



Master in Geography : General

Focus territorial Development

MA-GEOG | M-GEOGT | 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 programme is subject to change. It is provided for information purposes only.

Programme mnemonic

MA-GEOG

> Focus *territorial Development* : M-GEOGT

Exists also in

> Focus *Teaching* : M-GEOGD

> Focus *Urban studies (ULB-VUB)* : M-GEOGE

Studies level

Master 120 credits

Learning language

french

Schedule

office hours

Studies category / subcategory

Sciences and technics / Sciences

Campus

Plaine and Solbosch

Programme's added value

Interactions between students are enhanced by their **diverse academic backgrounds**.

A programme with **roots in Brussels**: students are encouraged to reflect on how the city was planned, in contact with its neighborhoods, inhabitants, and decision-makers.

Training on **open-source software** (GIS, etc.) that can be used beyond the scope of university studies.

Active learning: starting from problem questions, students learn to appropriate theories, experiment methods, etc.

A **twice-yearly field trip** (southern Morocco and Istanbul) gives students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and gain real-world experience with a previously analysed geographical situation.

Seminars are given throughout the year, to **support each student's dissertation work**.

s also advantages of the long experience of contractual research done by staff members for external (public or private) institutions.

Teaching methods

Beyond the specific approaches used in the various focuses, we rely on active teaching as much as possible. Based on concrete experiences and problem questions that reveal contemporary issues, students are gradually taught to appropriate theories, experiment with methods, and test models. This is also why we place great emphasis on field observations, including during excursions.

The limited number of students makes it easier for them to interact with teachers, teaching assistants, and researchers. It also makes it possible to support students individually, including during research and project seminars, field work preparations, personal project coaching, and work placements in companies, public administrations, or associations.

Programme objectives

Interested in the **transformations of cities and urban policies**? In projects dedicated to **mobility and land use planning**? In the **international division of labour and in company locations**? In **geopolitical issues and development inequalities**? In cartography? By analysing geographical spaces, their structures, and their evolution, a lot may be learned on these questions, and new ways to manage these territories and new development models may be conceived. This is the main goal of the Master in Geography: to give students the ability to analyse, interpret, and represent spatial data on a map, from the scale of a single neighbourhood to that of a city, a region, a country, a continent, and even the entire world-system.



Succeed in your studies

Choose

The information and guidance counsellors at the InfOR-études [<https://www.ulb.be/en/studies-info-desk-1>] service will help you choose your studies throughout the year.

Succeed

Take part in preparatory courses [<https://www.ulb.be/en/studies-info-desk-1>] or get help to succeed [<https://www.ulb.be/en/studies-info-desk-1>], before or during your studies.

Get help

Apply for financial aid, look for accommodation or a student job, get support [<https://www.ulb.be/fr/aides-services-et-accompagnement/aid-services-and-support-1>] for your specific needs.

International/Openness

The Master in Geography has signed Erasmus+ exchange agreements with a number of European universities in France, Spain, Italy, Austria, Romania, and Switzerland. Students may also attend classes at VUB or KUL, as part of the Erasmus Belgica programme. Lastly, exchange programmes are also available with universities outside Europe, including in Quebec.

Job opportunities

The idea that geography studies are only for future geography teachers is a myth: graduates in geography can work in a wide range of professional capacities, as they are appreciated in many environments for their knowledge and skills, as well as for their ability to combine different disciplines. Our former students are now experts in urban planning, regional development, and environmental management; designers of

geographic information systems; spatial data analysts; project managers in the fields of tourism, transportation, retail, real estate, civil safety; but others are involved in associations, research, or indeed teaching in secondary or post-secondary education.

- > Experts in urban planning, regional development, and environmental management,
- > Designers of geographic information systems and spatial data analysts,
- > Project managers in the fields of tourism, transportation, retail, real estate, civil safety, etc.
- > Professionals in associations or in development cooperation,
- > Researchers,
- > Teachers in secondary and post-secondary education,
- > etc.

