

# Master of Science in Geography



## DURATION

2 years (full-time), 120 ECTS

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

31 January

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR



**1st semester:** 3rd week of September → end of January (exams in January)



**2nd semester:** 2nd week of February → July (exams in June)

[www.kuleuven.be/academiccalendar](http://www.kuleuven.be/academiccalendar)

The Master of Science in Geography is a two-year advanced study programme jointly organised by KU Leuven and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). This interuniversity master's programme offers comprehensive training in approaches to social geographical and/or natural geographical phenomena. It aims to provide a deeper understanding of geographical problems and methods, knowledge of theoretical debates within the discipline and practical training in the use of geographical techniques.

This highly competitive programme is jointly offered by the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at KU Leuven and the Department of Geography at VUB and is firmly rooted in current research at both universities. Both departments continuously develop and maintain innovative and internationally recognised research programmes on fundamental and applied aspects of the geosciences, covering a wide range of spatial and temporal scales. Within the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at KU Leuven, geographical research activities are focused on earth surface processes and climate, human-environment interactions, society and space, tourism, and education in the geosciences. Research in the Department of Geography at VUB is focused on the dynamics of glacial systems, the study of hazardous geomorphological and volcanological processes, small-scale cartography and map projections, remote sensing, and the geography of world cities.

More information on research activities at KU Leuven and VUB:

[www.ees.kuleuven.be/geography](http://www.ees.kuleuven.be/geography)

[www.we.vub.ac.be/en/geography-department](http://www.we.vub.ac.be/en/geography-department)

## Programme

The full programme comprises 120 ECTS. In addition to core courses on human-environment interactions and research methods in geography (27 ECTS), you take the compulsory courses within your chosen specialisation (33-34 ECTS) as well as a number of specialised electives in your field (29-30 ECTS). The remaining 30 ECTS are allocated to the master's thesis. The programme offers three specialisations:

**Earth and Climate:** this specialization focuses on terrestrial ecosystems and environmental changes, emphasising timely and relevant research topics in the geosciences like global warming, ice-climate interaction, soil and water conservation, long-term landscape development, natural hazards and risk assessment.

**City, Society and Space:** in a strongly urbanised world there is a growing need to better understand social, economic, cultural, and political dynamics of urban areas. This specialisation focuses on the multifaceted issues that cities are experiencing in the current era of globalisation.

**GIS and Spatial Modelling:** within this specialisation you will become acquainted with new approaches and techniques for acquiring, managing, analysing and mapping spatial data. Within this specialisation you can also opt to include a two-month GIS internship in your study programme.

Courses are taught at KU Leuven's Arenberg Campus in Heverlee and at the VUB campus in Etterbeek. A joint degree will be awarded upon the successful completion of the programme.

For detailed descriptions of the courses and for the course timetable, please consult

[www.kuleuven.be/ma/mgeogel/programme](http://www.kuleuven.be/ma/mgeogel/programme).

KU Leuven  
Faculty of Science  
Leuven, Belgium

VUB  
Faculty of Science and  
Bio-engineering sciences  
Brussels, Belgium

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## Discover KU Leuven

Founded in 1425, the University of Leuven (KU Leuven) has been a centre of learning for almost six centuries. Today, it is Belgium's largest and highest-ranked university as well as one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe. As a leading European research university and co-founder of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), KU Leuven offers a wide variety of programmes in English supported by high-quality interdisciplinary research.

Within the field of science, engineering, and technology, KU Leuven offers five academic educational profiles organized in five faculties: Science, Engineering Science, Bioscience Engineering, Engineering Technology, and Architecture. Boasting an outstanding central location in the heart of Europe, KU Leuven offers a truly international experience, high-quality education, world-class research and cutting-edge innovation.

## Admission requirements

To be eligible for the Master in Geography, you must have obtained a basic knowledge of the natural and social sciences, as well as a broad introduction in geography. You also have to provide evidence of your English proficiency.

Programme admission: [www.kuleuven.be/ma/mgeogel](http://www.kuleuven.be/ma/mgeogel)

General admission: [www.kuleuven.be/admissions](http://www.kuleuven.be/admissions)

## Tuition fees

The tuition fee for the 2016 – 2017 academic year is € 890 for all students. The tuition fee for future academic years may be higher as a result of indexation. Please consult the website for the most recent information: [www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees](http://www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees).

## Application procedure

KU Leuven uses an online application system. You can download and submit your application form via [www.kuleuven.be/application](http://www.kuleuven.be/application). Students with a Flemish degree can consult [www.kuleuven.be/studentenadministratie](http://www.kuleuven.be/studentenadministratie).

## Career perspectives

As both a natural science and a social science, the discipline of geography integrates the study of physical and human environments. Thus, geographers have long applied integrated and multidisciplinary approaches to solve real-world problems on all spatial scales – from the local to the global. There is a growing demand for qualified professionals in the field of geo-sciences. As a graduate of this interuniversity Master of Science in Geography programme, your skills will be highly sought after by surveying companies, mapping agencies, service and utility providers and public entities, as well as by national and international administrations dealing with urban and rural land-use planning, disaster management, environmental conservation and management. Graduates considering a career in research or education can pursue a PhD upon completion of the programme.

