

Master of Science in Space Studies



DURATION

1 year (full-time), 60 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 space sector plays an important role in economic, social, technological and scientific developments. The future of the sector and its many applications require highly-skilled experts with a broad, interdisciplinary perspective. The development of innovative space technologies comes from the symbiosis between technological sectors and the challenges set by research in exact and biomedical sciences.

Additionally, the economic and social value of space technologies (including its applications in security and defence) requires an efficient relationship between project developers and the economic sector as well as a need for European and international legal and political measures.

The programme is enriched through regular guest lectures by space sector professionals who come from a spectrum of international, national and regional institutions and industries. Many of these professionals also assist in the design and supervision of the master's thesis projects.

Programme

The programme is conceived as an advanced master's programme and as such it requires you to have successfully completed an initial master's programme in either the humanities, social sciences, exact sciences, technology or biomedical sciences.

The interdisciplinary nature of the programme is expressed by the common core of 25 ECTS in introductory coursework. These courses are mandatory for every student. They acquaint you with the different aspects that together form the foundation of space-related activities.

Depending on your background and interests, you have the opportunity to deepen your knowledge through more domain-specific optional courses, for a total of 20 ECTS, covering the domains of (A) Space Law, Policy, Business and Management, (B) Space Sciences and (C) Space Technology and Applications, with the possibility to combine the latter two.

The master's thesis is the final section of the interdisciplinary programme, in which the acquired knowledge and abilities are applied to a complex and concrete project. (15 ECTS), you are embedded in a research team at a universities, or an external institute, organisation or industrial company, in the latter case an academic supervisor is assigned as the coordinator of the project.

For detailed descriptions of the courses and for the course timetable, please consult www.kuleuven.be/ma/mnmssl/programme.

Admission requirements

The interdisciplinary Master of Space Studies programme is open to students who have already obtained a master's degree. The criteria for admission to the programme includes the following:

- you already have obtained an initial master's degree in a subject relevant to space studies;
- you present a 2-page essay describing the importance of the programme for your professional expectations, especially in view of your previous education;
- you may additionally be invited to an intake interview.

Interested candidates are invited to send their CV and a comprehensive motivation letter to MSSapplication@ster.kuleuven.be.

Master of Science in Space Studies



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. 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.

The objective of the selection procedure with respect to the initial master's degree is to verify your chances of success. However, students with an initial master's degree that does not have a direct apparent connection with space studies can still apply, and may be accepted depending on the power of conviction of their background and argumentation.

Essay and CV should be sent to the address above, preferentially before June. International students should also apply through the general KU Leuven admission website www.kuleuven.be/application.

Good knowledge of the English language is essential. Unless you are of Anglo-Saxon origin, you will be asked to submit a TOEFL or IELTS certificate. If you have already completed an English-language academic programme at an Anglo-Saxon university, your degree will be considered sufficient proof of your English proficiency.

Programme admission: www.kuleuven.be/ma/mnmssl
General admission: www.kuleuven.be/admissions

Tuition fees

The tuition fee for the 2016-2017 academic year is € 6,000 for both EEA students and non-EEA students. The tuition fees for future academic years can be slightly higher as a result of indexation. Please consult the website for the most recent information:

www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees.

Application procedure

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.

Career perspectives

You will be in a position to develop a career in the space sector or in space research. Depending on your previous degree, you will find opportunities in the space industry (engineers, product developers and technical-commercial functions with a high degree of technical and financial responsibilities), research institutions with activities in space (researchers and project developers), (inter)governmental bodies with responsibilities in research and development programmes related to space (project managers and directors, policy makers on national, European and international levels). The spectrum of employment possibilities encompasses not only the space sector as such, but also the broader context of companies and organisations which use or are facilitated by space missions.

Contact:

www.kuleuven.be/ma/mnmssl
christoffel.waelkens@ster.kuleuven.be
dirk.vandepitte@mech.kuleuven.be