

MUNDUS URBANO
Interdisciplinary Erasmus Mundus Master Course in '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 now typical in many regions of the world. It discusses strategies to prevent or alleviate the problems invariably associated with this process since conventional wisdom of town planning has proven of little use to deal with this 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 we observe 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 an academic quality level that could not be attained by a course relying on one university's home faculty alone. The multi-national composition of both students and academic staff fosters the building of world-wide professional networks for course participants - an indispensable asset in this particular professional setting.

The first year of the Master's course consists of a series of short and intensive workshops each of them dedicated to a key issue 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) Sustainable housing and architecture approaches responding to emergency situations (in Barcelona)
- (C) Urban management and social programs (in Grenoble)

Tuition is in English (and partly in French in the case of Grenoble) and applicants must have a first university degree plus a minimum of one year work experience in a professional context related to the course contents. 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 Catalonia, 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
865 000 € (15 000 € consortium + 850 000 € scholarships), 2009