

**Study guide**  
**Master programme**  
**Spatial Planning**  
**2021-2022**



**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: [www.uu.nl/geo](http://www.uu.nl/geo)

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  
[For more information and opening hours](#)  
Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 9559  
E-mail: [studentaffairs.geo@uu.nl](mailto: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

Buyt Ballotgebouw, rooms 266 & 267  
Princetonplein 5  
3584 CC Utrecht  
Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 2789  
E-mail: [Vugs@uu.nl](mailto:Vugs@uu.nl), Internet: <http://vugs.uu.nl>

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

Buyt Ballotgebouw, room 274  
Princetonplein 5  
3584 CC Utrecht  
Tel. 00 31 (0)30 – 253 9708  
E-mail: [Egea@uu.nl](mailto:Egea@uu.nl), Internet: <http://www.egea.eu/entity/utrecht>

The **Examinations Board** can be contacted through [examencommissie.geo@uu.nl](mailto: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**

For most students the Master's is the final stage of a long educational career. It will be also the shortest one, lasting only one or two years. It is the last step on your way to a professional career. This consideration dictates the character of the Master's program. The program starts with a consolidation and update of the students' knowledge already acquired from earlier specializations, but most time is dedicated to the application of academic research in the professional field, sometimes in combination with an internship.

The Master's programs of the Department of Human Geography and Planning are coordinated by the Academic School Human Geography and Planning.

In this guide you will find specific information about your Master's program. Information about services, the faculty, the education and examination regulation and the schedule of all the courses in the different Master's programs can be found in the latter part of the guide.

I hope you will experience an inspiring and successful master year!

Dr G. Nijenhuis  
Chair Academic School 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	6 September 2021 - 14 November 2021	
2	15 November 2021 – 6 February 2022	No classes in week 52 & week 1
3	7 February 2022 – 24 April 2022	
4	25 April 2022 – 17 July 2022	

### 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).

**During non-Covid times you can find the actual course schedules in [MyTimetable](#) or the MyUUapp four weeks before the courses begin. Check the studyguide and blackboard during periode 1 and 2.**

### [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.

<b>For period</b>	<b>Registration dates</b>	<b>Late registration days</b>
1	31 May – 27 June 2021	23 and 24 August 2021
2	20 September – 3 October 2021	25 and 26 October 2021
3	1 November – 28 November 2021	24 and 25 January 2022
4	31 January t/m 27 February 2022	4 en 5 April 2022

## 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.

<b>For period</b>	<b>Supplementary tests</b>
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.

## **Master programme Spatial Planning**

[Dr. Patrick Witte](#)

Student website: <https://students.uu.nl/en/geo/spatial-planning>

### **Content**

At Utrecht University, Spatial Planning is understood as any legitimate intervention in the future allocation and distribution of land and other spatial resources in and for cities. Therefore, the Master's Programme in Spatial Planning trains you to balance conflicting interests and claims on urban land. Furthermore, we focus on preparing public policy for sustainable cities, managing governance processes in the urban environment, and developing concepts for a sustainable use of resources.

The programme in Utrecht prepares students to approach issues such as real estate development in difficult economic times; to facilitate sustainable urban (re)development; to find answers to changing socio-spatial demands (such as demographic or climate change); to deal with complexities of metropolitan areas, or governance of environmental changes in an uncertain climate, and other. We therefore provide ample opportunity to practise

- analysing spatial problems with scientific methods;
- using existing knowledge and theories to find solutions;
- evaluating and prioritising alternative development options and
- skills in the field of city governance and management.

Although the Master's in Spatial Planning is an academic master, it aims to bridge practice and science. So, we incorporate examples from the field in our teaching and encourage you to do an internship-driven Master's thesis. The master's in Spatial Planning offers an interdisciplinary and integrated approach to planning. There is no specialisation in one sectoral aspect of spatial planning, but instead a broad and interdisciplinary curriculum that embraces an integrated perspective to planning.

Further down below the intended learning outcomes are listed in detail.

### **The labour market**

The Master's prepares for a job as an independent and internationally recognized spatial planner in the sphere of policy, project and process management, or research in the Netherlands or abroad on the local and up to the European levels. With a broad point-of-view and an eye for various interests, planners are widely employed in a range of organizations such as municipal, state or national government, research and consultancy institutions, profit and non-profit institutions, social and civil organizations, international organizations, but also as PhD students at universities.

### **Structure of the Master Spatial Planning**

#### *First Semester*

The first semester is divided in two periods in which you will take four compulsory courses and an elective. We start off with a course on planning theory. This theoretical course will look beyond traditional planning theory, incorporating an interdisciplinary and integrated approach to planning. Parallel, you will take Planning for Sustainable Cities, which is all about different aspects of sustainability as a key principle of spatial planning practice. In interactive classrooms, guest speakers will discuss the issues from different angles. This results in a balance between science and spatial planning practice in period 1.

In period 2 students will further develop skills in quantitative and qualitative research methods. Next to this, you will take the course Urban Governance. It deals with governance and policy research and offers opportunities to apply your knowledge in practical exercises in cooperation with external partners. Additionally, you will choose one elective course offered by the department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning.

During all seminars, students will work in small groups on their individual specialization, always embracing interdisciplinary research which is both academically innovative and societal relevant.

