

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN



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**Curriculum  
for  
the subject elements offered by  
The University of Copenhagen  
as part of the Master's programme in  
Urban Studies**

**The 2019 curriculum**

**Department of Arts and Cultural Studies  
Faculty of Humanities  
University of Copenhagen**

## Contents

Part 1. Authority.....	3
1. Authority .....	3
Part 2. Admission requirements.....	3
2. Admission requirements .....	3
Part 3. Technical requirements pertaining to study .....	3
3. Reading texts in a foreign language .....	3
4. Definition of a standard page .....	3
Part 4. Structure of the programme .....	3
5. The Master's programme in Urban Studies.....	3
6. Subject elements.....	5
Urbanism and Architecture .....	5
Urban Culture and Cultural Theory .....	8
Urban Analysis 4 .....	10
Thesis (partial credits) .....	12
Part 5. Commencement, exemption and approval.....	12
7. Commencement .....	12
8. Exemption .....	12
9. Approval.....	12

This curriculum is supplemented by the faculty's *Shared curriculum for study programmes at the Faculty of Humanities*. Students enrolled under this curriculum are therefore subject to the guidelines and rules described in both the shared curriculum and this curriculum.

## **Part 1. Authority**

### **1. Authority**

The 2019 curriculum for the subject elements offered by The University of Copenhagen as part of the Master's programme in Urban Studies has been drawn up under the authority endowed by Ministerial Order no. 1389 of 15 December 2011 (Order on the International Education Activities of Universities, Bekendtgørelse om universiteternes internationale uddannelsesforløb).

## **Part 2. Admission requirements**

### **2. Admission requirements**

Students are enrolled administratively at Vrije Universiteit Brussels for the two full years. Each semester the students will register at the university offering courses for that semester

(2) Only students enrolled at the master programme in Urban Studies can register for the subject elements in the present curriculum.

## **Part 3. Technical requirements pertaining to study**

### **3. Reading texts in a foreign language**

The teaching language is English.

### **4. Definition of a standard page**

The definition of a standard page appears in section 7 of *the shared curriculum for study programmes at the Faculty of Humanities*.

## **Part 4. Structure of the programme**

### **5. The Master's programme in Urban Studies**

The Master's programme in Urban Studies consists of subject elements totalling 120 ECTS credits, including the thesis.

(2) The programme concludes with a thesis (30 ECTS credits). The thesis must be on a topic within the field of Urban Studies.

(3) *Students write their thesis* throughout the two years concurrent with the coursework and have to attend mandatory thesis seminars in Vienna, Copenhagen and Madrid. In September at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester, the students will have their Master's Thesis defence at Vrije Universiteit Brussel. The thesis defence is open to the public.

(4) During the semester in Copenhagen, students are required to continue work on their thesis, including conducting research for, and writing and reworking of the draft. There will be group and individual consultations with the Copenhagen staff and/or the thesis supervisor.

(5) The thesis is 30 ECTS credits. The thesis defence concludes the programme.

For administrative purposes the ECTS credits for the thesis are divided equally (5 ECTS credits) among the six partner universities.

(6) The course of study for the Master's programme in Urban Studies is depicted in the table below. The subject elements highlighted in black are those offered at the University of Copenhagen and described in this curriculum.

Semester	University	Subject element	ECTS credits
1.	Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)	Geographies of a Globalizing Europe	6 ECTS credits
		Urban Social Geography	6 ECTS credits
		Urban Analysis I	3 ECTS credits
	Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)	Urban Sociology	5 ECTS credits
		Urban Economic Geography	5 ECTS credits
		Urban Analysis II	5 ECTS credits
2.	Universität Wien (UW)	Demography of European Cities	4 ECTS credits
		Principles in Urban Planning and Urbanism	4 ECTS credits
		Contemporary Problems in Urban Development	4 ECTS credits
		Urban Development and Planning in Eastern Europe	4 ECTS credits
		Urban Analysis III	4 ECTS credits
3.	University of Copenhagen (KU)	Urbanism and Architecture	7.5 ECTS credits
		Urban Culture and Cultural Theory	7.5 ECTS
		Urban Analysis IV	5 ECTS credits
4.	Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) and Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM)	The Sustainable and Liveable City	10 ECTS credits
		Governance and Local Welfare	10 ECTS credits

