

ETH zürich

MAS ETH IN HOUSING

DARCH

NSL Netzwerk Stadt und Landschaft
Network City and Landscape

DARCH ETH Wohnforum
ETH CASE

The MAS ETH in Housing

Our goal

The Master of Advanced Studies in Housing (MAS ETH HS) trains architects to understand housing challenges and strategies within their broader socio-economic, cultural, political, and urban context. The program is committed to breaking new grounds beyond established geographic boundaries in order to systematically investigate housing issues in Switzerland, Europe and in the Global South. Through an interdisciplinary approach, and with an

emphasis on participatory research and planning methods, the MAS ETH in Housing prepares architects and professionals of related fields to work in complex and multi-cultural environments that put people, their needs, preferences, and wellbeing at the centre. The program equips professionals of the built environment with the theories, concepts and methods required to assess the viability, effectiveness, and sustainability of different housing and neighbourhood development strategies. The ETH MAS HS

Our target groups

The MAS ETH in Housing is targeted at professionals of the built environment including architects, planners, and civil engineers, and related disciplines. It is aimed at candidates that want to develop a professional career, in their own country or internationally, and acquire skills in participatory planning and research methods. In Switzerland and Europe such skills are increasingly demanded by neighbourhood and city

planning agencies, housing cooperatives, civil society organisations, and by organisations working with socially disadvantaged groups, such as low-income households, elderly people, migrants, and refugees. At the global level the MAS ETH in Housing prepares participants to work in domains of informal settlements, urban upgrading, housing for displaced people, and post-disaster reconstruction.

trains professionals to work with a wide range of actors, from individuals, communities, cooperatives, local governments, non-governmental and governmental agencies across different countries and rapidly transforming contexts.

There are immense challenges to ensure affordable housing in an increasingly complex and urbanized world: globally one billion new residents will need adequate housing by 2025; around one quarter of the world's urban population continue to live in slums and an increasing number of people live in conditions that are environmentally and socially precarious. Access to adequate and affordable housing is a challenge not only for many people in low-income countries, but also increasingly in middle- and high-income countries that face the dual challenge of rapid migration and an ageing population. Finding solutions to these challenges requires highly motivated and skilled professionals acquainted with the process of developing housing solutions and neighbourhoods that are liveable, affordable, sustainable, and contextually appropriate.



«The MAS ETH in Housing gave me the skills and confidence to pursue specialist interests at an advanced level. The experience gave me the courage to set up my own practice on return to New Zealand, which is now a partnership with 26 staff. I suggest the MAS ETH in Housing course to anyone looking to pursue self driven studies in this area in an international context.»

Harriet Pilkington
Architect MAS ETH
Director, Young + Richards Ltd.

About the ETH Centre for Research on Architecture, Society and the Built Environment

The ETH Centre for Research on Architecture, Society and the Built Environment (CASE) was founded within the Department of Architecture at the ETH Zurich in 1990 as an interdisciplinary research centre for the analysis of housing processes and their links to people's socio-economic conditions, as well as to spatial and urban development. The ETH CASE is involved in education, research and advisory services in the field of housing and neighbourhood

development, cooperative housing, adequate and affordable housing for low-income families, refugees, and the elderly. The multi-disciplinary team believes in an integrated and holistic approach to the generation of knowledge on housing. We are committed to participatory, people-centred, age-, gender- and minority-sensitive housing approaches. We believe that cultural diversity is a source of socio-economic enrichment that can make an important contribution to sustainable urban development.

The MAS ETH in Housing

The MAS ETH in Housing was launched at the ETH in 1999. So far the MAS ETH in Housing programme enrolled students

from over 30 countries forming a vibrant international network of alumni among whom exchanges and collaborations extend well beyond the completion of their studies at the ETH Zurich. In fact, the programme also aims to generate durable long-term collaborations between professionals and researchers in Switzerland and abroad.

The Program

The MAS ETH in Housing focuses on housing challenges and solutions for the 21st century, be it in Switzerland, Europe, or the Global South. While such different contexts may appear to have little in common, in an increasingly globalized and urbanized world they also share similar challenges: how do socio-economic, cultural, and demographic changes influence housing needs and demands? How can housing be both affordable and adequate for low- and middle-income groups? How can the growing number of people migrating to cities be housed in neighbourhoods that are socially cohesive, sustainable and liveable? How should houses be rebuilt

«The course of studies in the MAS Housing Programme at the ETH is not simply an important step on your career ladder, but is learning for life. The strengths of the course lie in expert teaching at one of the best universities in Europe coupled with highly qualified supervision.»

Prof. Dominic Haag
Architect MAS ETH SIA
Interior Designer FH VSI
Lucerne University of
Applied Sciences and Arts



after natural or manmade disasters? What are the links between adequate housing, sustainable neighbourhoods, human development and quality of life? Building upon the research and professional experience of the ETH CASE and its

partners, and by putting major emphasis on enhancing participants' theoretical, methodological and writing skills, the MAS ETH in Housing focuses on a number of interlinked thematic areas that will be analysed in the framework of four specific modules.

Academic title

Successful graduates in the MAS programme acquire the academic degree "Master of Advanced Studies ETH in Housing".

Duration

The MAS is a full-time 12-months study program beginning in September every year. A total of 72 credit points must be acquired in order to obtain the degree MAS ETH in Housing. Upon request, the MAS course may also be completed over a period of 24 months.

Language of instruction

Lectures, seminars, workshops, reading material and individual coaching by academic advisors are all in English. The MAS thesis is also written and defended in English. However, it is possible to take courses held in German at the ETH Zurich

and to write the thesis in any Swiss national language (German, French or Italian).

