

Department of Geography (Belgium)

Institutional Information (Last update at: 19/07/2015)

School/Department name (Native language)	Vakgroep Geografie
AESOP reg Number	F-032-05
AESOP Member Status	Full Member
University	Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Free University of Brussels)
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Contact persons

Head of School / Department

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School Information

Full time academic staff members	3
Part time staff members	7
Staff members engaged in research	8
Staff members engaged in professional activities	5

Degree Programmes and Educational Provision

(Post)Graduate/masters or second cycle degree(s) offered at School/department

Master Stedenbouw en Ruimtelijke Planning / Master in Urban Design and Spatial Planning

Master Stedenbouw en Ruimtelijke Planning / Master in Urban Design and Spatial Planning

Number of years normally used to complete this degree(FT)	2
Part time option	Yes
Number years usually required for completing the degree part-time (PT)	3
Delivery mode	On campus
Number of ECTS	120
Teaching languages	Dutch and English
Number of students graduated 2014	Total students 20
	National students 18
	EU students 0
	Non EU students 0
Specialisation within in this Degree/the curriculum	NO
The degree requires an assessed period of work in practice	No
Programme accreditation by a professional body/other institution	YES
This is an Erasmus mundus programme	No

Curriculum/approach description

The Master Stedenbouw en Ruimtelijke Planing (STeR) - Master Urban Design and Spatial Planning is a 120 ECTS program that is accredited by the Flemish government. It is a program that relies on research as well as professional input. The masters degree gives access to the profession of accredited spatial planner in Flanders, as well to the office of municipal and regional planner ('gemeentelijk en gewestelijk stedenbouwkundig ambtenaar'). It also gives access to PhD or other research positions. The STeR program occupies a unique position in the landscape of spatial planning programs in Flanders and Belgium, as it is located within the Department of Geography, and in the metropolitan context of the Brussels Capital Region. The program thus benefits from input in terms of teaching and research from the fields of social and urban geography, in addition to planning and urbanism theory, landscape studies, urban sociology and spatial design, and takes the complex spatial and institutional context of the Brussels Capital Region and its wider metropolitan area as a main focus of study. The research of the academic staff is grouped in Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research, an interdisciplinary research centre that also coordinates Urban Studies research throughout the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

4Cities

Number of years normally used to complete this degree(FT)	2
Part time option	No
Delivery mode	On campus
Number of ECTS	120

Teaching languages 4Cities	English				
		Total students	National students	EU students	Non EU students
Number of students graduated 201425		1	14	10	
Specialisation within in this Degree/the curriculum	NO				
The degree requires an assessed period of work in practice	No				
Programme accreditation by a professional body/other institution	YES				
This is an Erasmus mundus programme	Yes				
Curriculum/approach description	<p>4Cities, UNICA Euromaster in urban studies is a two-year interdisciplinary and international programme run by Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Universitat Wien, Kobenhavns Universitet, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid and Universidad Complutense de Madrid. 4Cities students spend one semester in Brussels, Copenhagen, Vienna and Madrid respectively, and in a number of surrounding cities. This program adds a European perspective to the field of Urban Studies: it wants to break up and to open the national perspective on urban problems. It focuses on glocalisation, Europe as a unit of analysis, and takes a strong interdisciplinary approach. Teaching relies strongly on international comparative studies taking the host cities as rich and diverse cases of study. 4Cities has been selected as from the academic year 2013-2014 onwards as an Erasmus Mundus Master Course (EMMC).</p>				

Doctoral/PhD education offered at School/department

PhD in sciences / PhD in interdisciplinary studies					
Number of years normally used to complete this degree(FT)	4				
Part time option	No				
Delivery mode	On campus				
Number of ECTS	15				
Teaching languages	Dutch, English				
		Total students	National students	EU students	Non EU students
Number of students graduated 20145		2	3		
Specialisation within in this Degree/the curriculum	NO				
Curriculum/approach description	<p>Academic staff at Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research supervises PhD research in the fields of urban studies, urban design and spatial planning. Vrije Universiteit Brussel as well as other Belgian universities have rather loosely organized doctoral schools with minimal requirements in terms of courses and ECTS. In addition to general doctoral training courses offered at university level, PhD research within the field of urban studies and spatial planning is closely monitored in Cosmopolis Research Seminars. Cosmopolis hosts both Belgian and international PhD students on scholarships and within research projects (funded by national funding agencies such as FWO, Innoviris, IWT and international scholarships from EU, development cooperation programs and (inter)university programs among others).</p>				