Contacts

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 <https://sciences.ulb.be/departement-geosciences-environnement-et-societe>

Jury President

Mathieu VAN CRIEKENGEN

Jury Secretary

Eléonore WOLFF



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The Master in Geography includes three distinct focuses: **territorial development, teaching, and urban studies**. While they each cover specific contents, these focuses are built around a shared philosophy: enabling students to **acquire the knowledge and methods required to analyse spatial questions while developing their intellectual curiosity and their critical perspective**. To this end, particular emphasis is placed on **active learning, field work, and work placements**. The Master in Geography takes advantage of the University's **location in Brussels**, encouraging students to reflect on current issues of the city.

The Master with a focus on **'territorial development'** is devoted to analysing the structure of territories, their transformations, and development projects at various scales. Particular emphasis is placed on the economic, social, and political dimensions of territorial issues. From a methodological perspective, the programme covers the production, management, analysis, and diffusion of optimal geographical data, with a view to helping students work autonomously. Courses in this focus include lectures on specific topics (political geography, analysis of urban spaces, cultural geography, etc.) and methods (remote sensing, geomarketing, database management, etc.). In addition to lecture classes, students attend seminars where they can work on practical projects in small teams, under supervision. Students complete their curriculum with electives chosen from a wide range of courses in areas such as urban studies, mobility, transportation, tourism, environmental studies, or development.

The Master with a **teaching focus** prepares students to teach geography. Its main purpose is to train skilled teachers who can get students interested in the richness and significance of geographical issues in relation to understanding the world and living as a citizen. Graduates of the teaching focus receive the official title of 'agrégé' (AESS): only graduates of this programme—and holders of an AESS—may teach geography in secondary schools in Belgium. This programme includes courses on geography and didactics, as well as work placements involving teaching in a school environment. This approach blends theory and practice, with field experience, micro-teaching exercises, lesson preparations, organising a school trip, etc., always keeping in mind the creative and rewarding aspects of teaching.

The Master with a focus on **urban studies (Erasmus Mundus programme)** is fully integrated into an international urban studies programme, given entirely in English: the 4Cities Master, organised jointly by universities in Brussels (ULB and VUB), Vienna, Copenhagen, and Madrid (Universidad Complutense and Universidad Autónoma). Students attend common classes in English during both years of the Master, in Brussels and Vienna for the first year, and in Copenhagen and Madrid the second year. Since 2013, this Master has been part of the Erasmus Mundus programme. Enrolment is subject to certain criteria: applications must be sent to the team coordinating the 4Cities programme (see www.4cities.eu).

The Master in Geography with a focus on urban studies is fully given in English, in Brussels. Classes are held at both ULB and VUB, with students receiving a joint degree upon graduation. This gives them access to a wide range of classes on urban studies (with many electives that let them specialise in topics of interest), as well as to field visits and the opportunity to complete an international work placement or a semester abroad. Please note that this programme is subject to specific access requirements. For more information, visit the programme's website: <https://urbanstudies.brussels/education/msc-urban-studies/msc-urban-studies>

Bloc 1 | M-GEOGT | MA-GEOG

Tronc commun

- GEOG-F407 **Excursions et travaux de terrain en géographie humaine** | Gilles VAN HAMME (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [practical work: 12h, field trips: 60h, project: 20h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 French
- GEOG-F414 **Analyse des espaces urbains** | Mathieu VAN CRIEKENGEN (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, practical work: 6h, project: 30h] 📅 first term 🗨 French
- GEOG-F419 **Projet d'aménagement urbain** | Mathieu VAN CRIEKENGEN (Coordinator) and Jean-Michel DECROLY
⌚ 10 credits [lecture: 12h, practical work: 12h, project: 200h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 French
- GEOG-F505 **Conférences et séminaires en géographie humaine** | Mathieu VAN CRIEKENGEN
⌚ 5 credits [practical work: 4h, project: 40h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 French

Cours spécifiques

- GEOG-F4001 **Base de données** | Esteban ZIMANYI (Coordinator) and Eléonore WOLFF
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 24h, practical work: 12h, project: 20h] 📅 second term
- GEOG-F404 **Méthodes quantitatives en géographie** | Mathieu VAN CRIEKENGEN (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, practical work: 12h] 📅 second term 🗨 French
- GEOG-F415 **Géomarketing et localisation des entreprises** | Benjamin WAYENS (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, field trips: 8h, project: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

