

International Master of Architecture



DURATION

2 years (full-time), 120 ECTS

APPLICATION DEADLINE

1 March (for non-EEA citizens)

1 June (for EEA citizens)

ACADEMIC CALENDAR



1st semester: 3rd week of September → end of January (exams in January)



2nd semester: 2nd week of February → July (exams in June)

www.kuleuven.be/academiccalendar

The International Master of Architecture is organized by the Faculty of Architecture, the most recent incarnation of a century-old tradition of excellence in architectural education at the Sint-Lucas School of Architecture. The programme's uniqueness stems from the integration and interaction of design studios and technical, theoretical and explorative courses and research.

The Master of Architecture programme is offered on our campus in Ghent and our campus in Brussels. Both are historical cities with dynamic, modern architectural and cultural centres. Brussels is not only the capital of Belgium but also the virtual capital of Europe – an inspiring metropolis for the budding architect. Ghent is inspiring in its own right. A lively university town in Flanders, it is a nexus of art, history and small-scale urban life.

In our faculty, the design process – and particularly its social and cultural role – is the core of our education. It also defines the trajectory of our graduates' later practice or research career. The teaching staff at the renowned Sint-Lucas campuses include many leading international architects and researchers, all of whom bring extensive experience in the field of Architecture and Urban Design to the classroom and design studio. All courses are entirely taught in English.

The Master programme explores architecture from a research-by-design and design-by-research perspective. The programme combines an academic with an artistic and experimental approach in a multicultural and international context. It is characterized by a fully integrated design methodology, providing students with solid skills in the contemporary discipline of architectural design and research:

- **History and Theory** aims to define architecture within a broader cultural, theoretical and historical context of humankind and its world.
- **Building Technology** is crucial to achieving qualitative architecture and creating sustainable and intelligent architecture projects with the help of technology.
- **Management** covers topics such as law, economy, management processes and ethics.
- The **Design Studios** are the core of the programme and provide an interactive and open design environment that accommodates students from around the world. The Design Studios are set up as interdisciplinary and coherent modules. Design activities are reinforced through theoretical components enabling a dynamic, cohesive and sustainable approach. Throughout the Design Studio sessions, you will work individually and in small, international teams. The studios are conceived as academic design offices, combining practice and research expertise, and contributing to contemporary architectural discourses.
- The **Master's Thesis Project** counts for 30 ECTS. In the final semester, you will complete your study programme with a highly qualitative design project and reflection paper developed in close collaboration with one of the department's research laboratories or academic design offices. All final projects are evaluated by the teaching staff and an external international jury.
- **International Workshops, Electives, Seminars, Excursions, Exhibitions and Lecture Series** are considered a structural part of the programme and address themes relevant for the curriculum. The minimum **duration** of the programme is two years (four academic semesters) but the curriculum can be spread out over a longer period depending on the results you obtain or in case you want to combine the programme with some kind of practice.

After graduation, exceptional students have the opportunity to start the PhD programme related to one of the research department's fields of study.

In addition, the faculty coordinates many international projects and maintains a wide network of contacts in both the professional and academic architectural world for graduate students.



Programme

You will be trained intensively to work within a highly international context (fellow students, teaching staff, professionals) and deal with intercultural and social differences and their relation to architecture design or research practice. You will define and unfold your own trajectory and academic design expertise within one of the two main curriculum frameworks offered in the Master of Architecture Programme, through a curriculum that includes a series of possible thematic design studios, workshops and electives, where specific research and design methods are developed. You will be stimulated to take a critical position within international architecture discourse.

Each semester, there is a focus on a specific attitude, related to the main theme of the programme. All studios are organized through a pool of studio groups (Academic Design Offices and Design Studios) in which the teaching staff provides a series of specific themes, methods and intervention areas for the students to develop an architectural project.

The International Master of Architecture is organized at both faculty campuses, each focussing on specific areas:



CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK CAMPUS SINT-LUCAS GHENT: Architecture: Resilient And Sustainable Strategies

A central focus of this programme about architecture and sustainability is a critical reflection on architecture and its social, cultural or environmental role for society. Based on a highly interdisciplinary learning process of integrated research and 'research by design', students are expected to determine a theoretical stance on current issues with particular emphasis on how aspects of sustainability, universal design, urban ecology, and energy-efficient technologies may contribute to the development of more sustainable human settlements.

