The course of study

The standard period of study for the Master of Spatial Planning is two semesters. The programme is completed with the academic degree “Master of Science” (M.Sc.). For this, 60 credit points (CP) must be achieved in four modules. Credits are compatible with the so-called European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

1. Semester

- Module 1: General Spatial Research and Planning
- Module 2: Master project / Master studio

2. Semester

- Module 3: Individual Specialization
- Module 4: Master thesis

In the four modules, the comprehensive and overarching understanding of spatial planning is deepened, which relates to all spatial levels, from neighbourhood to city, region, the European level and beyond. Planning skills are conveyed based on content and methods from social science, engineering, economics, law and natural science content and methods. The examinations include oral, project and design disputations, the Master’s thesis and, depending on the choice of courses, graded and ungraded seminar papers. The degree programme can alternatively be studied part-time. In this case approximately 20 CP per semester are earned in three semesters.

Admission and contact

The Master’s programme is aimed in particular at graduates of urban and spatial planning programmes. Applicants from related fields of study (e.g. geography, landscape planning, architecture or urban planning) can be admitted to the Master’s programme after an individual review if the content, scope and requirements of the study periods and achievements do not differ significantly from the B.Sc. in Spatial Planning. Students can start their studies at the beginning of each semester. The International Office is responsible for admission of students who graduated at a school outside of Germany.

Further info

Application and admission
The winter term starts first of October. The summer term starts first of April. Application periods differ according to the term:
- 15th of March until 15th of July for winter term
- 15th of November until 15th of January for summer term

Please consider: the earlier you send your application to the International Office, the earlier you will be notified whether your application was successful.

Detailed information about admission & enrolment: https://international.tu-dortmund.de/en/international-students/international-applicants/

Student advisory service
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The Master of Spatial Planning

Building on the eight-semester German-language Bachelor’s programme, the Department of Spatial Planning offers a two-semester Master’s programme in Spatial Planning. This can be studied in German or English. Students can also choose to enroll in the two-year English-language Master’s programme “Spatial Planning for Regions in Growing Economies (SPRING)”.

The Master’s degree in Spatial Planning prepares students for a management function in practical professional fields of spatial planning as well as for professional activity in international fields and in science and research. The Master’s programme qualifies students for the increasing demands on scientifically sound planning knowledge in professional practice and provides the ability to organise and control planning projects at all planning and decision-making levels as well as to lead interdisciplinary working groups.

Structure of the programme

Module 1: General Spatial Research and Planning
In Module 1 (10 CP), knowledge of current spatial research and spatial planning from a regional, national and international perspective is taught. The module forms the basis for a scientific-critical examination of spatial planning topics and leads to a self-reflective positioning in spatial research.

Module 2: Master Project / Master Design Studio
In Module 2 (12 CP), students choose either a research project or a design project conducted in small groups of usually four to six students. The topics are oriented towards current issues of spatial planning and allow a special topical focus. The work deepens analytical and conceptual competences and promotes general skills such as teamwork or project management and coordination.

Module 4: Master Thesis
The Master’s thesis in Module 4 (20 CP) is a scientific work in the field of spatial planning. The thesis can have a theoretical, empirical or conceptual-design focus. In the thesis, students should show that they can independently work on a complex spatial planning issue according to scientific and professional standards within the given time limit of four months.

Module 3: Specialization
In Module 3 (20 CP), students can delve into central topics and challenges of urban and spatial planning and develop an individual profile within the framework of eight specializations offered. The choice of a specialization is possible according to individual decision. Students can choose from the topics below, a sub-topic, or a synthesis of topics.

- Strategic urban and regional development (mainly German)
- Urban development (only German)
- Open space and environmental planning (mainly German)
- Spatial and mobility research (mainly German)
- Real Estate Management (only German)
- Renewable Energies (only German), courses in cooperation with the Department of Electrical Engineering & Information Technology
- Planning in the Global South (English)
- Urban Transformation (English)

Within the offered specializations, comprehensive specialist knowledge is imparted. Students deal intensively with the current state of research and practice through professional discussions, especially with professors of the Department.

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