GEOG-F425

Téledétection | Eléonore WOLFF (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 30h, practical work: 30h] 📅 first term 🗣️ French

Options dirigées

A total of 20 credits chosen from the following

GEOG-F402
(optional)

Epistémologie de la géographie | Jean-Michel DECROLY (Coordinator) and Mathieu VAN CRIEKENGEN

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 16h, project: 20h] 📅 second term 🗣️ French

HIST-B4050
(optional)

Histoire sociale des sciences et des techniques | Kenneth BERTRAMS (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗣️ French

MSTL-F601
(optional)

Géographie des transports et localisation des activités économiques | Frédéric DOBRUSZKES (Coordinator) and Mathieu STRALE

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 45h, practical work: 6h] 📅 first term 🗣️ French

POLI-D406
(optional)

Géographie politique | Gilles VAN HAMME (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗣️ French

TOUR-F415
(optional)

Géohistoire du tourisme | Jean-Michel DECROLY (Coordinator) and Serge JAUMAIN

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 48h] 📅 first term 🗣️ French

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Bloc 2 | M-GEOGT | MA-GEOG

Tronc commun

- GEOG-F407** [Excursions et travaux de terrain en géographie humaine](#) | Gilles VAN HAMME (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [practical work: 12h, field trips: 60h, project: 20h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 French
- GEOG-F501** [Travaux approfondis de géographie humaine et séminaires](#) | Jean-Michel DECROLY (Coordinator) and Mathieu VAN CRIEKINGEN
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 12h, practical work: 14h, project: 30h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 French
- GEOG-F505** [Conférences et séminaires en géographie humaine](#) | Mathieu VAN CRIEKINGEN
⌚ 5 credits [practical work: 4h, project: 40h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 French
- MEMO-F525** [Mémoire de fin d'études](#) | Jean-Michel DECROLY (Coordinator)
⌚ 20 credits [mfe/tfe: 600h] 📅 first and second terms

Cours spécifiques

- GEOG-F403** [Géographie culturelle](#) | Tatiana DEBROUX (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French
- STAG-F028** [Stage I](#) | Jean-Michel DECROLY (Coordinator) and Mathieu VAN CRIEKINGEN
⌚ 5 credits [work placement: 150h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 French

Cours optionnels

Pour arriver à un total de 60 crédits par année, choisir entre 20 et 40 ECTS

A total of 20 credits chosen from the following

Base en géographie humaine

(Au moins 10 crédits, uniquement pour les étudiants qui n'ont pas obtenu un BA en sciences géographiques)

- ENVI-F1001** [Sciences de la Terre, Environnement et Société](#) | Pierre REGNIER (Coordinator), Jean-Michel DECROLY and Frank PATTYN
(optional) ⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 48h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 French
- GEOG-F210** [Géographie de l'Europe](#) | Gilles VAN HAMME (Coordinator)
(optional) ⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French
- GEOG-F313** [Géographie régionale](#) | Jean-Michel DECROLY (Coordinator), Gilles VAN HAMME and Eléonore WOLFF
(optional) ⌚ 10 credits [lecture: 48h, practical work: 12h, project: 80h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 French
- SOCA-D304** [Démographie](#) | Jean-Michel DECROLY (Coordinator)
(optional) ⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 12h] 📅 first term 🗨 French
- STAG-F029** [Stage II](#) | Jean-Michel DECROLY (Coordinator) and Mathieu VAN CRIEKINGEN
(optional) ⌚ 5 credits [work placement: 150h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 French

Géomatique avancée

- ENVI-F451** [Télédétection des variables climatiques et environnementales](#) | Pierre-François COHEUR (Coordinator), Sophie Bauduin and Lieven CLARISSE
(optional) ⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 36h, practical work: 12h, project: 28h] 📅 second term 🗨 English/French

INFO-F101
(optional)

[Programmation](#) | Thierry MASSART (Coordinator)

🕒 10 credits [lecture: 36h, tutorial classes: 36h, practical work: 24h, project: 60h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

INFO-H415
(optional)

[Advanced databases](#) | Esteban ZIMANYI (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 24h, practical work: 12h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

INFO-H500
(optional)

