

Faculty of Architecture (Germany)

Institutional Information (Last update at: 12/04/2019)

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| School/Department name (Native language) | Fakultät für Architektur |
| AESOP reg Number | F-049-17 |
| AESOP Member Status | Full Member |
| University | RWTH Aachen University |
| Address | RWTH Aachen University Faculty of Architecture Reiffmuseum Schinkelstraße 1 52062 Aachen Germany |
| Telephone | +49 241 80 95001 |
| Fax | +49 241 80 92237 |
| Web site | arch.rwth-aachen.de/cms/%7Egfa/Architektur/lidx/1/ |

Contact persons

School Information

| | |
|---|----|
| Full time academic staff members | 40 |
| Part time staff members | |
| Staff members engaged in research | 40 |
| Staff members engaged in professional activities | 30 |

Degree Programmes and Educational Provision

(Post)Graduate/masters or second cycle degree(s) offered at School/department

M.Sc. in Urban Planning

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|--|-----------|
| Number of years normally used to complete this degree(FT) | 2 |
| Part time option | No |
| Delivery mode | On campus |
| Number of ECTS | 120 |

Specialisation within in this Degree/the curriculum No

The degree requires an assessed period of work in practice Yes 6 months

Programme accreditation by a professional body/other institution Yes

This is an Erasmus mundus programme No

Curriculum/approach description

Tradition:

Traditionally, an urban design study focus is part of the Aachen architecture education. It allowed and still allows graduates entrance into the field of urban planning.

The Masters Studies of Urban Planning at the Faculty of Architecture at RWTH Aachen follows this tradition: it builds on the common Bachelor Studies of Architecture, is linked closely to the Masters Studies of Architecture and in addition includes academic course offers from neighboring disciplines. Thus, a course of study is offered, which lives up to the comprehensive content-related requirements of the professional field and, at the same time, develops an independent profile with the integrated analysis of town and landscape.

The content-related exchange between the two Masters Studies of Architecture and Urban Planning is realized through integrated projects and the Elective Compulsory Modules. The Faculty has a broad range of specialized knowledge and ample personnel resources. The Departments of Urban Design and Regional Planning, Planning Theory and Urban Development, Landscape Architecture as well as the Department of Open Space and Landscape Planning are in charge of the conception of the Masters Studies of Urban Planning.

Profile and Potentials:

In the history of town and regional development there are many examples of close and integrative cooperation of the disciplines of urban and landscape planning. This interdisciplinarity will be even more important in the future. Weak growth and declining demographic developments necessitate strategies of urban and regional development, of urban rebuilding and of innovative area development, in which a close link of urban and landscape planning is compulsory.

The Masters Studies include concrete urban and regional developments in the European area. The RWTH Aachen, with its trinational location in the industrialized urbanized Three-Nations-Area, has a unique opportunity.

The urban planning education at the RWTH offers, next to the close cooperation with architecture, manifold networking possibilities with established interdisciplinary contacts (civil engineers, business economists and geographers). Hence, the Masters Studies in their conceptualized form are also interesting themes for Bachelor graduates from these disciplines.

Further intensive cooperations exist with the relevant state ministries, the research institutions, with towns and communities as well as with real estate agencies.

In order to bring students in contact with professional figures from the praxis and to smoothen the career start by the use of networks, »mentor programs« and »professional field events« are organized, which also serve to continuously reflect the study contents. The system of Bachelor and Master, aimed at international appeal, offers great flexibility and makes the change to similarly conceived study programs of urban planning possible.

In addition, one-year postgraduate Master Studies are offered, which allow a broadening of special topical fields of integrative analysis of urban and regional development.

At the same time, the four-semester Masters Studies are research and practice oriented. The profile in key-words:

- integrated analysis of urban and landscape development,
- networking possibilities with offers from the Masters Studies of Architecture,
- intensive conception and design training,
- project-oriented studies leading to future working methods,
- dealing with questions of process design,
- practice-oriented studies through »professional field and mentor programs«,
- practice-oriented scientific and conceptional work through the integration of research projects and academic courses.

The qualification:

The Master Studies concentrates on the broad tasks of urban planners in the European Economic Area. It trains both for the classic fields of work and for new task areas. The typical sample of

M.Sc. in Urban Planning possible employers range from private planning offices to real estate industry, associations, institutions and research facilities up to and including public administrations.

M.Sc. in Transforming City Regions

Number of years normally used to complete this degree(FT) 2

Part time option No

Delivery mode On campus

Number of ECTS 120

Teaching languages English

Specialisation within in this Degree/the curriculum No

The degree requires an assessed period of work in practice No

Programme accreditation by a professional body/other institution

This is an Erasmus mundus programme No

Qualification goals and competences:

“Transforming City Regions” (TCR) is an European Master programme that integrates many disciplines in order to educate professionals being able to respond to the challenges of the evolving European territories of different scales with the respect to the environment, using the technical excellence and solution-oriented approach, understanding the economic efficiency and respecting the social needs. The TCR programme is one of the few programmes designed anew at the RWTH Aachen University in order to respond to the European territorial challenges with the particular focus on project-oriented education which will equip graduates with not only recent and solid knowledge but also with the tools and methodologies that will help to face the problems of changing European cities and regions. Engineering profile of the graduates, despite clear interdisciplinary orientation, is deeply rooted in the tradition of the RWTH Aachen University and gives also a strong identity to the programme.