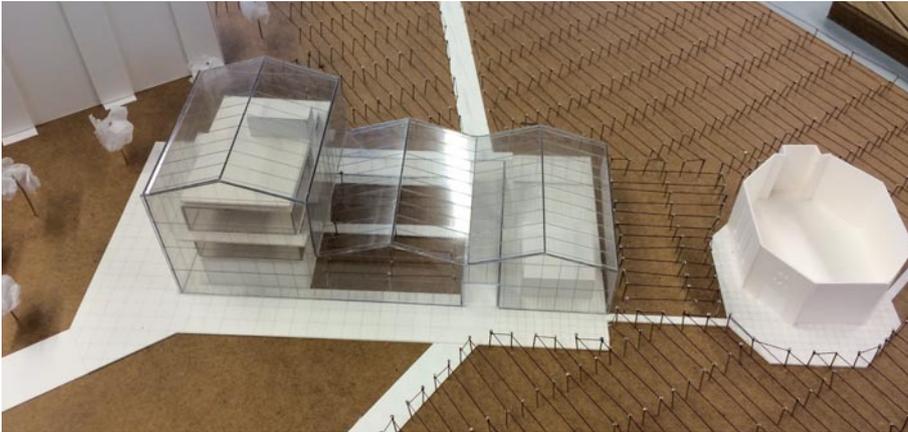
THEMES

Semester 1: social sustainability and architecture; modest heritage and suitability; urban emergent processes; architectural concept, materiality and detail

Semester 2: (focus on the city of Ghent): architectural concept, materiality and detail; limited resources, re-use and integration; urban emergent processes

Semester 3: architectural materiality and detail

Semester 4: social sustainability and architecture; modest heritage and suitability; urban emergent processes; architectural concept, materiality and detail; limited resources, re-use and integration



CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK CAMPUS SINT-LUCAS BRUSSELS: Architecture: Urban Projects, Urban Cultures

Current high-speed global development is increasingly straining the Western and European model, resulting in a whole range of urban planning and architectural challenges. Facing the consequences of a changing society and a post-industrial and knowledge-based economy, Western developments stand in stark contrast to rapidly developing economies and a still expanding worldwide population. Uncharted societal shifts are fundamentally affecting our conception of urbanism and the city. Traditional urban planning methods and architectural strategies might not offer the necessary tools to recognize and address these future challenges and therefore need to be reconsidered. The Urban Projects, Urban Cultures programme seeks to research, develop and teach alternative architectural and urban design tools, not so much aimed at reinventing urban landscapes, but as it were to edit the given condition from within.

THEMES

Semester 1: Multiple readings of the urban landscape

Semester 2: Learning from Brussels

Semester 3: Urban projects at the intermediate scale

Semester 4: Urban projects at the intermediate scale; multiple readings of the urban landscape; learning from Brussels

For detailed descriptions of the courses and for the course timetable, please consult

www.kuleuven.be/ma/marcebx/programme (Brussels)

www.kuleuven.be/ma/marcegt/programme (Ghent)

Admission requirements

Candidates should hold a bachelor's degree, or equivalent, in the same field of study. The application should include a portfolio of bachelor projects (max. 20 slides), a signed recommendation letter from a university or college lecturer or a letter from a professional including an objective assessment, and a personal motivation letter for which no requirements are set.

Students comply with the language requirements if they have obtained one of the following:

- the minimum score on one of the following internationally recognized language tests:
 - IELTS 6.5
 - TOEFL iBT 79 or CBT 213 or PBT 550
- a diploma in English-taught higher education in an institution located in the United Kingdom, the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, the Caribbean Islands or South Africa
- a diploma of secondary or higher education from an institution in Flanders or the Netherlands

Programme admission:

www.kuleuven.be/ma/marcebx/programme (Brussels)

www.kuleuven.be/ma/marcegt/programme (Ghent)

General admission: www.kuleuven.be/admissions

4 • International Master of Architecture



Discover KU Leuven

Founded in 1425, the University of Leuven (KU Leuven) has been a centre of learning for almost six centuries. Today, it is Belgium's largest and highest-ranked university as well as one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe. As a leading European research university and co-founder of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), KU Leuven offers a wide variety of programmes in English supported by high-quality interdisciplinary research. Within the field of science, engineering, and technology, KU Leuven offers profiles organized in five faculties: Science, Engineering Science, Bioscience Engineering, Engineering Technology, and Architecture. Boasting an outstanding central location in the heart of Europe, KU Leuven offers a truly international experience, high-quality education, world-class research and cutting-edge innovation.



KU Leuven is a founding member of
the League of European Research Universities

Tuition fees

The tuition fee for the 2017-2018 academic year is € 906,10 for EEA-students and € 3 500 for non-EEA-students. The tuition fee for future academic years can be higher as a result of indexation or adjustments. Please consult the website for the most recent information: www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees.

Applications

KU Leuven uses an online application system. You can download and submit your application form via www.kuleuven.be/application. Students with a Flemish degree can consult www.kuleuven.be/studentenadministratie.



Contact

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www.kuleuven.be/ma/marcebx (Brussels)

www.kuleuven.be/ma/marcegt (Ghent)

www.arch.kuleuven.be/english

www.internationalmasterofarchitecture.be