

Study Guide
Master Programme
Urban and Economic Geography
2019-2020



Universiteit Utrecht

Faculty of Geosciences

Addresses

The **visiting address** of the faculty is:

Faculty of Geosciences

Princetonlaan 8a,

3584 CB Utrecht

Tel. +31 30 253 7210, Internet: <https://www.uu.nl/en/organisation/faculty-of-geosciences>

The **postal address** of the faculty is:

Faculty of Geosciences

PO Box 80.115

3508 TC Utrecht

The Netherlands

The desk of **Student Affairs Geosciences**:

Victor J. Koningsbergergebouw, first floor

[More information and opening hours](#)

Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 9559

E-mail: studentaffairs.geo@uu.nl

Secretariat Human Geography and Spatial Planning

Room 6.96, floor 6, Vening Meinesz

Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 1399

The **V.U.G.S. - study association** of human geographers and planners Utrecht

Buys Ballotgebouw, rooms 266 & 267

Princetonplein 5

3584 CC Utrecht

Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 2789

E-mail: Vugs@uu.nl, Internet: <http://vugs.uu.nl>

European Geography Association (EGEA), for students and young geographers

Buys Ballotgebouw, room 274

Princetonplein 5

3584 CC Utrecht

Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 9708

E-mail: Egea@uu.nl, Internet: <http://www.egea.eu/entity/utrecht>

The **Examinations Board** can be contacted through examencommissie.geo@uu.nl. Hard copy paperwork can be handed in at the Student Affairs Desk (Victor J. Koningsbergergebouw, floor 1).

You can hand in your hard copy assignments at the reception of Vening Meinesz. Be sure to clearly state your name and the lecturer's name.

Preface

Gradually, cities seem to become the 'natural' habitats of people and firms. In 1950, only 29% of people lived in cities. Today this counts for more than half of the world population and it is expected to reach 70% by 2050. In and between these cities complex and dynamic relationships between inhabitants, firms, visitors, transport and communication infrastructures and amenities are taking place. These interactions can lead to economic innovations, creativity and high quality of life which attract new firms and households looking for a new location or visitors who use urban facilities and (public) spaces. However, social and economic inequalities, tensions between lifestyles and communication and mobilities problems may also arise and can reduce or change migration and mobility patterns. Due to differences in their position in globalized social and economic systems, their location in a developed or developing country and specific cultural, social, political and physical characteristics, urban areas worldwide are diverse and experience varying developments. In the Research Master's programme in Human Geography and Planning we will teach you to understand the reasons behind these diverse developments in the urbanised world, to translate up-to-date theoretical and methodological developments in urban and economic geography into empirical research and to formulate effective policy recommendations to make cities and urban-regions more viable.

We have selected you and other highly qualified and motivated students to explore your own interests and to teach you the specialised knowledge and professional attitudes and skills you need to become first class researchers in academic and professional organisations in the field of human geography. The international setting of the Master, combined with the small scale of the groups and the pleasant working atmosphere will contribute to this aim. After a day of hard working we hope you can also enjoy the pleasant social and cultural ambiance of Utrecht with your fellow students and other friends.

We hope this course catalogue will help you find the relevant information you need as student in the Master's programme easily. First a general description of the programme, the main points and some organisational matters are presented. This is followed by a description of all courses of the two year programme. Information about services, the Faculty, a list of staff members and the teaching and examination regulations is also included in the catalogue.

We wish you a wonderful, inspiring and pleasant Research Master's in Human Geography and Planning.

Dr. Andrea Morrison

Programme director of the Research Master's programme in Human Geography and Planning

Teaching approach

Activating education is what the Academic School aims for. We believe that you can best activate your own learning process by carrying out individual and group assignments and exercises, participation in debates, and the application of methodology taught. As far as possible, work is carried out in small groups. Additionally, there is active support from lecturers, instructions, manuals and feedback about your performance. Feel free to ask questions and to engage in discussions with your peers and lecturers.

Active participation

The Academic School is committed to realize the maximum acquisition of knowledge, in cooperation with our students. All lecturers and support staff share a similar philosophy that if students are fully committed to their studies, individual courses can be successfully completed. The ground rules for "active participation" are as follows:

- We expect you to be present during all classes and activities. For compulsory classes and activities attendance is registered. The course manual spells out which classes and activities are compulsory. Be sure to inform yourself of this information.
- If your attendance in the compulsory sessions falls below 75 per cent, you lose the right to complete the course, irrespective of the reasons for your absence.
- Be sure to catch up individually if you have had to miss a class. Ask fellow students what was discussed in class and what is expected of you in terms of preparation for the next class.
- Absence during assessments is a serious matter. There is no automatic right to do a replacement test. A replacement test may be taken only if you have had to miss the test because of circumstances demonstrably beyond your control and if you have informed the lecturer immediately of your situation.
- Assignments must be handed in by the due date. If not, this will result in a fail (or a deduction of grade points).

