

KU LEUVEN

LUCA

CAMPUS
SINT-LUCAS
BRUSSELS
GHENT

Master of Science in Architecture

Orientations:

- Urban Projects, Urban Cultures
Campus Sint-Lucas Brussels
- Architecture and Sustainability
Campus Sint-Lucas Ghent



Faculty of Architecture





Faculty of Architecture

The International Master of Science in Architecture is offered by the newly inaugurated Faculty of Architecture, the most recent embodiment of a century-old tradition of excellence in architectural education at the Sint-Lucas School of Architecture. The programme's uniqueness stems from the integration and interaction of design studios and technical, theoretical and explorative artistic courses and research.

Architecture is characterised by a multi-disciplinary and holistic scope. It is influenced by critical knowledge and coherent methodologies drawn from the humanities and technological sciences. In our faculty, the design process – and particularly its social and cultural role – is the core of our education. It also defines the trajectory of our graduates' later practice or research career.

The teaching staff at the Sint-Lucas campuses include many leading international architects and researchers, all of whom bring extensive experience in the field of Architecture and Urban Design to the classroom and design studio.

In addition to the International Master of Science in Architecture, the faculty offers the following related programmes (taught in Dutch): Master of Science in Architecture, Interior Architecture and Urban Design and Spatial Planning. Interaction between the different programmes is stimulated through shared reviews, exhibitions, seminars, workshops, excursions, etc.

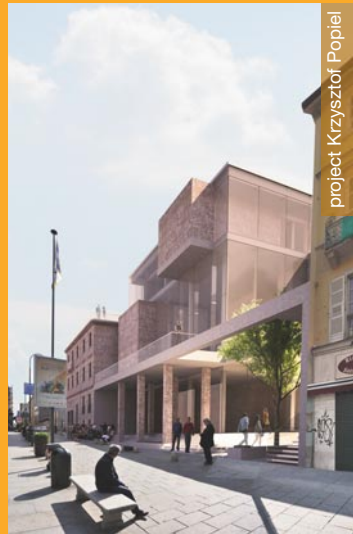
Situated in the heart of Europe, Brussels and Ghent are two culturally vibrant and diverse international university cities. Both cities are centrally located and are easily accessible from anywhere in Europe or beyond. Both Ghent, the historic heart of Flanders, and Brussels, the capital of Europe, provide students with a particularly invigorating environment, combining the most diverse aspects of architecture with unexpected cultural opportunities to widen one's own frame of reference. Brussels and Ghent are simultaneously historical cities and dynamic, modern architectural and cultural centres, offering a full-option architectural, social and historical landscape. The Sint-Lucas campuses are well-equipped base points from which to further develop and engage in the contemporary discourse on architecture from multiple critical vantage points.

Master of Science in Architecture

The Faculty of Architecture offers a two-year programme leading to the academic degree of master of Science in Architecture. This international-oriented master's programme comprises 120 ECTS spread over (a minimum of) four semesters. All courses are entirely taught in English.

The master's programme explores architecture from a research-by-design and design-by-research perspective. Students are educated and trained in a multicultural and international context. The programme combines an academic with an artistic-experimental approach. It is characterised by a fully integrated design methodology, providing students with solid skills in the contemporary discipline of architectural design and research. The International Master of Science in Architecture is organised at both of the faculty's campuses, though with a different orientation:

- Brussels Campus (established in 1887): Urban Projects, Urban Cultures
- Ghent Campus (established in 1862): Architecture and Sustainability



Several programmes of the Faculty of Architecture were awarded a 'strong international orientation' commendation by the NVAO. Ours are the first (and currently the only) architecture programmes in Flanders and the Netherlands to receive this distinction. In awarding the commendation, the NVAO acknowledges the structural incorporation and thematic depth of the international dimension of our curriculum.

Admission requirements

Candidates should hold a bachelor's degree, or equivalent, in the same field of study. A letter of motivation, a portfolio and two recommendation letters are required in the application. Academic records are subject to examination by the faculty.