Semester	University	Subject element	ECTS credits
Master's thesis - throughout the 2 years.	Vrije Universiteit Brussel (5 ECTS credits) Université Libre de Bruxelles (5 ECTS credits) Universität Wien (5 ECTS credits) University of Copenhagen (5 ECTS credits) Universidad Complutense de Madrid (5 ECTS credits) and Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (5 ECTS credits)  Thesis seminars in Vienna, Copenhagen and Madrid, Thesis defence in Brussels.	Thesis	30 ECTS credits total

## 6. Subject elements

### Urbanism and Architecture

#### 7.5 ECTS credits

<b>Competence objectives for the module</b>	<p>Objective 2: Students have an advanced insight into and understanding of academic and technical or methodological knowledge related to urban studies from an interdisciplinary point of view (knowledge-based)</p> <p>Objective 3: Students construct practical skills to apply this knowledge and understanding in urban situations and problems (skill-based)</p> <p>Objective 4: Students show creative, interdisciplinary skills, both obtained from theory and practice (skill-based)</p> <p>Objective 5: Students make judgements with a critical mind and open attitude (attitude-based)</p> <p>Objective 6: Students develop the skills to communicate clearly and unambiguously their conclusions and the underpinning knowledge and rationale to specialist and non-specialist audiences (skill-based)</p> <p>Objective 7: Students develop social skills, managerial skills such as working in a multi-cultural, multilingual and interdisciplinary surrounding, working in group with members of different cultural, professional backgrounds (skill and attitude based).</p>
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## Urbanism and Architecture (compulsory and constituent)

