Master SPATIAL, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS - General Information 2018-2019

Learning outcomes

After completing the programme the student has:

- An academic level of thinking (logical, reflective, critical, creative, ethical and independent).
- Theoretical, methodological and empirical knowledge of the relevant aspects of the three specialisations Urban & Regional, Transport and Environmental Economics, including policy aspects connected to location decisions, urban and regional development, the functioning of the land market and spatial planning policy; the functioning of markets and the associated failures in traffic and transport and the policy implications; and the economics of environmental problems and policy.
- Knowledge of and insight into the various relationships between economics, space, transport, environment and policy.
- Skills to independently set up, prepare, carry out and report on scientific research; ability to adequately analyse, interpret and critically examine his/her own research results and those of others and to clearly present the results of such analyses verbally as well as on paper.
- Insight into the importance of the field of spatial economics in its broad historical, philosophical and social context.
- Methodological knowledge required to independently carry out policy-related or other research in the domain of the programme.
- Professional skills required to apply this knowledge adequately, efficiently and productively in actual practice. Moreover, he/she has developed the ability to creatively and systematically handle problems occurring in professional practice, by using the relevant theoretical and methodological knowledge and skills to clarify and solve them.
- Insight into the policy aspects and challenges present in the domain of the programme, and knowledge and skills to adequately reflect on them and give appropriate advice from an economic perspective.
- Academic attitude, independence, communicative abilities (verbally and on paper), a collaborative attitude and a critical awareness of the moral and ethical dimensions of scientific knowledge and its application.
- Academic skills in accessing new literature, judging its relevance, absorbing and applying it in his/her daily professional practice.

Teaching

Tuition is carried out in plenary lectures and small groups. Much attention is paid to an active method of studying. This includes writing study papers, analysis of data and preparing practical assignments. In this way students become familiar with the application of advanced theory to practical work. It also serves to integrate the theory studied in the individual courses into a
comprehensive body of knowledge. Papers are written both individually and in groups of two or three students, thus furthering the students’ ability to work in teams. Much time is also devoted to presentation and discussion of one's work to fellow-students and staff and group discussion of e.g. research papers. The small-scale tuition environment provides an excellent opportunity for guidance and feedback by staff and other students. Apart from developing the student's communicative skills in oral and written presentation, much attention is paid to the development of critical judgement in assessing research work of others.

Enrolment for courses and exams

For all courses and all examinations you wish to take you are required to register through VUnet in advance in order to be admitted.