



Master of Science Urban Management & Development



Programme description & features

The MSc in Urban Management and Development is a 1-year English-taught multidisciplinary programme featuring four master tracks offered by IHS, Erasmus University Rotterdam. Students will get the latest insights into urban development during the first part of the program. The second part of the program offers the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge about specific topics in the specialisations and when writing their theses.

Cities are in a constant state of unprecedented change. By 2050, more than two-thirds of the population will reside in cities. Population movements of this scale create multi-level physical, economic, environmental and social challenges. To remain sustainable, liveable and competitive, cities need well-trained urban managers in policy development and good governance. The MSc programme focuses on socio-spatial dynamics in planning, climate resilience and sustainability, governance of digital innovation and equitable access to sustainable land and housing.

The MSc programme is designed to provide students with the skills to analyse, understand and solve contemporary urban issues in their countries through forward-looking policy-making. A key feature of the programme is the use of comparative methodologies to discuss urban issues, policies and trends from around the world. Next to high-quality academic content, the programme also equips students with knowledge of data analysis and communication skills.

Facilitators

Together with its partners, IHS works at the forefront of urban development. The institute advises local and national governments on urban issues, trains public service staff and contributes to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) discussion.

IHS works with global leaders in the field of urban development, including UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance and ICLEI. It also partners with leading universities in the Netherlands and around the world to deliver a comprehensive understanding of urban development. The institute offers its students guest lectures from different areas of expertise, such as water management, urban economics, logistics, transport, and heritage preservation, alongside other additional academic resources.

International

The IHS classroom is highly diverse, with students from more than 45 countries. They come from different fields, such as architecture, engineering, planning, economics, social science, environmental science and housing. Many participants have experience in the private and public sectors as well as multilateral and bilateral organisations and NGOs.



photo by 500watt.nl

Master tracks

The four master tracks are part of the MSc Urban Management and Development.



Urban Housing & Land Justice
Intersectional Approaches to Housing, Land & Environmental Justice

Urban Environment, Sustainability & Climate Change
Integrated Management of Land, Water & Atmosphere

Urban Digital Transformation & Innovation
Governance & Economics of Cities

Strategic Urban Planning & Policies
Managing Socio-Spatial Dynamics for Sustainable Cities

Year structure



Teaching methods

Our teaching and learning methods are anchored in the unique IHS approach of cross-fertilization of education, advisory and research.

The IHS approach is designed to equip students with the knowledge to make cities more sustainable, equal, just and smart. Alongside IHS teaching and research activities, our faculty members carry out research projects and advise urban governments around the globe. Challenges, learnings and questions from these different contexts are brought back to the classroom and into our curriculum. This teaching method allows students to

contribute to temporary research by dedicating their master's thesis to real-world urban issues.

A key feature of the IHS teaching methods is the link between theories with practice. Students learn through a blend of lectures, real-life case studies, discussions, simulation environments, written assignments and group work. Field visits and projects in Rotterdam and other Dutch cities provide first-hand exposure to local urban problems. Students have the option to complete their thesis fieldwork abroad and immerse themselves in a relevant urban context to collect data.

Why join this programme?



Specialise in one of four trending urban topics



Live & study in Rotterdam, the heart of urban innovation



Benefit from a tailor-made programme



Study in a diverse classroom, with over 45 nationalities



Learn from renowned urban lecturers & experts



Join a global alumni network with 10.000+ members

Skills graduates gain

- Identify contemporary urban issues and trends in the Global North & South.
- Monitor and assess urban management policies in terms of actors, performance and context.
- Design multidisciplinary urban policies that account for the physical, economic, environmental and social aspects of urban spaces.
- Implement creative policy-making and strategic planning to increase the quality of life in cities.
- Manage stakeholders, communicate effectively and execute complex decision-making.
- Design policies, strategies and actions based on problem analysis and applied research.
- Conduct academic, applied and commissioned research across a spectrum of urban topics.
- Work with international teams across different sectors and disciplines.
- Learn to use up-to-date techniques and methods for analysing urban issues.



#24

worldwide for Development Studies Top Universities (QS)



#4

worldwide for Public Administration Shanghai Ranking



#5

for Planning & Development Center University Rankings (1000)



#99

worldwide Times Higher Education (500)

Rotterdam: a city with daring urban vision

Iconic architecture, pioneering urban planning, and a celebrated multicultural population have thrust Rotterdam to the forefront of innovation and cultivation within the urban world. IHS is proud of its Rotterdam history, helping to rebuild and reinvent the city after the devastation caused by the Second World War.

Set against an impressive skyline, the city is filled with excellent local and international transport links, making it the perfect base to explore everything the Netherlands and the rest of Europe have to offer. There are well-connected transport systems and safe bicycle paths, which makes travelling around the city very enjoyable. It is a city steeped in diversity, with more than 170 different nationalities making up the 600,000 inhabitants of Rotterdam. Plus, learning English is compulsory in the Dutch education system, which makes it easier to engage with locals.

"Make it happen" is a vision that supports the growth of the city of Rotterdam and creates a positive societal impact alongside Erasmus University.

Campus

IHS, Erasmus University Rotterdam is located on the Woudestein campus, only 15 minutes away from the city centre by bike.

Our campus offers:



State of the art university library



Theatre



Fitness and sports centre



Tennis court and sports fields



Supermarket, bike repair, salon



Grand café, food court, bar & coffee



International student housing



Metro and tram stops



Funding

On our funding options page (www.ihs.nl/scholarships), you can find information about the following and other scholarships:

- Early Bird Tuition Fee waiver (€ 2000)
- Joint Japan/World Bank Scholarship Programme (JJ/WBSP)
- NL Scholarship Programme (partial, 4 awardee per year)
- Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP)
- Sallie Mae
- COLFUTURO
- CONACYT
- La Fundación Mexicana para la Educación, la Tecnología y la Ciencia (FUNED)
- Islamic Development Bank

More information on funding:

www.ihs.nl/scholarships

Note: Letters of Acceptance (LoA) from IHS often must support scholarship applications. For this purpose, IHS will grant conditional admission to qualified candidates. Funding application procedures take time. Please approach donors and funding bodies at least six months before the start of the course.



Facts & figures

Duration	1 year
Start of studies	September
Credits (ECTs)	60 ECTs
Language	English
Accreditation	Accredited by the NVAO
Part- or Full-Time Status	Full-time
Faculty	Erasmus School of Social and Behavioral Sciences (ESSB)
Tuition fee	EU/EEA & Non-EU/EEA students (institutional fee): € 18,600
Application deadlines	Early Bird deadline EU/EEA & Non-EU/EEA students: 15 April Regular deadline EU/EEA: 1 July & Non-EU/EEA students: 1 June
Course information & application procedure	www.ihs.nl/umd

Early bird

Want to save
€2.000 on your
tuition fee?

Then be an Early
Bird: apply before
15 April & submit
your fee before
15 May.

Admission requirements

- A relevant **bachelor's degree*** from a recognised university with a minimum GPA of 6.5 (Dutch grading system), lower-second class honours (2.2), B or equivalent
- Evidence of a **sufficient command of English.****
- **Working experience** in a relevant field is considered an important asset during the selection procedure.

* Please note that **relevant backgrounds vary per master track**.

** More details can be found on our website: www.ihs.nl/umd

Chinese students have to apply for the Nuffic certificate: www.nesochina.org

Partners


UN-Habitat
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE
UN-Habitat


POLIS University
Albania


Renmin University
China


Wuhan University
China


Shanghai Jiao Tong University
China


Xiamen University
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Sun Yat-sen University
China


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Erasmus University Rotterdam
Make it happen.