The following qualification goals and competencies characterise the TCR programme:

- acquisition of profound multidisciplinary knowledge which allow to conceptualise sustainable transformation and planning cities, regions and European territorial structure,
- scientific and solution-oriented attitude to urban and regional transformation, including capability to analyse complex urban problems and systems,
- in-depth understanding social and cultural aspects of urban transformation, as well as an wider economic and environmental context of changing urban and regional structures,
- skills to apply advanced methodological tools and techniques, including spatial data analysis, in planning urban transformation with respect to planning cultures across Europe,
- ability to lead interdisciplinary teams delivering urban, regional and European territorial policies, strategies and plans,
- ability to make sound ethical judgement and to accept social and environmental responsibility and long-term consequences of the undertaken professional activities,
- ability to communicate urban concepts, ideas and policies to a larger public.

The European Masters programme “Transforming City Regions” is structured in 4 semesters. The last, fourth semester is dedicated to the Master thesis. The remaining 3 semesters are generally structured in the way that half of the ECTS CP will be available through the integrated project dealing with the complex urban problem which will differ from a smaller to a greater scale. The

Curriculum/approach description

remaining half of the ECTS CP will be available through the core courses, optional courses, research module, field trip/impromptu courses and transit course.

The European dimension of the courses is ensured in three different ways:

- through Europeanisation of the teaching staff,
- through the cooperation with the European institutions, organisations and companies, and
- through ensuring the European study cases for the integrated projects.

The first instrument of Europeanisation is embedded into the structure of the courses and integrated projects. The staff teaching is completed with the focus on the content of each course, taking into account the academic records, research interests and practical field of activity. In other words, each core course and integrated project will be taught not just by one but a few professors whose complementary knowledge and experience will allow students to learn about different dimensions of the topic. The teaching hours are split in between the academics from the Faculty of Architecture (c.a. 55%), partners from the RWTH Aachen (c.a. 15%) and external partners (c.a. 17%). Additionally some courses that students can take as the optional or elective courses are offered at the Faculty of Architecture or other faculties of the RWTH Aachen University independently (c.a. 13% in total).

The external partners group includes academics from partner universities, professionals from the European institutions and organisations (i.e. European Committee of the Regions, European Parliament Research Service, European Council of Spatial Planners-Conseil Européen des Urbanistes, ESPON, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development), planning professionals from the private sector and cities and regions. Under the general coordination of the Faculty of Architecture this construction will ensure presentation of the variety of approaches and experiences and also will present a truly European perspective of each main topic presented to the students.

The second instrument will allow to learn from the knowledge and experience of the institutions and companies. Students will be receiving part of the module in the institution/organisation that has a great excellence in the study field. For example the module on the territorial analysis and digital tools is planned to be taught not only as classes at the RWTH Aachen University but also at the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) in Bonn and also at the Earth Observation Center (EOC) - German Aerospace Center (DLR) near Munich. This will give students better insight into variety of instruments, application of data and methods used in order to select and analyse them.

The third instrument, dedicated to the integrated projects, is based on cooperation with European cities/regions. Selected cities/regions will be the case studies for these projects. Students will not only learn from the local institutions but through their work they will help to solve a real-world problem of that city/region. The task for the students will be defined in cooperation with the city/region within the general framework of the project and will also serve for an educational purpose. The representatives from the cities/regions will be invited to join the final presentation of the project and share their comments. The idea is to have at least one case study located out of Germany for each integrated project.

The work on specific cases in European cities/regions will also involve local universities as partners helping to understand the local context. The joint work of local students and TCR students on the same case as well as co-supervision of the local academics aim at presenting students variation of approaches and policies across Europe.

Students of the TCR programme will be also encouraged to write their Master theses under the joint supervision of RWTH Aachen academics and colleagues from the partner universities and institutions (in case they hold an appropriate scientific degree).

Excellence is a key word for the TCR programme. It is ensured by the content-oriented structure of the programme, unique European profile and both internal and external quality assessment. The internal RWTH Aachen University formula includes Annual Talks with the Vice-Rector for Teaching, Students' Course Evaluation and the Graduates' Survey.

Thanks to interdisciplinary approach and European perspective the graduates will be prepared to work for:

- private sector (development agencies, investment banks, technical infrastructure companies, territorial analyses, urban planning offices, companies dealing with structural funds etc.),
- advise public authorities and institutions, including local, regional, national, European and global level, as well as
- cooperate with the civil society organisations and NGOs in different cultural contexts and within wide spectrum of urban issues.

The European perspective will be for the graduates a big advantage on the job market, no matter which European country is considered, and also no matter what kind of business, institution or organisation they would like to work for.

**complete this
M.Sc. in Transforming City Regions
degree(FT)**

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