Master in Architecture

— Master académique
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UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG

☐ FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, HUMANITIES, ARTS AND EDUCATION

Master in Architecture

Master académique

The Master in Architecture is a two-year English-taught programme which combines both a traditional curriculum of architectural education and a profiled programme structured around three major themes: architecture, European urbanisation and globalisation.

Programme

The Master in Architecture focuses on:
- teaching architectural and urban design on different scales in a European context, with an emphasis on the strategic aspects of design;
- architectural and urban research with architectural means, focusing particularly on European urbanisation;
- research on the impact of globalisation on cities and regions, as well as on comparative analysis of typologies in architecture and urbanisation worldwide.

The Master programme does not see architecture as a static discipline, but as a professional field where a multitude of interrelated actors constantly have to anticipate changes in the context they operate, may they be demographic, political, social, environmental, cultural or technological.
Design goes hand in hand with research, and the principle of the master programme highlights the dialectical relationship between design by research and research by design.

Objectives

The Master in Architecture educates future architects with specific additional skills in research and knowledge in the field of urban design particular to European urbanism and globalisation. Students deepen the knowledge acquired during their Bachelor studies and will be able to master complex design tasks. Interdisciplinary projects and teams will constitute a considerable part of everyday teaching.

Students gain the abilities and skills to:
- design buildings and urban plans;
- research the conditions in which architecture and urbanism develop;
- research by design;
- work in interdisciplinary teams;
- identify the key issues of quality design;
- use technical terminology for designing and building processes;
- explain the historical, social, political and environmental effects on architecture;
- draw and represent plans, sections, elevations, perspectives and details by using appropriate, state-of-the art software;
- analyse project briefs within a given context;
- propose solutions and methodologies for complex design or work tasks;
- evaluate their own abilities as well as those of the teaching staff, team members, external contributors with a view to engaging in critical debate, both oral and written.

Programme structure

The curriculum covers a full-time two-year programme, with the final semester being dedicated to a semester-long thesis project. Each semester corresponds to a total of 30 ECTS. The eight modules are spread over the four semesters:

Modules 1 to 3:

Each module consists of a semester-long practical exercise (design studio). Students learn to conceptualise programmes, draw plans, sections and elevations, build models and create perspectives while working in inter-disciplinary teams.

Module 4:

The courses examine the economic aspects of globalisation, the restructuring of the world economy and the relation with patterns of world city urbanisation as well as the ecological aspects of globalisation and world urbanization. Students acquire skills in geographic information systems and are introduced to major theories and methodologies of geospatial analysis and data.

Module 5:

The module focuses on European urbanization, including courses on the theory of European urban and spatial planning, urban and landscape design within Europe and regulatory frameworks.

Module 6:

Students study the history and theory of architecture and their relation to the city. They explore cultural and visual studies as well as research methods on architecture and urbanism.

Module 7:

Students may choose from seven different seminars, each of them focusing on a different area including design, urban studies research, technical and engineering issues, managing and administrative branch aspects of the discipline.

Module 8:

The last module is dedicated exclusively to the final Master's thesis, which can be either a textual work or a research-based design.

Internship

Before the start of the third semester, students have to complete a minimum two-month internship in an architectural practice.

Career opportunities

Students develop a broad skill set and are prepared for a career in the private sector, in administrative bodies or in research, as PhD students at universities.

Admission

Applicants must have a Bachelor degree or equivalent or a technically suitable degree in architecture and urban design. When applying for the course, students are asked to submit a motivation letter and a portfolio of design work.

Selection is based on the application documents and a personal interview.

Courses are taught in English. Applicants must demonstrate their competency in English (CEFR level B2 is required).

Contact

Course director
Prof. Dr. Florian Hertweck
T. +352 / 46 66 44-9801
florian.hertweck@uni.lu

Programme administrator
Sara Volterrani
T. +352 / 46 66 44-9516
sara.volterrani@uni.lu

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