

Entrance requirements

For applicants whose first language is not English, IELTS 6.5/TOEFL 575 or sufficient proof of language proficiency is required.

Assessment

Successful completion of the programme and course assessment leads to the award of **30 ECTS credits**. The course and research work covered by this certificate can be fully validated within a Ph.D. study programme.

Tuition

Fee is waived for KU Leuven and ESDP network exchange students.

For other students the **tuition fee** is 1750 € (*Fees may be subject to minor variations*)

Exchange students wishing to obtain the Certificate must also pay the tuition fee.

Programme coordinators

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Information

Detailed information about:

- Different *application modalities*
- *Contents* and *timing* of the programme i.e. the Programme Handbook and the Calendar (the oncoming programme is generally posted around December) are available at the ESDP website:
<http://esdp-network.net/the-imsdp-overview>

Deadline for application

Preselection procedure: November 23rd

Useful web addresses

www.kuleuven.be
<http://www.kuleuven.be/english/pdf/Living.in.leuven.pdf>
http://onderwijsaanbod.kuleuven.be/opleidingen/e/SC_51671703.htm

AESOP Excellence in Teaching Prize 2011

Planning & Development research group

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IMS DP

Postgraduate Certificate International Module in Spatial Development Planning

An intensive three months post-graduate programme with a pluralist approach, both in analytical focus and planning methodology, strongly anchored to principles of equity and sustainability, dedicated to students, researchers and practitioners who share a planning philosophy oriented to serve progress in society.



A unique approach to spatial planning and development

Philosophy

The IMSDP addresses spatial development dynamics and planning issues – including urban and regional plan-making, programmes and policies – from an interdisciplinary perspective that lies at the crossroads of economics, sociology, spatial planning and design, geography, political science, urbanism and ecology.

Throughout the programme three types of dialectics are stressed and possibly reconciled: between development and planning, between theory and practice, and between planning and policy approaches.

Students are called to enhance their command of the theoretical debate in various disciplines and to improve their methodological skills, through the constant interaction among themselves and with the staff members.

The programme has a clear ethical outlook: the planning philosophy shared by the academic staff is oriented to serve progress in society, based on principles of equity, social innovation and sustainability, and guarantees a wide pluralism in analytical foci and planning methodologies.

Staff

The staff includes teachers who belong to the *ESDP-European Spatial Development Planning* network which was created over 20 years ago and includes about 15 universities (see <http://esdp-network.net/>). Moreover, teachers coming from universities in the Global South are participating in the programme as of 2018. All staff members come from different disciplinary backgrounds and provide expertise on different geographical contexts and different dimensions of spatial development dynamics and planning. Although with different emphases and perspectives they share the same planning philosophy, oriented to serve progress, inclusion and sustainability.

Participants

Post-graduate students (Ph.D. and II level Master) and other academic fellows (Post-Doctoral and Research fellows)

Practitioners (professionals and civil servants) who wish to improve their research capabilities.

Programme

The programme starts at the beginning of March each year and runs over a three month period. It consists of an intensive programme of lectures, discussions and research seminars with planning academics from all over the world. The programme can be extended for an additional month devoted to individual research.

Structure

The overall programme (30 ECTS) is structured in three modules (*structured lectures & case study presentations*):

1. Socio-economic Development in Space (8 ECTS)
2. Planning Theory and Practice (8 ECTS)
3. Emblematic European Planning Experiences in a Comparative Perspective (8 ECTS)

Parallel to the modules, a *research seminar series* (6 ECTS) is organised in which all students present their research work and its progress to both peer participants and staff (at least 3 staff members).

These seminars accommodate various stages in post-graduate research: depending on individual trajectories, from the early definition of a master or doctoral dissertation project, to the writing of a specific chapter for a post-doctoral or financed research project.

Each student makes at least **two presentations** during the three-month training period (with at least one month interval), showing progress in the development of her/his research work, also on the basis of the recommendations by the panel of teachers and experts.