Lectures

During lectures we ask you to take the following into account:

- A lecture usually comprises two sessions of 45 minutes with a 15-minute break in between.
- Be in time, and if not, be very silent in entering the room, if possible, through the back door.
- Listen carefully, do not disturb the lecture, take notes, it could be part of a test.
- Switch off your phone.
- Eating is not permitted.
- Attending the first lecture of a course is always compulsory.

Your opinion counts

The department is very interested in students' opinion about the programmes. We value the participation of students in the Faculty board, [the Education Committee](#) and the study association. For every course we ask participating students how they evaluate the course. This gives you the possibility to give your opinion in order to improve the quality of the programme.

[Complaints](#)

If you feel you have not been treated properly by someone employed by Utrecht University, or if you disagree with a decision that affects you personally, you can respond in a number of ways. To help you decide which response is most appropriate in your case, please consult [this overview](#).

Course registration explained

Academic periods

The academic year has four periods of nine to ten weeks.

Period	Dates	Remarks
1	2 September 2019 - 1 November 2019	
2	11 November 2019 – 24 January 2020	No classes in week 52 & week 1
3	3 February 2020 - 3 April 2020	
4	20 April 2020 - 26 June 2020	

Scheduling of courses

When choosing your courses in period 2, you should keep in mind that at Utrecht University each course is placed in a time slot. Lectures and seminars are scheduled within that slot. This enables you to easily combine courses (up to 15 EC), provided that they are in different timeslots. The time slots are:

A: Monday morning, Wednesday morning

B: Tuesday morning, Thursday afternoon

C: Monday afternoon, Thursday morning

D: Wednesday afternoon, Friday whole day

On Tuesday afternoon there are no scheduled lectures, but it can be used for individual discussions (with a lecturer).

You can find the actual course schedules in [MyTimetable](#) or the MyUUapp four weeks before the courses begin.

[Course registration procedure](#)

- You are required to register for every course via OSIRIS Student during the stipulated registration period (see below). The first period is an exception: students are automatically registered for the courses in this period.
- Per period you can register for a maximum of 15 EC (= fulltime workload). In exceptional cases it is allowed to take more than 15 EC. If you wish to do so, you will have to apply with a digital form (to be found on the students website) during the standard registration period.
- Timely registration will ensure placement in compulsory courses.
- You have a second chance to register for courses during the late registration days, however this only holds for courses where places are still available.
- Registration for an elective course does not guarantee placement. In case of over-registration, participants are selected at random or based on suitability. Depending on the nature of the course, either of these methods will be used to determine placement.
- If need be, you can formally drop a course up to two weeks after the courses started. This should be done through OSIRIS student (but please also inform your lecturer). If you quit a course at a later stage, a fail will be registered for this course.
- Please note that lecturers have no say in registration/deregistration. Should you have any questions, [Student Affairs Geosciences](#) is your first point of contact.
- A one-time registration is required for the Thesis and/or internship. This may be done throughout the year.

For period	Registration dates	Late registration days
1	3 June – 30 June 2019	19 and 20 August 2019

2	16 September – 29 September 2019	21 and 22 October 2019
3	28 October - 24 November 2019	20 and 21 January 2020
4	27 January t/m 23 February 2020	30 and 31 March 2020

Completion of courses

In every course there will be multiple assessments, so your final grade will not depend on a written exam only.

Should you fail a course, be aware that at the faculty of Geosciences certain conditions apply for supplementary tests.

- If the overall course result is between 4.00 and 5.49 before rounding and the student has made every effort to successfully complete the course, he/she will be given one opportunity to take a supplementary test. The lecturer will determine the form and content, as well as date and time, of the supplementary test. In case of a successful outcome the result of the course will be a 6, regardless of the grade obtained for the supplementary test.
- An average of less than 4.00 before rounding results in failure to complete the course without possibilities to repair the result. The entire course must be followed again.

The formal rules for successful completion of courses are found in the Education and Examination Regulations (O.E.R.).

'Every effort to successfully complete the course' means no absence for compulsory lectures and activities including tests, and assignments must have been handed in in time.

During a test you must be able to show your (digital) student card.

Typically, supplementary tests are scheduled in the third week of the next period.