Students comply with the language requirements if they have obtained one of the following:

- the minimum score on one of the following internationally recognised language tests:
 - IELTS (www.ielts.org) 6.5
 - TOEFL (www.toefl.com) iBT 79 or CBT 213 or PBT 550
- a diploma in English-taught higher education in an institution located in the United Kingdom, the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, the Caribbean Islands or South Africa
- a diploma in English-taught higher education and a sufficiently solid application warranting an exemption from the language requirement
- a diploma of secondary or higher education from an institution in Flanders or the Netherlands
- In case of doubt, students must submit a valid language test (see above)

Tuition fee

The tuition fee is € 610,00. For more detailed information about tuition, visit

 www.kuleuven.be/studentenadministratie/inschrijvingen/en/fees

Applications

The application deadline for non-EEA students is 1 March. EEA-students should apply before the 1 June. For instructions on how to submit an online application, visit

 www.kuleuven.be/application



Programme

Urban Projects, Urban Cultures (Campus Sint-Lucas Brussels)

An increasing global awareness in the field of Architecture and Urban Design is prompting architects to call established development and settlement patterns into question and re-imagine future societal needs, planning strategies and architectural interventions. Today's fast-forward global development increasingly strains the Western and European model, posing a whole range of urban planning and architectural challenges.

In the face of a changing society and a post-industrial and knowledge-based economy, Western developments stand in stark contrast to rapidly developing economies and a still-expanding worldwide population. Additionally, our conception of urbanity and the city is fundamentally affected by important and uncharted societal shifts. Traditional urban planning methods and architectural strategies may not offer the necessary tools to recognise and address these future challenges and therefore need to be reconsidered.

Within these changing contextual and transitional processes, Urban Projects and Urban Cultures seeks to research, develop and teach alternative architectural and urban design tools. The goal is not to reinvent urban landscapes, but to 'edit' their given condition from within.

A critical and coherent attitude towards recent urban phenomena is considered the basis for research and design at different levels.

Architecture and Sustainability (Campus Sint-Lucas Ghent)

The Brundtland report (United Nations, 1987) defines sustainable development as 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. The United Nations, in 2005, referred to the 'interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars' of sustainable development as economic development, social development and environmental protection.

In terms of sustainable architecture, these three pillars entail: providing access to high-quality and healthy living and working environments for all, finding ways to create socially sustainable environments at different scales, and using natural resources wisely. Technical considerations are addressed together with more conceptual or strategic issues.

Based on a highly interdisciplinary learning process of integrated research, students are expected to elaborate a theoretical stance on current issues with particular emphasis on how aspects of sustainability, universal design, urban ecology and energy-efficient technologies may contribute to the development of more sustainable architecture for human settlements. Critical reflection about architecture and its social, cultural and environmental role for society is central to the programme.

The curriculum of the International Master of Science in Architecture programme consists of the following course units:

History and Theory aims to define architecture within a broader cultural, theoretical and historical context of mankind and its world. The course has an interdisciplinary approach towards the phenomena of architecture and urbanism.

BRUSSELS - URBAN PROJECTS, URBAN CULTURES

SEM 1 - EXPLORING THE CITY

- HISTORY & THEORY
 - Critical Urban Theory 5
- MIXED MEDIA - Atlas Brussels 5
- BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
 - Integration 5
- DESIGN STUDIO + Workshop 15

SEM 2 - RETHINKING THE CITY

- HISTORY & THEORY
 - Urban Anthropology 5
- MANAGEMENT
 - Project Management 5
- BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
 - Conversion 5
- DESIGN STUDIO
 - + Research Seminar 15

SEM 3 - DESIGNING THE CITY

- ELECTIVE 5
- MANAGEMENT
 - International Projects 5
- BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
 - Architectural Light & Colour 5
- DESIGN STUDIO + Workshop 15

SEM 4 - DESIGNING THE CITY

- HISTORY & THEORY
 - Contemporary Urbanism:
 - a Global Perspective 5
- MASTER DISSERTATION STUDIO
 - + Research Seminar 25

