

Title of the Masters Course:

MUNDUS URBANO - Interdisciplinary Erasmus Mundus Master Course International Cooperation and Urban Development

Duration: 2 Years

Course description:

MUNDUS URBANO - the Interdisciplinary ERASMUS MUNDUS Master's Course 'International Cooperation and Urban Development' addresses the rapid urbanization process in countries of the South and looks at possibilities to prevent or alleviate the problems invariably associated with it. Conventional wisdom of town planning has proven of little use to deal with the situation: the highly complex phenomenon calls for innovative and complex responses that incorporate physical, managerial, economic and social elements simultaneously. Adequate professional methodologies develop in the field and cannot be copied from the text books.

Therefore this Master's course will provide up-to date knowledge about current theories and practices of urban development planning especially in countries of the South and in the East. As a large proportion of investments in this field involve foreign aid and finance, a second focus is placed on international cooperation practice where there exists an unsatisfied need for well prepared experts. The 2-year course is innovative in its transdisciplinary set-up, arranging knowledge around an emerging global phenomenon rather than starting from the conventional academic faculty framework. Tuition is shared between four prestigious universities in Germany, Italy, Spain and France. All lecturers are internationally distinguished scholars and practitioners in the topic of their respective training module, which guarantees a quality level that could not be attained by a course relying on one university's home faculty. The multi-national composition of both students and academic staff fosters the building of a world-wide professional network - an indispensable asset in this particular professional setting.

The first year of the Master consists of a keystone course dedicated to an integral understanding of space, society and technology in urban development in the context of proceeding globalization. It is taught at Darmstadt University (Germany) and is geared towards the capability to conceive, oversee and evaluate comprehensive urban projects in the framework of sustainable development.

The second study year provides scope for further specializations in a field of knowledge other than the student's first university degree. The resulting double qualification allows a graduate from this course to subsequently fill a professional niche unattended in the conventional university system. Specialization options - always linked to international cooperation as a common denominator - are:

- (A) Urban development economics (in Rome)
- (B) Housing and environmental urban development (in Barcelona)
- (C) Urban management and social programs (in Grenoble)

Tuition is in English and applicants must have a first university degree plus a minimum of one year work experience in a professional context related to the course. Graduates will be awarded a double degree (MSc.) and be eligible for a subsequent PhD study in the EU

Website:

www.mundus-urbano.eu

Partners:

Technical University Darmstadt, Germany (Co-ordinating institution)
International University of Catalunya, Spain
University Pierre Mendez France, France
University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy

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Grant:

949 000 €(15 000 €consortium + 934 000 €scholarships), 2008