For period	Supplementary tests
1	week 48
2	week 8
3	week 19
4	week 28

[Fraud and plagiarism](#)

Fraud and plagiarism will be strongly punished. Details are stipulated in the Education and Examination Regulations (O.E.R.). It is intolerable to submit work that has been done by someone else, to copy from sources without due acknowledgement and so on. A lecturer must report instances of fraud and plagiarism to the Examinations Board which can impose severe penalties.

Grades in international perspective

Often we receive questions of students concerning the comparison between the grades we give in the Research Master and the grades given in the student's home country. The best we can provide is a comparison with the grading system in the USA, Canada and the UK, made by Nuffic, the Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education. It shows that due to

large differences in grading between universities and instructors in different countries a closely reasoned comparison is not possible. Therefore, the table below should be seen as a preliminary comparison only. It is based on a comparison of the frequency distribution of percentages of grades per country. The figures in this table summarize the grades for secondary and higher education.

Table: Advice for comparison or conversion of grades in the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

The Netherlands	USA/Canada	UK (marks)	UK (grades)
10	no equivalent (A++)*	96% – 100%	no equivalent (A++)*
9.5	no equivalent (A++)*	90% – 95%	no equivalent (A++)*
9	A+	80% – 89%	A+
8.5	A+	70% – 79%	A+
8	A/A-	60% – 69%	A/A-
7.5	A/A-	54% – 59%	B+/B-
7	A-/B+	50% – 53%	B/B-
6.5	B+/B	45% – 49%	C+
6	B/B-/C	40% – 44%	C/D
5.5	D	35% – 39%	Pass
5	F	30% – 34%	F
4	F	25% – 29%	F
3	F	20% – 24%	F
2	F	10% – 19%	F
1	F	0% – 9%	F

* Since A++ is not an existing grade in the mentioned countries; it is just an imaginary grade.

Evaluation of output

The goal of the system for internal quality assistance is to ensure that the HGPM programme is designed and implemented in accordance with external and internal expectations and that the intended high quality of the programme is achieved, maintained and safeguarded for the future. To ensure the attainment of this goal a range of different evaluations is performed on a regular basis. Within this system, the Board of Studies of the Graduate School of Geosciences supervises the quality of the programme and the admission of its students. The Programme Committee is a joint committee of elected students and lecturers appointed by the Dean to advise on the rules on teaching and examination and their implementation and about other matters concerning the programmes of study. The programme director takes care of the evaluation of the results on the semester and programme level. The course coordinators evaluate the courses for which they are responsible. The programme director discusses the results of the individual courses with the course coordinators. The course coordinators and programme director report the results to the programme committee.

The internal quality system can be characterized at three levels:

- Course
- Semester
- Programme

Course level

The formal procedure at course level runs as follows. An evaluation takes place at the closure of each course. The course coordinator conducts the evaluation with the help of a digital evaluation system, based on a standardized format drawn up by the Programme Committee. The questions posed concern the:

- Quality and level of contents of the course (including topicality, scientific quality, lectures and reader)
- Degree to which educational targets have been achieved
- Feasibility for students to achieve good results
- Appeal to students
- Place of the course in the whole programme

The course coordinator discusses the results with the course team and forwards them to the programme director and the Programme Committee. Wherever necessary, the course coordinator takes steps to change and improve parts of the course for the following year. To ensure their continuing involvement, the evaluation results are made public to the students.

The master's thesis and the article and proposal course have their own quality assurance system, although the results follow a procedure similar to that described in Figure 6.1. The evaluation of these individual courses is conducted in an exit conversation between individual students and the programme director. The relevant results of these conversations are conveyed to the Programme Committee.

Semester and programme level

Twice in the first year, all students in this part of the programme are invited for a meeting with the programme director to evaluate the part of the programme in which they have participated (content, facilities, supervision and so forth) and to discuss possible improvements. Furthermore, a final evaluation is offered at the end of the second year. The results of these meetings are reported. Once a year an overall HGPM staff meeting is organized by the programme director to exchange and communicate information and experiences between individual staff members. These meetings have proven to be very valuable.

Programme Research Master in Urban and Economic Geography

[Programme coordinator: dr. A Morrison](#)

[Student Website Urban and Economic Geography](#)

Objectives of the Research Masters programme

The aim of the programme is to provide students with thorough empirical, theoretical and methodological knowledge in urban and economic geography.

Graduates from this Master programme will have an excellent basis for completing any state-of-the-art PhD education in the field of human geography and urban and regional planning. The programme ties in particularly well with the three-year PhD programme of the institutes that are part of the Netherlands Graduate School of Housing and Urban Research NETHUR. Graduates of the Masters programme generally do not have to take any additional courses for their PhD. This means that those students who wish to complete a PhD thesis can, in most cases, do so within a period of three years.

