



Universität
Basel

Master of Arts in Critical Urbanisms

University of Basel



Universität
Basel

Departement
Gesellschaftswissenschaften



What is Critical Urbanisms?



Migration research in the Mediterranean, 2019.

Critical Urbanism

Critical urbanism means opening up an exploratory space for learning that traverses disciplinary purviews on the city and enriches urban studies through collaborative work and practical intervention.

Critical urbanism means harnessing the urban humanities to develop situated modes of engagement, opening up the potentials of other ways of knowing cities and exploring alternative practices of world-making in them. In our rapidly changing and contested global environment, cities are becoming increasingly important: they house a majority of the world's inhabitants and act as catalysts of social, political, economic, cultural, and ecological change.

The **Master in Critical Urbanisms** at the **University of Basel** offers a pedagogical platform for understanding these planetary transformations. The program expands the study of the urban by examining today's social struggles and global conflicts in relation to the legacies of empire and alternative practices of world-making and knowledge production. It starts from the premise that the world's urban and environmental challenges call for new ways of thinking as well as doing. Imagining alternative futures means rethinking the present—its historical making, its political unfolding, and the ways in which it is made sensible.



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Why Critical Urbanisms at the University of Basel?



The Master in Critical Urbanisms is an **English-taught four-semester program** that trains a new generation of graduates to think and act beyond divisions of urban versus rural and North versus South in order to address the complexity of urban lifeworlds in the twenty-first century.

The program is supported by an internationally recognized faculty who work on and with cities and territories from a global perspective.

The curriculum trains students to develop theoretical and practical competencies, oriented toward both scholarly and public platforms. This combination is essential to address the extraordinarily complex imperatives of urbanization in the twenty-first century.

The program prepares students for careers in a variety of national and international settings, from research institutions to local, regional, and national government planning offices, development aid organizations, NGOs, architecture and design firms, museums, urban planning and policy offices, international organizations, universities, and consultancy firms. Students will be equipped and are also encouraged to continue their studies at the PhD level to pursue an academic career.

Two trademark elements:

1) **Interdisciplinary urban research** that combines humanities and social science methods with **creative** practice and visual representation. Drawing from the disciplines of architecture, geography, history, sociology, political science, and anthropology, the curriculum provides students with a unique grounding in urban research.

2) Immersive learning in dynamic urban contexts, with the choice between a semester of study and research on urbanisms from the Global South, which takes place at the **African Centre for Cities of the University of Cape Town**, or a semester of study and **multi-sited research exploring urban processes that work across North/South geographies**.

