

# Master in Geography : General

## Focus Erasmus Mundus Urban studies

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 Autonoma). 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](http://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: <http://urbanstudies.brussels/master/urban-studies>

## Bloc 1 | M-GEOGM | MA-GEOG

### Brussels

- GEOG-F427 **Urban sociology** | Eva SWYNGEDOUW (Coordinator)  
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, project: 40h] 📅 first term 💬 English
- GEOG-F428 **Urban political economy** | Mathieu VAN CRIEKENGEN (Coordinator)  
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, project: 40h] 📅 first term 💬 English
- GEOG-F429 **Urban analysis II** | Mathieu VAN CRIEKENGEN (Coordinator)  
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 12h, practical work: 12h, project: 80h] 📅 first term 💬 English
- GEOG-Y007 **Urban analysis I** | Bas VAN HEUR  
⌚ 3 credits [lecture: 12h, practical work: 12h, field trips: 24h, project: 12h] 📅 first term
- GEOG-Y008 **European Cities in an Urbanizing World** | Bas VAN HEUR  
⌚ 6 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term
- GEOG-Y009 **Urban social geography** | David BASSENS  
⌚ 6 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term

### Vienna

- GEOG-Y010 **Urban Planning and development** | Axel PRIEBDS  
⌚ 7 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term

GEOG-Y012

[Urban Transformations](#) | Michaela TRIPPL

🕒 7 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y014

[Urban analysis III](#) | Axel PRIEBDS

🕒 6 credits [lecture: 12h, practical work: 12h, field trips: 12h] 📅 second term

## Thesis

MEMO-F507

[Preparatory work for the master thesis](#) | Mathieu VAN CRIEKINGEN (Coordinator)

🕒 10 credits [mfe/tfe: 300h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English

# Master in Geography : General

## Focus Erasmus Mundus Urban studies

### Bloc 2 | M-GEOGM | MA-GEOG

## Copenhagen

- GEOG-Y015 [Urbanism and architecture](#) | Martin ZERLANG  
🕒 7.5 credits [lecture: 90h] 📅 first term
- GEOG-Y016 [Urban culture and cultural theory](#) | Henrik REEH  
🕒 7.5 credits [lecture: 90h] 📅 first term
- GEOG-Y017 [Urban analysis IV](#) | Henrik REEH and Martin ZERLANG  
🕒 5 credits [lecture: 90h] 📅 first term

## Madrid

- GEOG-Y018 [The sustainable and liveable city](#) | Diego BARRADO  
🕒 10 credits [lecture: 120h] 📅 second term
- GEOG-Y019 [Governance and local welfare](#) | Marta DOMINGUEZ PEREZ  
🕒 10 credits [lecture: 120h] 📅 second term

## Thesis

- MEMO-F508 [Masters thesis](#) | Mathieu VAN CRIEKENGEN (Coordinator)  
🕒 20 credits [mfe/tfe: 600h] 📅 first and second terms 💬 French