Graduates of the Master programme will also be able to qualify for senior research functions within professional organizations, such as ministries, regional and local bodies and private research companies. After finishing the research Master programme, the graduates will be able to do a complete scientific research within the fields of human geography and spatial planning. This means that they will also be able to assess research and to evaluate research results. These aspects of research are all important tools for a professional research career.

The intended learning outcomes are listed in detail further down below.

Summary of the Master programme

The Research Master's programme Human Geography and Planning (HGPM) offers a two-year training, starting in September of each academic year. The first year of HGPM comprises eight courses (60 ECTS):

- One course (7.5 ECTS) focusing on why people and businesses concentrate in cities;
- One course (7.5 ECTS) focusing on scientific and academic writing;
- One course (7.5 ECTS) focusing on core and new developments in urban and economic geography;
- Two courses (7.5 ECTS each) focusing on advanced and specialized research methods and techniques that are relevant for research in urban and economic geography;
- One course (7.5 ECTS each) focusing on how cities react to or prevent shocks (eg economic, social) from an evolutionary perspective;
- One course (7.5 ECTS) focusing on social inequality in cities and its different dimensions;
- One course (7.5 ECTS) on writing a research proposal for the Master's thesis.

The second year of the programme (60 ECTS) is made up of:

- A Master's thesis research project (45 ECTS), which includes;
- a study period abroad;
- a scientific paper, suitable for publication in a peer reviewed scientific journal and/or a thesis report;
- One course (7.5 ECTS) to write a PhD research proposal.
- One course (7.5 ECTS) focusing on the orientation on an academic or professional career and reflection on personal development.

All courses, including the Master's thesis research project, will be taught by qualified researchers/lecturers of the Urban and Regional Research Centre Utrecht (URU) (see section Lecturers).

Familiarizing sessions

In the first term of the first year, a number of familiarizing sessions are organized. The objectives of these sessions are:

- To help students develop individual, coherent programmes that best match their experience, interests and ambitions. Also, we aim to reduce the premature loss of students, by stimulating interaction between students and staff and by familiarizing students with interesting scientific and societal issues.
- To discuss students disciplinary and educational backgrounds and their motivations and ambitions concerning the research master. These discussions concentrate on the major importance of the master's thesis and appropriate courses or issues for assignments in other courses. The objectives, our partner institutes and practical issues concerning the study period abroad are also discussed.

In these sessions students also get to know each other, meet older generations of research masters students, and become familiar with the city in which they live. Many students do not know each other and the city of Utrecht, so the Dutch students organize a city excursion for the foreigners. The assignments and activities in these familiarizing sessions are designed to stimulate the interaction and cohesion in the group that contribute to harmony and pleasure in studying in the HGPM programme.

[Course schedule](#)

The schedule of the programme is as follows. The course schedule in the appendix also shows the time slots in which the courses will take place. All courses are compulsory unless stated otherwise.

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4
First year	The New Science of Cities 7.5 EC	Urban Social Dynamics 7.5 EC	Urban Resilience 7.5 EC	Key Thinkers in Urban and Economic Geography 7.5 EC
	Quantitative Urban & Economic Analytics 7.5 EC	Doing Qualitative Research in Dynamic Urban settings 7.5 EC	Writing Competences 7.5 EC	Developing a Master Thesis Proposal 7.5 EC

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4
Second year	Master Thesis: Guided Research Abroad and Scientific Publication 45 EC			Communication Competences 7.5 EC
				Scientific Research Proposal 7.5 EC

Intended learning outcomes of the master

The aim of the programme is to provide students with a thorough empirical, theoretical and methodological knowledge in urban and economic geography. As a result of the EU Bologna agreement an international group of experts has developed qualitative descriptions of Bachelor and Master education. The so-called Dublin-descriptors are adopted by the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organization (NVAO) for the evaluation of higher education programmes. The criteria are adopted for this master's programme.

Graduates will be able:

- A1. to present a scholarly analysis of the issues, controversies and theories in the field of urban and economic geography;
- A2. to translate theories in the field of urban and economic geography into empirical research and to elaborate and test new hypotheses;
- A3. to test explanations and interpretations on the basis of different kinds of data sets, such as surveys, administrative data and cartographic data, with the help of relevant advanced methods and techniques;
- A4. to present research results in English orally and in written form clearly and up to high standards;
- A5. to be aware of academic ethics, specifically with respect to research;
- A6. to judge critically, individually and/or in a group setting the scientific aspects of research proposals, publications and oral presentations;
- A7. to recognize up-to-date developments (theoretical and methodological) in the scientific environment of urban and economic geography;
- A8. to translate their research results in the formulation of policy recommendations;
- A9. to use the results of the whole course, and specifically the Master's thesis, for writing a scientific article and a PhD research proposal;
- A10. to master new subjects and cultivate greater critical awareness about the acquired knowledge and the relevance of scientific knowledge for society.

