

## Study programme: Advanced Master of Human Settlements

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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.
- Strong research basis, with an emphasis on the scientific underpinning of the discipline of human settlements and the central role given to space as a resource (in urban transformations) and as a medium of integration.
- Workshops and studios abroad are an added value which for understanding new contexts and working together with local students, intuitions and stakeholders.
- Diversity of incoming students, both in terms of geographic origin, and in terms of professional and educational backgrounds.
- Broad network of alumni well-placed in public and private organizations and firms which fosters 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.).
- Long-standing international partnerships through VLIR-UOS and which now includes regional hubs with partner institutions in Vietnam, South Africa, Kenya, Palestine and Ecuador.
- Quality and quantity of visiting faculty and international speakers as part of lecture series, studio juries and showcase events such as European Urbanism, World Urbanisms and Regional Urbanisms.
- Synergies with multiple programs across various departments and faculties (MaULP, Master of Engineering Science – Architecture, Anthropology, Bio-Science Engineering; Geography).

This COBRA report is a result of the past four-year COBRA cycle (2019-2023). 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

- Increasing dissemination of program results through the program website and various social media; more explicitly show the program's unique points, particularly their long-standing diverse and international nature as well as more emphasis on student work and sustainability.
- Increasing interaction with program's alumni and their involvement in educational activities (respondents on theses, studio reviewers, etc.).
- Nurturing of existing synergies and strengthen collaborations of international resonance to showcase the program's standing and ambitions.
- Learning from COVID-19 by incorporating "blended learning" to incorporate more expertise from around the world through online guest lectures; feedback from various stakeholders, practitioners academics and alumni during design studio reviews.
- Develop effective synergies with Faculty of Architecture not only to tackle the issue of understaffing, but also to create new ways of knowledge exchange.
- Develop a feedback structure within the program regarding learning outcomes, teaching, grading system, exam expectations, thesis guidance etc.

## 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](https://www.cti-commission.fr/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/colloque_cti_esg201508.pdf).