GHENT - ARCHITECTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

SEM 1 - ATTITUDE, FRAMING

- HISTORY & THEORY
 - Architecture and Sustainability 5
- MANAGEMENT
 - Project Management 5
- BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
 - Integration 5
- DESIGN STUDIO + Workshop 15

SEM 2 - READING, REFRAMING

- HISTORY & THEORY
 - Environmental Sustainability 5
- BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
 - Sustainable Structures 5
- BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
 - Zero-impact Building 5
- DESIGN STUDIO
 - + Research Seminar 15

SEM 3 - SYSTEMS, MULTIPLE SCALES

- ELECTIVE 5
- MANAGEMENT
 - International Projects 5
- BUILDING TECHNOLOGY
 - Acoustics 5
- DESIGN STUDIO + Workshop 15

SEM 4 - CRITICAL SUSTAINABILITY, COMPLEXITY

- HISTORY & THEORY
 - Architectural Anthropology 5
- MASTER DISSERTATION STUDIO
 - + Research Seminar 25

Building Technology is crucial to achieving qualitative architecture. The aim is to create sustainable, coherent and intelligent architecture projects with the help of technology.

Management covers topics such as law, economy, management processes and ethics. Students follow the international evolution of the profession with the aid of case studies, seminars and input from professionals.

The Design Studios are the core of the programme and provide an interactive and open design environment that accommodates students from around the world. The Design Studios are set up as interdisciplinary and coherent modules. Design activities are reinforced through theoretical components enabling a dynamic, cohesive and sustainable approach. Throughout the Design Studio sessions, students work individually and in small, highly international teams.

International Workshops, Electives, Seminars, Excursions, Exhibitions and Lecture Series are considered a structural part of the programme and address curriculum-relevant themes. In the final semester, Master's students complete their study programme with a design project and reflection paper developed in close collaboration with one of the department's research laboratories. The knowledge, competences and methodologies acquired in the previous semesters enable Master's students to formulate an individual research topic embedded within the laboratories' fields of research and expertise. The end result is a highly qualitative (urban) architectural project.

The Master's dissertation project counts for 25 ECTS. All final projects are evaluated by the teaching staff and an external international jury.

The minimum duration of the programme is two years (four academic semesters) but the curriculum can be spread out over a longer period contingent upon obtained results or in case the student desires to combine the programme with some kind of practice.

After graduation, exceptional students have the opportunity to continue research at the faculty and start a PhD programme related to one of the research department's fields of study. In addition, the faculty coordinates many international projects and maintains a wide network of contacts in both the professional and academic architectural world for graduated students.

For detailed descriptions of this programme's courses and for the course timetable, please consult www.kuleuven.be/ma/marcebx (Brussels) www.kuleuven.be/ma/marcegt (Ghent)

Studying abroad

The Faculty of Architecture takes the international dimension as the basis for its own quality assessment. The faculty's international activities are extensive and diversified and include student mobility and staff exchange on a European and intercontinental level, internationally oriented programmes for incoming students, international workshops and competitions, international research projects, international internships, development cooperation, etc.

The faculty works hard to consolidate and enrich its network of cooperative associations with professionals and universities in Europe, Australia, the United States, Latin America, Africa and Asia. It offers its students access to this international forum of spatial design activities.



Learn more

www.kuleuven.be/ma/marcebx
(Brussels)

www.kuleuven.be/ma/marcegt
(Ghent)

www.kuleuven.be/atluca/eng

General information

www.kuleuven.be/english

www.kuleuven.be/internationalprogrammes

Publications

www.master.kuleuven.be/publications

Campuses

www.kuleuven.be/campuses

Faculty of Architecture (Brussels)

Campus Sint-Lucas Brussels

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Faculty of Architecture (Ghent)

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KU Leuven's Faculty of Engineering
Science also offers a Master's degree
in Engineering and Architecture.

This brochure provides the most complete and accurate information available concerning this master's programme offered at KU Leuven. However, amendments to the composition of this programme may be approved at any time. Consequently, KU Leuven is in no way legally bound by the information provided in this brochure. The most recent information on all our academic programmes can be consulted at www.kuleuven.be/coursecatalogue

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