The European Post-master in Urbanism (EMU) is an advanced master degree that engages with the complexities of the design and planning of cities and landscapes. This programme is jointly run by TU Delft, KU Leuven, UPC Barcelona and Università IUAV di Venezia. All four universities belong to the European tradition that views urbanism as a collection of socially responsible disciplines, which aim to improve the living conditions of all citizens.

The universities take different approaches to the subject matter, as a result of the interactive, contextual development of these ideas with regard to geography, history and culture. This specificity means that students acquire valuable experience in a variety of cultural, disciplinary and physical landscapes. At TU Delft there is a focus on two major research topics, Metropolitan Structures and Delta Urbanism, working with the Dutch tradition of urbanism as the integration of urban design, landscape architecture and spatial planning.

The EMU programme is seen as incubator for design driven research with students building up a skill set in research and design through studios, intensive workshops and supplementary courses. Participants come from a wide range of countries and are asked to reflect on and challenge how planning and urban design operates in the Netherlands, the European Union and their home countries.

EMU alumni take on leadership roles in planning and design in their country of origin or contribute to advanced research on critical issues in Europe and abroad. The programme broadens career prospects in the fields of urban planning and design.
Applicants have distinguished themselves in their first professional degree (two-year master degree) in architecture, landscape architecture, spatial planning or related fields. As a post-master programme the EMU engages in coursework and research at a higher level than a regular master programme.

Master’s programme

Students complete the first two semesters in Delft, a semester abroad in Leuven, Venice or Barcelona before completing their final thesis at TU Delft. The EMU programme is also strongly connected to research in the department of urbanism with some graduates using their final thesis as preparation for a PhD programme.

The first year builds up knowledge and skills in urban design and planning. The first semester is focused on the regional scale with the studio Urban Regional Networks introducing students to concepts of governance, dealing with stakeholders and regional design. This studio is supplemented with courses that build skills in reasoning and urban theory, planning history and methodology, and design support systems such as GIS and Space Syntax.

The second semester looks at urban design from the local scale up to the scale of the delta with the studio Constructing the Sustainable Delta City, led by Han Meyer, introducing students to an integrated approach to dealing with water management and climate change in delta areas. This studio is supplemented with courses in water management technology, theory and sustainability and urban design methodology.

In the first semester of the second year, students participate in an exchange semester in one of the other universities in the consortium. This semester abroad is an important chance to see how urbanism is taught and practised elsewhere in Europe and forms a perfect compliment to the curriculum at TU Delft. Classes at KU Leuven and Università IUAV di Venezia are taught in English while classes at UPC Barcelona are taught in Spanish.

Students then return to Delft in the final semester to complete their graduation thesis. The semester begins with two weeks of intense workshops that allow students to refine the topic of their graduation project. Students choose topics from within the research focus of TU Delft but are given a broad scope to bring their own interests into the thesis. Many students use their thesis as an opportunity to reflect on what they have learnt throughout the programme to deal with issues from their country of origin.

Opening my eyes to the European city and to the world

Back in 2008 I was an architect with deep interest to understand more about the city, but could not decide how and where to study. Luckily I found the EMU course at TU Delft, a postgraduate degree in urbanism, and without any hesitation decided to join. I experienced two full years of studying European urbanism in the Netherlands and in Italy. Coming from Asia, the EMU provides a very good chance to feel and gain insight to the city in a European context. After I graduated, I wrote the book Experience of European Urbanism in 2010. It was a little bestseller in South Korea in the urbanism field. Based on the EMU experience, I’m working now at Samsung C&T as an Urban and master planner, executing major urban projects around the world.