These degree qualifications of the HGPM programme are in line with the national reference framework of research masters graduates in Human Geography, Spatial Planning, Demography, Regional Studies or International Development Studies.

Important contacts for students

[Master programme coordinator](#)

[Find a lecturer](#)

[Student Affairs Faculty of Geosciences](#)

[Secretariat department Human Geography and Spatial Planning](#)

[Study advisor Human Geography and Spatial Planning](#)

[Board of examiners](#)

[International Office Faculty of Geosciences](#)

Important information for students/Where are ...? Services

[Attendance and effort requirements](#)

[Blackboard](#)

[Books, readers and printing](#)

[Buildings](#)

[Career Services UU](#)

[Complaints, objections and appeals](#)

[Department Human Geography and Spatial Planning](#)

[Disability or chronic illness](#)

[Education and examination regulation \(OER\)](#)

[Education committee](#)

[Blackboard](#)

[Faculty of Geosciences](#)

[Fraud and plagiarism](#)

[Graduation](#)

[Honours](#)

[Illness and absence](#)

[Internship](#)

[IT-facilities](#)

[KNAG](#)

[Library](#)

[Map collection](#)

[Nethur](#)

[Osiris Student](#)

[Registration for a course](#)

[Re-enrolment](#)

[Schedules](#)

[Student Service Centre \(UU for U\)](#)

[Study regulations](#)

[Student Statute](#)

Study associations

[V.U.G.S.](#)

[EGEA](#)

[Helix](#)

[Storm](#)

[U.A.V.](#)

Networking drinks

Thursday 29 November 2018 from 16.30 – 19.00 pm.

Networking means creating opportunities to meet other people. Get in touch with Alumni Human Geography, IDS and Spatial Planning

Career Services

During your masterprogram you can find out what kind of job you would like after graduation. Find out what you like, where you are good at and what your possibilities are on the job market.

During your master you will gain a lot of geographical knowledge and skills and you will train the skills you need in your first job. While following courses, try to find out what you like, which skills you are good at and your interests and ambition. Within the course you will be able to explore the job market by attending guest lectures, meeting alumni, studying abroad or doing an internship. This will all help you to get an idea what is needed on the job market.

Career Services will help you as well towards your step to the job market: you can do online tests to find out what is important for you, follow workshops, meet a career officer and practice job-interviews. The once a year career event of Utrecht University will be held in February.

Check the website of your master program or www.uu.nl/careerservices. The Career Officer of the faculty of Geosciences is Mrs. Franca Geerdes (f.geerdes@uu.nl)

2019-2020																							
36	2-Sep 1	37	9-Sep 2	38	16-Sep 3	39	23-Sep 4	40	30-Sep 5	41	7-Oct 6	42	14-Oct 7	43	21-Oct 8	44	28-Oct 9	45	education free				
										MSc open day													
46	11-Nov 1	47	18-Nov 2	48	25-Nov 3	49	2-Dec 4	50	9-Dec 5	51	16-Dec 6	52	x-mas break	1	x-mas break	2	6-Jan 7	3	13-Jan 8	4	20-Jan 9	5	education free
	BSc open day			re-exam period 1																			
6	3-Feb 1	7	10-Feb 2	8	17-Feb 3	9	24-Feb 4	10	2-Mar 5	11	9-Mar 6	12	16-Mar 7	13	23-Mar 8	14	30-Mar 9	15	education free	16	education free		
				re-exam period 2																			
17	20-Apr 1	18	27-Apr 2	19	4-May 3	20	11-May 4	21	18-May 5	22	25-May 6	23	1-Jun 7	24	8-Jun 8	25	15-Jun 9	26	22-Jun 10	27	education free	28	re-exam period 4
		V.U.G.S. symposium		re-exam period 3																			
	Good Friday			week 15	Friday	10-04-20																	
	Easter			week 16	Monday	13-04-20																	
	Kings Day			week 18	Monday	27-04-20																	
	Libaration Day			week 19	Tuesday	05-05-20																	
	Ascension Day			week 21	Thursday	21-05-20																	
	Pentecost			week 23	Monday	01-06-20																	