

Study programme: Advanced Master of Human Settlements

Drawn up on: October, 2019.

Since 2010, the Faculty of Engineering Science acknowledged the opportunities and benefits of a transnational accreditation and sought contact with CTI. CTI or "Commission des titres d'ingénieur" (CTI) is a French accreditation organisation and is equally composed of representatives of employers and professional engineers and academia. CTI is also a member of ENQA (European Network for Quality Assurance) and EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register). Furthermore, CTI is authorised by ENAEE (European Network for Accreditation of the Engineering Education) to award the EUR-ACE label. Therefore, the Faculty based its Quality Assurance on the accreditation process of the "Commission des titres d'ingénieur" (CTI) and the achievement of the EURACE label.

At institutional level, the KU Leuven uses the [COBRA method](#) to work on the quality of its study programmes. In this report, the programme committee reports every four years on the quality of its programme(s) and describes the identified strength(s) and planned action(s) of its programme(s). **Advanced Master of Human Settlements**

Strengths of the study programme(s)

- Unique position within educational landscape of Belgium and internationally, including a long tradition and forthcoming 40-year jubilee;
- Strong research basis, with an emphasis on the scientific underpinning of the discipline of human settlements, the central role given to space as a resource (in urban transformations) and as a medium of integration;
- Diversity of incoming students, both in terms of geographic origin, and in terms of professional/educational backgrounds (see country overview list);
- Broad network of alumni and a sound reputation fostering an active system of collaborations supporting the selection of design studio topics, final thesis topics, etc. (examples: UNRWA; UN-Habitat Asia + Arcadis Shelter Program, etc.) and a credible reputation as international research partner;
- Quality and quantity of visiting faculty and international speakers as part of lecture series, studio juries and showcase events such as World Urbanisms (see www.worldurbanisms.com and Annexes 5 to 9);
- Synergy MaHS – MaUSP – EMU;
- Inter-disciplinary collaborations with anthropology, geography ... (See Annexes 10 to 12 for the joint CADES course with the Institute for Anthropological Research in Africa (IARA))

This COBRA report is a result of the past four-year COBRA cycle (2015-2019). Each study programme that participated in the COBRA cycle has drawn up this document, which specifies the strengths and planned actions of the study programme. These strengths and actions result from the dialogue between the programme and its stakeholders (primary actors, alumni, professional field and international experts from the discipline). This report aims to give a comprehensive indication of the study programme's realised quality. The COBRA report will be made available in the programme guide, so it will be accessible to the public.



Planned actions

In the framework of quality assurance, a core element in the wider perspective of institutional reviews, several quality-monitoring actions have been structurally embedded since 2015. Concerning the Educational Committee (EC), following stakeholders are taken into account: students, teaching staff and alumni.

- Start of the substantial programme reform in 2019-2020;
- LinkedIn alumni group follow-up together with more significant involvement in other social media to promote the programme;
- Nurture existing synergies and strengthen collaborations of international resonance to showcase the programme's standing and ambitions;
- Continue to clarify and reinforce the programme's overall vision, both in synergy with the MaUSP.

Planned actions are described in detail in the programme development plan.

More information on CTI:

- <https://www.cti-commission.fr/en/>
- Remaud, B, Berbers Y, Jolly, AM, Nolland, J (2017), Accreditation of Flemish Civil Engineers programmes (2016): an experience of cross-border Quality Assurance, Proceedings of the SEFI Annual Conference 2017.
- Sánchez, T. (2015), ESG 2015, part 1: https://www.cti-commission.fr/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/colloque_cti_esg201508.pdf.