*Urbanism and Architecture (obligatorisk og konstituerende)*

**7.5 ECTS credits**

**Activity code: HURK03012E**

<p><b>Course subject and description</b></p>	<p>Analysis of architecture and urban structures.</p> <p>The aim of this course is to present the main developments of 19th and 20th century European cities and to explore the form and the function of selected types of architecture. Copenhagen is a central reference, but throughout the course these developments will be related to international developments as well. The course addresses themes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of urban planning.</li> <li>• Urban history and the city square as the organizing element of the city.</li> <li>• Responses to the modern decentering of the urban structure.</li> <li>• Modern institutions in the city: parliaments, universities, schools.</li> <li>• Infrastructure: The harbour and the bridges, the train station, the airport and the metro.</li> <li>• Bourgeois culture: museums, theatres, concert houses.</li> <li>• Class cultures: the bourgeois family, the working class family, interior decoration.</li> <li>• Mass culture: the amusement park, the zoological garden, the panorama, the café, the circus, the cinema.</li> <li>• Cultural planning in the experience society.</li> </ul> <p>The subject element aims to provide students with competences in analysing works of art and/or artistic and/or cultural and historical currents and questions in the post-1850 period, focusing on historical (political, economic, cultural, intellectual) conditions and developments that transcend art forms, periods and language areas.</p> <p>A course will be offered on an urban-history topic (covering problem, motive, theme, period, genre, etc.).</p> <p>The teaching will include supervision for the written examination, which will take the form of the presentation and discussion of a problem formulation and the assignment text.</p>
<p><b>Academic objectives</b></p>	<p>For the examination, students must be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• independently identify, formulate and analyse an issue related to cultural history post-1850</li> <li>• critically reflect on a subject's embedding in a historical context, which may encompass political, social, cultural, intellectual and conditions specific to the art form.</li> <li>• reflect on principles and problems in the historical analysis of artistic and cultural (perhaps also mass-cultural) idioms</li> <li>• reflect on their methodological approach to the material, including secondary texts, in a critical manner</li> <li>• independently communicate a major study of an academic problem in a clear linguistic form.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Types of instruction and work</b></p>	<p>A course will be offered on an urban-history topic (covering problem, motive, theme, period, genre, etc.). The teaching will include supervision for the written examination, which will take the form of the presentation and discussion of a problem formulation and the assignment text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seminars:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1: source criticism</li> <li>2: philosophical reflection on different approaches: from the 'geometrical' approach by Descartes to the interplay between phenomenological, semiotical and sociological approaches in modern research on architecture</li> <li>3: the application of analytical approaches</li> </ol> </li> <li>- Lectures</li> <li>- Presentation</li> <li>- Essay writing</li> </ul> <p>20 hours Lecture 20 hours Seminar, Exercises or excursions 60 hours Independent or Self-Study</p>
<p><b>Exam provisions</b></p>	<p><b>Form of exam:</b> Active class participation. Active class participation consists of two oral presentations in association with the classes and two written composition of the presentations. This takes the form of two assignments of 3–4 standard pages.</p> <p><b>Make-up exam/re-exam:</b> Take-home assignment with set subject.</p> <p><b>Assessment:</b> Grading (Danish 7-point scale). Internal with one examiner.</p> <p><b>Exam language(s):</b> English.</p> <p><b>Extent:</b> Each of the two oral presentations must last approximately 10 minutes. Each of the two written compositions must be 3–4 standard pages. Extent of Make-up exam/re-exam: 7-9 standard pages. 7 days are given to complete the assignment.</p> <p><b>Exam aids:</b> Unlimited.</p> <p><b>Group exam:</b> The test can only be taken individually.</p>
<p><b>Special provisions</b></p>	<p>None</p>

**Urban Culture and Cultural Theory**  
**7.5 ECTS credits**

<b>Competence objectives for the module</b>	<p>Objective 2: Students have an advanced insight into and understanding of academic and technical or methodological knowledge related to urban studies from an interdisciplinary point of view (knowledge-based)</p> <p>Objective 3: Students construct practical skills to apply this knowledge and understanding in urban situations and problems (skill-based)</p> <p>Objective 4: Students show creative, interdisciplinary skills, both obtained from theory and practice (skill-based)</p> <p>Objective 5: Students make judgements with a critical mind and open attitude (attitude-based)</p> <p>Objective 6: Students develop the skills to communicate clearly and unambiguously their conclusions and the underpinning knowledge and rationale to specialist and non-specialist audiences (skill-based)</p> <p>Objective 7: Students develop social skills, managerial skills such as working in a multi-cultural, multilingual and interdisciplinary surrounding, working in group with members of different cultural, professional backgrounds (skill and attitude based).</p>
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## Urban Culture and Cultural Theory (compulsory and constituent)