[Image acquisition and processing](#) | Olivier DEBEIR (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h, practical work: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

Méthodes de recherche en sciences sociales

INFO-F422
(optional)

[Statistical foundations of machine learning](#) | Gianluca BONTEMPI (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 12h, project: 60h] 📅 second term 🗨 English

SOCA-D467
(optional)

[Analyse qualitative en sciences sociales](#) | Pierre LANNOY (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

STAT-D307
(optional)

[Méthodes d'enquête et de sondage](#) | Catherine VERMANDELE (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

Etudes urbaines

ARCH-H1001
(optional)

[Histoire de l'architecture \(1900-1940\) et Anglais I](#) | Matthew LANGSLEY (Coordinator) and Richard ESSEX

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 24h, field trips: 30h] 📅 academic year 🗨 French

HIST-B4010
(optional)

[Histoire, urbanisation et savoirs urbains](#) | Chloé DELIGNE (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

HIST-B5005
(optional)

[La ville des 18e et 19e siècles : paysages urbains historiques et enjeux actuels](#) | Christophe LOIR (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

POLI-D503
(optional)

[Sociologie de l'action publique](#) | Daniel ZAMORA VARGAS (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

SOCA-D494
(optional)

[Sociologie de la ville](#) | Pierre LANNOY (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

Mobilité, transport et tourisme

SOCA-D455
(optional)

[Sociologie des mobilités](#) | Pierre LANNOY (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

Ce cours ne sera pas donné en 2021-2022

TOUR-F408
(optional)

[Systèmes touristiques](#) | Jean-Michel DECROLY (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h, practical work: 12h, project: 42h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

Sciences de l'environnement

ENVI-F405
(optional)

[Climat: sciences et politiques](#) | Frank PATTYN (Coordinator) and Louise Knops

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 40h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

ENVI-F437
(optional)

[Systèmes biologiques](#) | Sonia VANDERHOEVEN (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 36h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

GEOG-F400
(optional)

[The Earth system and its interactions](#) | François FRIPIAT (Coordinator) and Brice VAN LIEFFERINGE

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 36h, tutorial classes: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

Questions de société

CRIM-C201
(optional)

[Introduction à la criminologie générale](#) | Carla NAGELS (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

CRIM-C203
(optional)

[Délinquances juvéniles](#) | Dominique DEFRAENE (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

HIST-B4050
(optional)

[Histoire sociale des sciences et des techniques](#) | Kenneth BERTRAMS (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

POLI-D420 (optional) **Emploi, inégalités et protection sociale** | Isil ERDINC (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

SOCA-D313 (optional) **Sociologie du travail et Chaire FGTB** | Meike Brodersen (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 36h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 French

SOCA-D404 (optional) **Sociologie des migrations** | Andrea REA (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

Question de développement

ECON-D434 (optional) **Development Policies** | Gani ALDASHEV (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 English

SOCA-D443 (optional) **Anthropologie du développement** | Véronique JOIRIS (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

SOCA-D461 (optional) **Development and globalization: theories and practices** | Jacinto Cuvi (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 English

SOCA-D471 (optional) **Agricultures, ruralités et mondialisation** | Laurence ROUDART (Coordinator) and Werner BOSMANS
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

SOCA-D482 (optional) **Sécurité alimentaire mondiale** | Laurence ROUDART (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

SOCA-D550 (optional) **Structures économiques et sociales des mondes ruraux** | Laurence ROUDART (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

Gestion de l'environnement

ENVI-F4001 (optional) **Fonctionnement, gestion et traitement des environnements aquatiques** | Nathalie GYPENS (Coordinator) and Frédéric DEBASTE
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 48h, field trips: 12h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

ENVI-F403 (optional) **Socio-environmental Dynamics** | Maria MANCILLA GARCIA (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, practical work: 12h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

ENVI-F409 (optional) **Economie écologique** | Thomas BAULER (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, practical work: 12h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

ENVI-F434 (optional) **Géohistoire des relations sociétés - environnement** | Jean-Michel DECROLY (Coordinator) and Chloé DELIGNE
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 36h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

ENVI-F510 (optional) **Droit de l'environnement** | Chiara ARMENI (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French