
  - › 669 PhD students
- 110 nationalities (students)
- 1506 employees
- 238 professors, associate professors and senior lecturers
- 868 adjunct teaching staff
- 54 degree programmes
- 11 research units
- 3 faculties
- 2 interdisciplinary centres

\* October 2015

## SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

### Student accommodation

The University provides accommodation in different areas of Luxembourg City, Esch-sur-Alzette, Mondrange, Walferdange, Noertzange, and Belval. The rooms at the halls of residence are single furnished rooms with an average size of 14 m<sup>2</sup>. [seve.logement@uni.lu](mailto:seve.logement@uni.lu)

### Sports, arts and culture

“Espace Cultures” organises and coordinates a broad range of cultural events at the University. If you are interested in cultural activities, you can join the University Choir, the University Chamber Music Ensemble, the theatre group “Edudrame” or the creative dance group “Dance Cluster”.

“Espace Cultures” offers European and transatlantic project collaborations, concerts, guided sightseeing tours, study trips and exhibitions. You can even get free entrance for a number of cultural events.

“Campus Art” invites you to discover your own creativity. During the art workshops, you can explore different painting techniques, experimenting with light projections or create your own art works out of clay. There are no limits to your imagination!

“Campus Sports” organises a broad range of sport activities for students: you can take fitness classes, play football, work out at the gym, do some indoor climbing or yoga. The University of Luxembourg also has its own football team.

### Language courses

Multilingual teaching is a key asset of our University. The majority of our degrees are taught in at least two languages. To help you prepare, the University offers language courses in Luxembourgish, German, French and English at the start of each winter semester.

## LUXEMBOURG AT A GLANCE

- Official name: Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
- Official languages: Luxembourgish, French and German
- Form of government: Constitutional monarchy under the system of parliamentary democracy
- Capital: Luxembourg City
- Cities and towns: 116
- Largest cities: Luxembourg City, Esch-sur-Alzette, Differdange
- Territory: 2,586 sq. km
- Maximum dimensions: 82 km from north to south and 57 km from east to west
- Highest elevation: 560 m (Wilwerdange)
- Total population: 563 000 (2014 figures, source: STATEC)
- Foreign residents: 45.9 percent (2015 figures, source: STATEC)
- Largest foreign communities: Portuguese, French, Italians, Belgians, Germans
- Currency: Euro
- Number of banks: 149 (2014 figures, source: CSSF)
- Number of companies: 29 795 (2013 figures, source: STATEC)

## LIFE IN LUXEMBOURG

### Five reasons to study in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

#### A European crossroad:

- situated between France, Belgium and Germany
- one of the European Union’s capitals
- home to a number of European Institutions

#### A multicultural and trilingual country:

- around 563 000 inhabitants
- great population diversity with 45.9% foreigners from about 170 countries
- official languages: Luxembourgish, French, German

#### An attractive employment market:

- an international financial centre
- a modern economy with global industrial companies and international enterprises

#### A great offer of culture, leisure and sports:

- a variety of theatre plays in different languages, music, cinema, museums, festivals, events
- numerous outdoor sports opportunities like mountain bike trails, hiking, rock climbing, sailing, water skiing, etc. as well as indoor facilities such as aquatic centres
- many cafes, bars, clubs, pubs and discos, mainly located in the Hollerich area, the old city centre and the Rives de Clausen

#### Luxembourg’s tourist charm:

- a picturesque historic city – UNESCO World heritage site
- “Luxembourg’s Little Switzerland”
- the Ardennes castles
- the Moselle Valley.

## COME AND VISIT US!

The University of Luxembourg organises in spring its annual Open Day where you can meet students and staff. You can take a campus tour or visit one of our many information sessions on our degrees which take place throughout the day.

Visit our website [www.uni.lu](http://www.uni.lu) for detailed information .

# CONTACT

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Like us on facebook <http://www.facebook.com/MasterGeographySpatialPlanningLuxembourg>

For further information on application procedures and student life:

Service des Études et de la Vie Étudiante (SEVE)



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