*Urban Culture and Cultural Theory (obligatorisk og konstituerende)*

**7.5 ECTS credits**

**Activity code: HURK03022E**

<p><b>Course subject and description</b></p>	<p>Urbanity and aesthetics</p> <p>A course is being offered on problems and tendencies in the theory of cultural science. The course covers cultural phenomena as well as relevant cultural science academic texts, including method and theory texts. This course aims at establishing the basic principles for a humanistic and culture-theoretical approach to the city considered as urban culture. The course delves into seminal texts from the traditions of 20th-century cultural theory in order to outline key principles that allow us to understand the city as urbanity, i.e. as a complex cultural phenomenon.</p> <p>Three approaches are in focus: 1) that of a Copenhagen interdisciplinary research environment in architecture, sociology and the humanities (second half of the 20th century); 2) that of Paris thinkers and writers (from the 1970s); and 3) that of Berlin and critical theory (in the 1930s).</p> <p>While the Copenhagen scholars focus on issues of "Perception and Lifeworld", Paris intellectuals emphasize the importance of "Movements and Text". Finally, prominent Berlin writers (Siegfried Kracauer and Walter Benjamin) explore the socio-cultural logics of "Spaces and Memory". The course is informed by French literary and cultural scholar Roland Barthes who pointed out the essential roles of signification in the city – a realm that far too often is reduced to discourses of functionality.</p> <p>Aims and objectives: The subject element aims to provide students with competences that enable them to reflect in a methodical and theoretical manner on problems in the subjects of urbanity and aesthetics, through analytical work with theoretical texts and cultural phenomena in the field.</p>
<p><b>Academic objectives</b></p>	<p>For the examination, students must be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify the significant, fundamental characteristics of a theoretical text in the subjects of urbanity and aesthetics, and communicate them in a lucid and intelligible oral form</li> <li>• characterise methodical-theoretical principles and thesis-formation in relation to alternative points of view and in relation to specific material relevant to the subjects of urbanity and aesthetics</li> <li>• adopt an independent critical position on theoretical views within the subjects of urbanity and aesthetics and their perspectives on cultural-science activity.</li> </ul>

<b>Types of instruction and work</b>	<p>A course is being offered on problems and tendencies in the theory of cultural science. The course covers cultural phenomena as well as relevant cultural science academic texts, including method and theory texts.</p> <p>The courses require students to participate actively in classes, e.g. by submitting short oral or written assignments as defined in each course description, e.g. presentations or discussion of synopses for the oral exam.</p> <p>20 hours Lecture 20 hours Seminar, Exercises or Practicals 60 hours Independent or Self-study</p>
<b>Exam provisions</b>	<p><b>Form of exam:</b> Free oral presentation of a subject, with synopsis. No preparation time.</p> <p><b>Make-up exam/re-exam:</b> Same as above.</p> <p><b>Assessment:</b> Grading (Danish 7-point scale). Internal exam with multiple examiners.</p> <p><b>Exam language(s):</b> English.</p> <p><b>Extent:</b> The synopsis must be 2–3 standard pages. The oral examination lasts a total of 30 minutes, including deliberations by the examiner. No preparation time. Students start the oral exam by putting the synopsis into perspective for approx. 10 minutes. The subsequent oral examination takes the form of a dialogue.</p> <p><b>Exam aids:</b> All materials are permitted except the Internet.</p> <p><b>Group exam:</b> The test can only be taken individually.</p>
<b>Special provisions</b>	<p>None</p>

#### Urban Analysis 4 5 ECTS credits

<b>Competence objectives for the module</b>	<p>Objective 1: Students think and act in an autonomous and scientific manner on urban planning and sustainable urban development in an interdisciplinary way (skill-based)</p> <p>Objective 3: Students construct practical skills to apply this knowledge and understanding in urban situations and problems (skill-based)</p> <p>Objective 4: Students show creative, interdisciplinary skills, both obtained from theory and practice (skill-based)</p> <p>Objective 6: Students develop the skills to communicate clearly and unambiguously their conclusions and the underpinning knowledge and rationale to specialist and non-specialist audiences (skill-based)</p> <p>Objective 7: Students develop social skills, managerial skills such as working in a multi-cultural, multilingual and interdisciplinary surrounding, working in group with members of different cultural, professional backgrounds (skill and attitude based).</p>
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## Urban Analysis 4 (compulsory and constituent)