Freedom and Flexibility

I was looking for a postgraduate degree that gave me the opportunity to travel around Europe and experience different ways of doing urbanism. My first two degrees were in architecture, not urbanism, so EMU at TU Delft helped me go much deeper into this subject of urbanism. I had a semester at IUAV in Venice where I had the special opportunity to work on the Grand Paris project with Paola Viganò and Bernardo Secchi. I started my own office immediately after graduating, and am now also completing a PhD at Politecnico di Milano. My experience of EMU was so dense and full that I am still learning from it four years since I completed the programme.
Curriculum European Post-master in Urbanism

Semester 1 Fall
Research and Design Studio
Urban Regional Networks  
*Daan Zandbelt & Roberto Rocco*  
15 ETS

Theory
Theories of Urbanisation, Regionalisation and Networks  
*Stephen Read*  
5 ETS

Methodology  
Regional Strategies and Territorial Governance  
*Vincent Nadin*  
SETS

Technology  
Design and Planning Support Tools  
*Akkelies van Nes*  
SETS

Semester 2 Spring
Research and Design Studio
Constructing the Sustainable Delta City  
*Han Meyer & Inge Bobbink*  
15 ETS

Theory
The Sustainable City – Theories of Urban Design  
*Machiel van Dorst*  
5 ETS

Methodology  
Research and Design  
*Steffen Nijhuis*  
5 ETS

Technology  
Urban Design and Engineering  
*Fransje Hooimeijer*  
5 ETS

Semester 3 Fall
Exchange Semester
The European Dimension:  
*Paola Viganò OR Bruno de Meulder OR Joaquín Sabate*  
15 ETS

Semester 4 Spring
Graduation Workshop
Design, Planning and Scientific Methodology  
30 ETS

Graduation Thesis  
Frontiers  
30 ETS

EMU Lecture series
Every year internationally leading scholars and practitioners are invited to discuss possible urban futures. This year speakers include:
- Peter Bosselmann, UC Berkeley
- Matthew Carmona, UCL London
- Paola Viganò, IUAV Venice
- Peter Ho, TBM TU Delft
- Juval Portugali, TU Delft, TAU Tel Aviv
- Winy Maas, MVRDV, TU Delft

Please check www.emu.tudelft.nl for the lecture dates and updates on the program.

Key Professors

**Vincent Nadin**
Professor of Spatial Planning and Strategy

‘We must ensure that urban planning is not part of the problem, but part of the solution’

Publications include:
- Town and Country Planning in the UK (Routledge, 2006)
- European Spatial Planning and Territorial Cooperation (Routledge, 2010). Editor-in-chief: Planning Practice and Research (Routledge/Taylor and Francis international peer reviewed journal)

**Han Meyer**
Professor of Urban Composition

‘Cities are fascinating dynamic phenomena. We need to be careful with their past, understand the present and create perspectives for future dynamics’

Publications include:

**Paola Viganò**
Professor in Urbanism at Università IUAV of Venice

‘Urbanism as a research tool explores the vast realm of urban transformations: reading latencies and potentialities, using design to produce alternative futures and effective change.’

Publications include:

**Juval Portugali**
Guest Professor of Environmental Design

‘Complexity theories of cities should be seen as a bridge between the quantitative and qualitative cultures in the study of urbanism, cities and their planning.’

Publications include:
- Complexity Theories of Cities Have Come of Age (Springer, Complexity Series 2012, Ed.)
- Complexity, Cognition and the City (Springer, Complexity Series 2011)
- Self-Organization and the city (Springer, 2000)
Career prospects

The EMU programme produces highly qualified urbanists trained in urban design, spatial planning and research and are well placed to work in the Netherlands and internationally in the public and private sectors. Graduates are equipped to deal with the complexity of real world challenges in urban design and spatial planning.

Admission requirements and application procedures

Application requirements

- Applicants must meet the general admission requirements for TU Delft MSc programmes.
- Applicants must have distinguished themselves in their respective first professional degrees in architecture, landscape architecture, spatial planning or related fields. Exceptions are considered on an individual basis.
- Applicants should have at least a degree equivalent to a Dutch MSc degree. A Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) should be at least 75% of the scale maximum. Send a certified copy of your original academic degree and transcript in the original language.
- Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in written and spoken English.
- Applicants should submit a project portfolio (after you fill in the on-line application form, we will send you a password to upload your portfolio).
- Applicants must submit an essay in English of 2,000-3,000 words and two letters of reference in English.

Degree obtained

Upon successful completion of the programme, the student will receive:

1. a Master of Science degree from TU Delft. TU Delft is the first university in the EMU consortium to gain accreditation for the programme.
2. the consortium certificate of European Post-master in Urbanism.

Student Mobility

Course participants must earn a minimum of 60 credits at the host university and will take one semester at one of the partner universities during the third semester.