### Second Semester

The second semester is dedicated to the individual research projects of students, ultimately leading to the master thesis. You will be supervised individually by experienced and specialized research staff. We will support you to explore your area of interest within spatial planning and encourage you to propose a thesis subject yourself. The subject should always, on the one hand, relate directly to a societal problem in the field of spatial planning and, on the other hand, be an academic endeavour. Parallel to the master thesis students are encouraged and supported in doing a research internship in planning practice (i.e. at a municipality, a consultancy, with a ministry, an NGO, etc.). Although an internship is not obligatory within the study programme, students are recommended to link and combine the master thesis with an internship. Not only will this provide substantial insight in planning practice and help with establishing connections for empirical research, but it is also a step towards the labour market. When looking for an internship, the supervisors and master coordinator will offer advice and assistance where possible and appropriate.

### Courses within the programme

Period		
1	GEO4-3115 <a href="#">Beyond Planning Theory (B)</a>	GEO4-3117 <a href="#">Planning for Sustainable Cities (A)</a>
2	GEO4-3112 <a href="#">Urban Governance in Spatial Planning (5 EC) (B)</a>	GEO4-3120 <a href="#">Research Methodology (5 EC) (A)</a>
	You can choose one elective course: GEO4-3121 <a href="#">Urban Infrastructures (5 EC) (D)</a> GEO4-3917 <a href="#">Real Estate (5 EC) (D)</a> GEO4-3519 <a href="#">Migration, Mobilities &amp; Sustainable Futures (5 EC) (D)</a> GEO4-5501 <a href="#">Techniques of Futuring (5 EC) (D)</a>	
3 & 4	GEO4-3111 <a href="#">Master's Thesis / Internship Spatial Planning (30 EC) (no timeslot)</a>	

### Intended learning outcomes of the master's programme

A1. Students can analyze spatial problems with scientific methods

This incorporates assisting students in developing an advanced academic attitude, knowledge and skills in their chosen specialization by offering an interactive learning environment inspired by the field of specialization and research activities of lecturers. This entails providing students with:

- a. a critical attitude towards academic research and debate and an awareness of the role and use of (academic) geographical knowledge in society;
- b. knowledge and understanding of the research frontiers in spatial planning as well as their applications in society;
- c. research skills (advanced methods and techniques) for carrying out research in spatial planning.

A2. Students can use existing knowledge and theories to find solutions

Students learn how to use planning theory purposefully to analyze, develop and support spatial planning in practice and research. Therefore, students learn...

- a. ... to raise and discuss relevant questions in planning (i.e. relating the use of knowledge, market mechanism, ethics, etc.) and explore the answers to these questions.
- b. ... to conduct a literature-based research in the field of spatial planning.
- c. ... to discuss academic arguments and theories in order to systematically and self-reliantly inquire a certain planning topic.
- d. ... evaluating and prioritizing alternative development options.

A3. Students can critically reflect on sustainable spatial development

Students discuss the sustainable development of cities and regions and develop skills to critically assess how sustainable certain spatial development practices are. In the course on sustainable cities, students...

- a. ... enhance skills to design and communicate sustainable development and strategies to govern towards sustainable planned cities;
- b. ... learn to critically reflect upon sustainable planning literature and sustainable planning practices, both oral and in written text.

A4. Students understand the governance and management of cities.

Students will learn in the course on urban governance how planning and governance processes in the urban context work. Therefore, different theoretical perspectives on governance in spatial planning are discussed and the role of governance is analyzed in case studies of (inter-)national complex spatial projects. Students learn to...

- a. ... critically reflect upon current dilemma's and conflicts in scientific and societal debates related to the differentiated and complex nature of governance networks in spatial planning;
- b. ... enhance skills to collectively design and communicate spatial project and process management strategies for addressing complex spatial challenges in planning practice.

A5. Finally, students will proof their ability to apply the academic knowledge and skills acquired during the master study to specific spatial planning problems in an independent and self-responsible way.

## **Important contacts for students**

[Master coordinator Spatial Planning](#)

[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](#)

[U.A.V.](#)

## 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](http://www.uu.nl/careerservices). The Career Officer of the faculty of Geosciences is Mrs. Franca Geerdes ([f.geerdes@uu.nl](mailto:f.geerdes@uu.nl))

**2021-2022**

<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>
6 Sep 1	13-Sep 2	20-Sep 3	27-Sep 4	4-Oct 5	11-Oct 6	18-Oct 7	25-Oct 8	1-Nov 9	education free

MSc open day

<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
15Nov 1	22-Nov 2	29-Nov 3	6- Dec 4	13-Dec 5	20-Dec 6	Xmas holiday	Xmas holiday	10-Jan 8	17-Jan 9	24-Jan 10	Education free

Re-exam  
P1

<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
7-Feb 1	14-Feb 2	21-Feb 3	28-Feb 4	7-March 5	14-March 6	21-March 7	28-March 8	4-Apr 9	Education free	Education free

Re-exam  
P2

<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
25-Apr 1	2-May 2	9-May 3	16-May 4	23-May 5	30-May 6	6-June 7	13-June 8	20-June 9	27-June 10	Education free	Re-exam P4

Re-exam  
P3

V.U.G.S.  
symposium

Good Friday	week 15	Friday	15-04-22
Easter	week 16	Monday	18-04-22
Kings Day	week 17	Wednesday	27-04-22
Libaration Day	week 18	Thursday	05-05-22
Ascension Day	week 21	Thursday	26-05-22
Pentecost	week 23	Monday	06-06-22