*Urban Analysis 4 (obligatorisk og konstituerende)*

5 ECTS credits

Activity code: HURK03032E

<p><b>Course subject and description</b></p>	<p>Modern urbanity, urbanity and aesthetics</p> <p>Principles for the interdisciplinary analysis of modern urbanity will be developed and tested in case-studies addressing the differentiated spatial and socio-cultural reality of a metropolitan region such as Copenhagen around 2000. Special emphasis will be put on issues of urban architecture and public spaces within the tradition of Danish Modern.</p> <p>A number of professional and academic approaches to the present development of the urban field will be illustrated during this course which will take place on the spot – i. e. in selected areas of the Copenhagen metropolitan region representing 'Historical Copenhagen*', 'Modernist Copenhagen', 'Suburban Copenhagen' and 'Regional Copenhagen' - including Southern Sweden (Malmö, Scania).</p>
<p><b>Academic objectives</b></p>	<p>For the examination, students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify significant, fundamental characteristics of a cultural phenomenon in the subjects of urbanity and aesthetics, and communicate them in a lucid and intelligible oral form</li> <li>• conduct an empirical analysis of key cultural phenomena in the subjects of urbanity and aesthetics</li> <li>• adopt a reasoned position on methods of analysis and techniques in the subjects urbanity and aesthetics.</li> </ul> <p>By means of empirical work with texts and cultural phenomena, the subject element aims at providing students skills to reflect on methodological, theoretical or analytical issues in the subjects of urbanity and aesthetics. In addition, the students are invited to reflect on the selection of sites for urban analysis as well as on the possible creative representation of these sites within a contemporary version of the modern guidebook.</p>
<p><b>Types of instruction and work</b></p>	<p>33 hours Seminar, Exercises or Practicals 70 hours Independent Self-study</p>
<p><b>Exam provisions</b></p>	<p><b>Form of exam:</b> Active class participation. Active class participation consists of two oral presentations in association with the teaching and written composition of the presentations.</p> <p><b>Make-up exam/re-exam:</b> Take-home assignment with set subject.</p> <p><b>Assessment:</b> Pass/fail. Internal with one examiner.</p> <p><b>Exam language(s):</b> English.</p> <p><b>Extent:</b> Each of the two oral presentations must last approximately 10 minutes. Each of the two written compositions must be 3–4 standard pages. Extent of Make-up exam/re-exam: 7-9 standard pages. 7 days are given to complete the assignment.</p> <p><b>Exam aids:</b> Unlimited</p> <p><b>Group exam:</b> The test can only be taken individually.</p>
<p><b>Special provisions</b></p>	<p>None</p>

**Thesis (partial credits)**  
**5 ECTS credits of 30 ECTS credits total**

**Thesis (partial credits) (compulsory and constituent)**

*Thesis (partial credits) (obligatorisk og konstituerende)*

**5 ECTS credits of 30 ECTS credits total**  
**Activity code: HURK03042E**

The thesis is written throughout the two years concurrently with the coursework with mandatory thesis seminars in Vienna, Copenhagen and Madrid.

(2) During the semester in Copenhagen students are expected to continue work on the thesis. Besides the mandatory thesis seminar the work includes planning of the research and writing, reading and reworking the draft as well as group and individual consultations with the Copenhagen staff and/or the thesis supervisor.

(3) The thesis weighs 30 ECTS credits which are awarded following the successful thesis defence. For administrative purposes the 30 ECTS credits are divided equally (5 ECTS credits) among the partner universities. The 5 ECTS credits are registered only as the full 30 ECTS credits thesis is successfully passed by the student. Subject element: Thesis (partial credits) 5 ECTS credits, Activity code: XXX, Pass/fail. The registration is done by Education and Student Services after receiving confirmation that the thesis is successfully passed.

## **Part 5. Commencement, exemption and approval**

### **7. Commencement**

The 2019 curriculum for the subject elements offered by The University of Copenhagen as part of Master's programme in Urban Studies comes into force on 1 September 2019 and applies to students who are enrolled in the Master's programme on 1 September 2019 or later.

### **8. Exemption**

Under special circumstances, the Study Board may grant exemptions from those rules contained in the curriculum that have been set by the board itself.

### **9. Approval**

The curriculum has been approved by the Study Board for the Department of Arts and Cultural Studies on 11 June 2019.

The curriculum has been approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities on 19 June 2019.