

2019



M.Sc. Master Program
URBAN ECOLOGICAL PLANNING
Faculty of Architecture and Design

 **NTNU**

Norwegian University of
Science and Technology

URBAN ECOLOGICAL PLANNING

The master's programme in Urban Ecological Planning is primarily designed to address real, on-the-ground, urban issues. Cities are estimated to hold 68% of the world's population by 2050. While the programme evolves constantly to reflect on the current challenges of urbanisation, the core is to address and re-analyse different local and contextual urban planning issues using inclusionary, territorial, strategic and incremental methods of cognition. The programme especially strives to support the call of the SDG's and the New Urban Agenda's call for "Participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning" (SDG 11.3).

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Urban Ecological Planning (UEP) is a practice based program that enables students to develop skills and knowledge to address complex urban issues in rapidly changing social, cultural, political and environmental contexts. The program stresses an integrated approach to strategic spatial change, with a specific focus on participatory, inclusive and developmental planning practice.

The UEP program is relevant to urban realities in both developed countries and the Global South. There is an urgent need to change outdated laws and regulations and the technocratic approaches that do not work, but are still prevalent in many cities around the world. We believe that urban planning should be focused on the people and that the only way to address urban challenges effectively is by working directly with the communities.

Consequently, the program focuses on the complex interdependence between people, institutions and the built environment in pursuit of equity, efficiency and sustainability. The main research themes in Urban Ecological Planning include:

- Various aspects of informality in urban areas,
- Access to land, housing and basic services for the urban poor,
- Planning in situations of crisis, such as natural disasters and post-conflict reconstruction,
- Participatory processes in planning for excluded and marginalized communities,
- Institutional alternatives for planning in resource scarcity.



ABOUT THE FIELD WORKS

Being a practice-based program, UEP is structured around group and individual field works, which consist of a wide range of activities, such as internships, project work, data collection as well as direct community and stakeholder engagement.

In the first semester, our program starts right in the field in a relevant context. Students spend up to 8-12 weeks in a developing country to understand the challenges and strengths of neighbourhoods within dense urban areas, and deliberate on how to create opportunities for spatial, environmental and livelihood improvements. During the past years, the first semester's field work has taken place in Uganda, Nepal and India. The upcoming fieldworks in 2019 and 2020 will take place in India and will be implemented jointly with the the School of Architecture and Planning (SPA) in Delhi.

As a requirement, the Master's thesis in UEP has to be based on field work research or an internship. Students are encouraged to conduct individual field works or internships in their home cities or chosen developing countries, but they also have the option to do it in Norway or elsewhere. So far, individual field works and internships have taken place in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Singapore, Tanzania, Thailand, Tibet, Uganda and the USA.

As of 2017, selected UEP students have an opportunity to participate in a fully-funded Summer School on Urban Sustainability at Chatham University in Pittsburgh (USA) one of the most renowned institutions on sustainable development worldwide.

There are also many other fieldwork and internship possibilities with our partner institutions and alumni network around the world. UEP students actively participate in many other ongoing field-based projects at NTNU, in our city Trondheim, and elsewhere. Some of the most recent examples include:

- *Live Studio* - an award winning initiative where students of architecture and planning implement real projects in Norway and abroad,
- *Waterfronts Re-imagined* - a bilateral student workshop organized with the Gdansk University of Technology, Poland,
- *Trondheim Climathon* competition
- *Internships* with UN-Habitat offices around the world.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The program is divided into four semesters, each of which comprises of courses totalling 30 ECTS. After the field work semester, students undertake various other courses designed to address theoretical and practical aspects of urban planning. A sustainable approach is assumed to concentrate on building local responsibility and capacities for action planning.

The individual field work/internship should take place during the during the Winter break between the 3rd and 4th semesters. The Master Thesis in the program counts for 30 ECTS.

Semes-ter	7.5 ECTS	7.5 ECTS	7.5 ECTS	7.5 ECTS
1. Fall	Methods and Reflections	Urban Informality Pro-ject in India (12 weeks)	Theories in UEP	
2. Spring	Urban Contingency Practice and Planning	Site Planning and GIS	Land Use and Trans- portation Planning	Globalisation and Urban Develop- ment (Elective)
3. Fall	Project Develop- ment and Process	Planning Theory and Urban Theory	Research Methods	Practice Internship (Elective)
Winter	Individual fieldwork / Practice Internship			
4. Spring	M.Sc. Thesis in Urban Ecological Planning			

Courses marked in bold are compulsory. Electives can be replaced with other courses offered at NTNU.

All M.Sc. courses in the program are taught in English and take place either at the Gløshaugen campus in Trondheim or in the field. There are no tuition fees at NTNU. One-semester fieldwork and summer school scholarships are available for selected students.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of the M.Sc. Programme in Urban Ecological Planning, the candidates have:

- A practice based understanding of complex urban issues and can relate these issues to key theoretical urban concepts
- Critical knowledge of the participatory and strategic modes of urban planning and development
- An understanding of dynamic and complex urban contexts especially in situations of uncertainty and contingency
- The ability to use, adjust and adapt multidisciplinary methods for participatory engagement with urban communities
- The ability to link theoretical concepts and empirical observations to analyze urban contexts and formulate well-grounded arguments and narratives for research and collaborative design and action planning





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NTNU is a university with an international focus. NTNU has a main profile in science and technology, a variety of programmes of professional study, and great academic breadth that also includes the humanities, social sciences, economics, medicine, health sciences, educational science, architecture, entrepreneurship, art disciplines and artistic activities. Collaboration across disciplines enables us to develop innovative ideas and create solutions that change our daily lives.



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Application Deadlines:

Non-EU / non-EEA students : **1st of December 2018**

EU / EEA : **1st of March 2019**

Nordic: **15th of April 2019**

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