The Polytech network is a French group of 13 Universities Polytechnic Schools of Engineering offering more than 80 specialties among 3 major domains, including: Biotechnology, Bioengineering, Food Science; Civil Engineering, Environmental Science; Electrical Engineering, Industrial Engineering: Computer Science, Applied Mathematics; Mechanical Engineering, Materials Science.

More than 12,000 enrolled students are in the Polytech network that represents 3,300 graduates per year. 1,200 PhD students are also studying in the Polytech network. Finally more than 10,000 graduates are also studying in the Polytech network.

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**Course Content**

**Module 1 – Urban and Regional Issues, Planning Institutions and Practice, a Cross-National Approach**
This module introduces to the topics and approaches that are dealt with in the other modules. It is based on the institutional context of planning in Europe and in France, with presentations by students of planning issues in their own country. The module offers a first approach to the cross-national analysis of planning issues and systems, which is to be consolidated in the other modules.

3 ECTS, 20 hours
Keywords: Planning systems, institutions, planning practice, comparative studies, cross-national approach, Europe, France.

**Module 2 – Cities, City-Regions and Strategic Spatial Planning**
This module provides an understanding of the role of the city-region. It highlights the connections to debates regarding spatial dynamics in Europe, metropolitan governance, competitiveness and sustainable development. The consequences of the city-region for urban planning theory and practice are discussed through a discussion of strategic spatial planning exercises in various European city-regions, especially in England and France.

4 ECTS, 16 hours
Keywords: Territorial competitiveness, city-region, strategic spatial planning, governance, sustainable urban development.

**Module 3 – Risks, Decision Making and Planning**
Today, a need to reduce the risk of disaster in cities is a priority for European governments. This module focuses on the goals of risk management, defined as a cross-sector public policy integrating civil security, environmental or health policies. It also defines a territorial approach of hazard mapping and planning as part of a complex urban network system.

4 ECTS, 16 hours
Keywords: Flood risk management, structural and non structural measures, flood risk maps, social vulnerability.

**Module 4 – Project, Heritage and Sustainable Development**
Heritage approaches, territorial growth and sustainable development proceed from different theoretical perspectives and can be oriented by separated practices. The question is how could they be hybridised within spatial planning and local development projects? The major purpose of this module is to offer a multidimensional and interdisciplinary analysis of the social and cultural environmental questions, in various territorial scales.

4 ECTS, 16 hours
Keywords: Urban project, heritage, sustainable urban development, energy.

**Module 5 – Project Sciences and Analysis of Space: Planning Process and Complexity**
The growing number of stakeholders has largely contributed to changing the planning process, while the socio-spatial analysis of territories has seen the emergence of “sensitive” areas. This module offers a theoretical and methodological approach to address planning projects and space analysis through the prism of complexity.

4 ECTS, 16 hours
Keywords: Project sciences, sensitive approach, stakeholders, spatial practices.

**Module 6 – Research Methods**
This module has three interrelated aims: (1) to refine the research skills of students; (2) to help students to develop their own research and (3) to develop critical evaluative skills in helping the students involved in the project conducted by other scholars. It focuses firstly on how to conceptualize a research issue and how to carry out investigations. Second, it proposes methods for conducting a literature review as well as case studies. It also prepares students to use quantitative or qualitative methods, according to the specific research questions they wish to investigate.

4 ECTS, 16 hours
Keywords: research process, research design, methodology, quantitative and qualitative methods.

**Module 7 – Field Trip**
The purpose of this trip is to observe various towns, rural areas and natural landscapes, as well as to meet decision-makers in the planning field. This activity will provide students with experiences outside their everyday activities. Students will be involved in planning the actual trip and post-trip activities (including the organization of an exhibition). The Loire Valley is to offer many specific sites of cultural landscapes and of urban projects.

3 ECTS, 16 hours
Keywords: non-experimental research, observation, photography.

**Module 8 – French Language and French Culture, Job Training**
French language and culture are a key component of the programme. Students attending the URP/PS master program will have to succeed to an English Level Test and to French Level Test.

4 ECTS, 20 hours

**Module 9 – Research Training (Research laboratory, CNRS UMR CITERES)**
This unit validates the research placement that will be conducted within the research laboratory. Cities, Territory, Environment and Society (CITERES) and its research team “Urban and Regional Planning projects, landscape and environment”. The various research programs carried out by this group provide the intellectual environment for the decision making and the critical understanding of each student’s individual research. A tutor will be assigned to each student as the final part of this module.

30 ECTS, 180 hours
Keywords: research process, research design, methodology.

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**Description of the Programme**

**Duration** 1 year (2 semesters)
**Total ECTS Credits** 60
**Starting Date** September

**Objectives**
This Master aims to help students to develop a critical understanding of contemporary planning challenges for cities and urban regions, in the context of climate change and growing human needs. The context is focused on European-scale urban issues, but the programme is designed so that students may confront up-to-date scientific knowledge on planning with their own cultural background and planning experiences. Through the Master, each student becomes familiar with the advantages and limitations of cross-national transfer of good practice in the urban policy field.

As a Master research, this programme trains students to deal with up-to-date research issues and methods. Through research, it proposes students to start a PhD or to take leadership roles in urban development and management, especially in an international context. It invites students to develop innovative concepts and strategies for qualitative interventions in urban territories.

**Admission Requirements**
With 260 European credits (ECTS), specialization in urban and regional planning (environment, architecture, local development).

**English Proficiency**
Level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages or equivalent. Orientations: TCF 200 points or DELF A2.

**French Proficiency**
Only required for everyday life, minimum recommended level: A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, i.e. TOEFL 200 points or equivalent (Internet-based TOEFL score = 577, TOEIC score = 750, IELTS = 5, Cambridge = FCE).

**Course Content**

- **Module 1 – Urban and Regional Issues, Planning Institutions and Practice, a Cross-National Approach**
- **Module 2 – Cities, City-Regions and Strategic Spatial Planning**
- **Module 3 – Risks, Decision Making and Planning**
- **Module 4 – Project, Heritage and Sustainable Development**
- **Module 5 – Project Sciences and Analysis of Space: Planning Process and Complexity**
- **Module 6 – Research Methods**
- **Module 7 – Field Trip**
- **Module 8 – French Language and French Culture, Job Training**
- **Module 9 – Research Training (Research laboratory, CNRS UMR CITERES)**