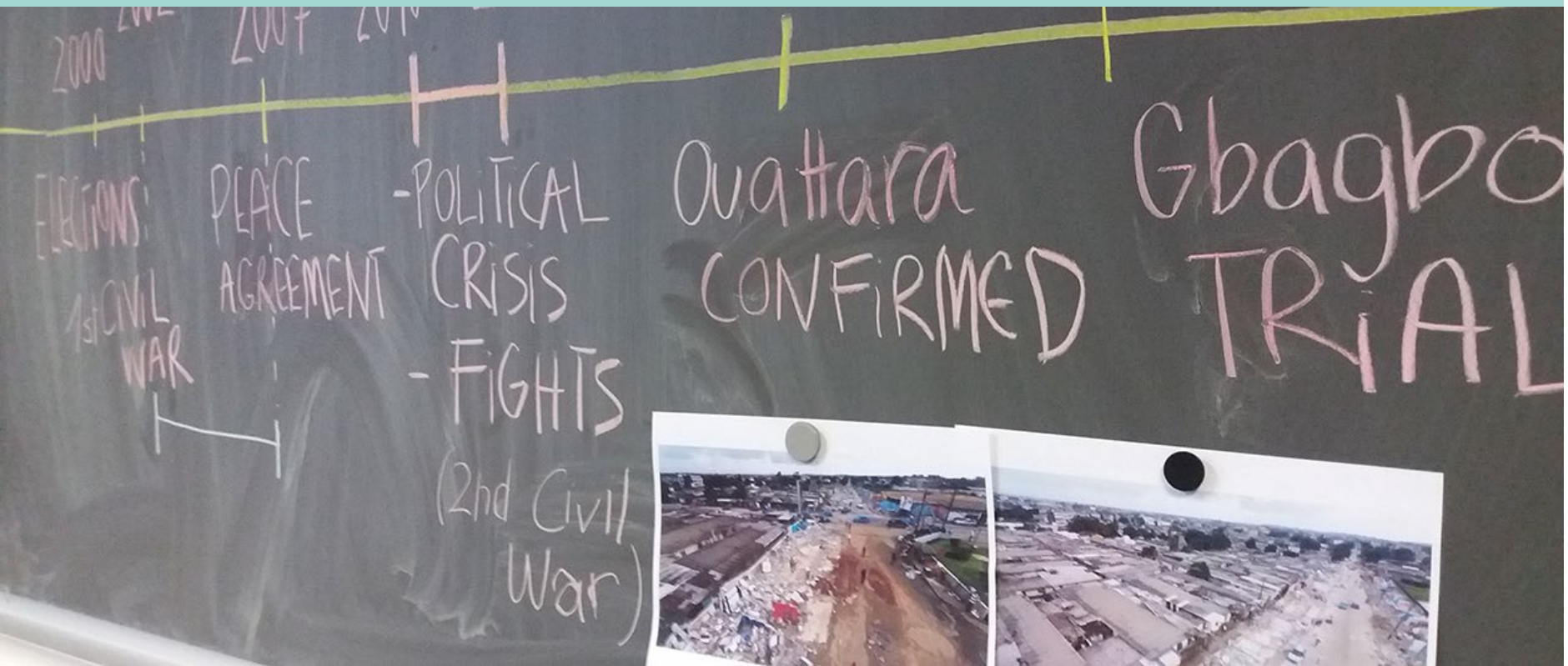


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How to apply to Critical Urbanisms?



APPLICATION

The program targets students from a wide range of fields in the humanities and social sciences, as well as academically qualified professionals from the fields of architecture, landscape design, and urban and regional planning.

*****Important*****

Since the application process for a study permit for non-EU citizens can take up to four months, and this process can only be started after the letter of admission is issued, we highly recommend that students submit their complete application as early as possible, e.g. within the first week of application period. Please make sure to submit a complete dossier (including **writing sample** and **list of urban studies coursework**, as specified in the Study Plan).

Key Elements of the Program

Degree: Master (120KP)

Next start of program: Fall 2024

Duration of study: 4-5 Semesters (with one optional semester at the University of Cape Town)

Language: English

Fall 2024 Application Period: 1st February to 30th April



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Program Structure



Completion of the study program, CP	Modules	Eligible Course Formats
3 CP	Introduction to Critical Urbanisms	All according to Master- Ordnung §7Abs.4 and 5
12 CP	Ways of Knowing the City	All according to Master- Ordnung § 7Abs.4 and 5
15 CP of one of the three modules, including -5 CP seminar paper	Urbanism from the South	All according to Master- Ordnung §7Abs.4 and 5
	Urbanism across Geographies	
	Anthropological Fieldwork	
15 CP, including -10 CP studio -5 CP seminar paper	Interdisciplinary Urban Research	Studio Seminar Paper
15 CP including -5 CP seminar paper	The Urban across Disciplines	All according to Master- Ordnung §7Abs.4 and 5
10 CP	Master's examination	
30 CP	Master's thesis	
20 CP	Free Electives	
120 CP	Master of Arts	



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FAQs

Frequently asked Questions:

[Philhist FAQs](#)

[FAQ Studies](#)

[Applications](#)

Any further questions? Please e-mail: [Jennifer Felsenberg](#)

Urban Studies Office:

Tel. +41 61 207 58 37

Admissions' Office:

Tel. +41 61 207 30 23

Details of the program

Please refer to our WEGLEITUNG for further details.

For questions regarding admissions in general, please contact the Students'

Administration Services: Students' Enquiries

Contact persons for Critical Urbanisms @ University of Basel:

Head of Urban Studies: Prof. Kenny Cupers

Curriculum and Student Consultation: Dr. phil. des. Maren Larsen

Student Consultation: Jennifer Felsenberg