Tuition fees

The tuition fees are 9000 Swiss Francs + approx. CHF 1500 for one-week seminar trip and two excursions. The tuition fees include excursions, but do not include living expenses. The fees are payable in two instalments: the first instalment is due in October and the second instalment in April.

Infrastructure

MAS participants are enrolled as students at ETH Zurich and are entitled to the use of all academic facilities, including lectures, student computer rooms, excellent libraries with electronic access to a wide range of journals, discounted meals in student cafeterias, as well as discounted access to sport and leisure facilities.



Thematic Focus

Building upon the academic, research and professional experience of the ETH CASE and its partners, the MAS ETH in Housing focuses on a number of interlinked thematic areas that will be analysed in the framework of four specific modules

Module 1: Housing issues, challenges and strategies in Europe

Module 1 takes a European perspective, and focuses on the interlinkages between housing and neighbourhoods with people's wellbeing, security and quality of life. Housing and neighbourhoods are constantly evolving and are strongly influenced by national policies, development strategies and building regulations, which determine people's options and choices. Demographic changes resulting from phenomena such as declining mortality and fertility rates are leading to aging

urban population and an increasing number of single person households, which have a strong impact on housing demands. Access to adequate and affordable housing is a challenge for an increasing number of people, in particular in urban areas. We will analyse these problems and focus on innovative approaches, such as those developed by the renowned housing cooperatives in Switzerland. In this module participants will engage actively with relevant stakeholders and inhabitants, visit projects, and develop a critical understanding of the historical, socio-cultural and political context that enables such creative solutions to emerge.



Module 2: Housing issues, challenges and strategies in the Global South

Module 2 acknowledges an increasingly complex and urbanized world and the specific development challenges of the Global South. We will start by reflecting upon the meaning of the concept of adequate housing with reference to the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which defines

adequate housing based on seven criteria: security of tenure, availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure, affordability, habitability, accessibility, location, and cultural adequacy. These criteria clearly show that the adequacy of housing needs to be analysed with reference to its broader socio-economic, cultural, political and environmental context. The module focuses on the causes and the consequences of the lack of adequate and

¹Office for the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR). The Right to Adequate Housing. Fact Sheet No. 21. Available at http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf (Accessed on 18.12.2016)





affordable housing and on the strategies that individuals and communities pursue to meet their need for shelter when formal housing is not accessible to them (e.g. self-help and incremental housing in informal settlements).

The module further focuses on the role of housing policies and built environment professionals in making adequate housing affordable through various strategies, such as conventional social housing, aided self-help housing, cooperative housing, enabling mechanisms, etc.

In the framework of this module, students will analyse the housing problems of a particular country case and explore potential solutions through practical exercises.

Module 3: Housing research methods

This module introduces the course participants to the research methods and tools that are currently used in housing studies, with particular emphasis on qualitative and participatory methods. This enables participants to directly engage with stakeholders such as residents and neighbourhood organizations in the process of generating knowledge and information. These insights complement the technical knowledge of experts in the process of planning and designing urban interventions. Local authorities and government departments not only in Switzerland but also worldwide recognize the importance of such bottom-up and participatory approach to housing





developments. By combining lectures focusing on methods and best practices with practical exercises this seminar will equip students with the required knowledge and skills to develop their own MAS thesis and also to apply them in the framework of group exercises, individual projects, and in their future professional life.

Module 4: Designing a research project

A core element of the MAS ETH in Housing is the elaboration of a research-based individual thesis. In the framework of Module 4, students will learn the fundamentals of conducting their own research project, from defining a clear research question, to formulating valid hypotheses, and developing a feasible research design. The course is intended to support the students to develop their individual proposals and to possess the necessary skill to work independently and with scientific rigour on a project leading to their final MAS thesis.

«The ETH MAS in Housing has meant a great opportunity to enhance my research skills at one of the best universities in Europe. The program focuses on relevant topics around international housing strategies by analysing numerous specific cases and projects. I would recommend it to anyone looking to push forward their academic and research career in an international learning context.»

Josep Maria Solé Gras
UPC Architect MAS ETH
Associated Professor in Urbanism
and Architecture,
Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona





Program structure and content

The MAS ETH in Housing consists of an intensive 12-months program, divided in three blocks

The **first block** takes place during the Autumn Semester (September-December); the participants acquire the theoretical knowledge and methodological instruments that are required to analyse and compare the various housing strategies in different socio-cultural contexts and with reference to different population groups (e.g. aging people, migrants, refugees, slum dwellers, people displaced by disasters) through lectures, seminars and group work. The inputs for the first block will be provided by the ETH CASE core team and by invited lectures with additional relevant academic and professional experience. The first block includes:

Four core courses

These are specifically designed and exclusively oriented towards the MAS participants focusing on research methods, key concepts, theories and policies related to housing strategies in Switzerland, Europe and the Global South.

Elective courses

At least 3 additional elective courses for a total of 6 ECT have to be followed by the

MAS students. These can be selected from the wide range of courses offered by the Department of Architecture or from other ETH departments.

Individual and group guidance

During the first block the participants will be coached towards the development of their own research project. The topic of their thesis has to focus on a particular aspect related to any of the thematic areas covered by the program and be translated into a project proposal by the end of the first semester.

Excursions

Organised excursions in Switzerland offer an opportunity to the MAS students to learn through observation and a direct interaction with relevant Swiss stakeholders related to developing strategies for adequate and affordable housing, in particular its famed housing cooperatives.

Seminar weeks

In line with the tradition of the ETH Department of Architecture, the seminar weeks constitute an integral component of the MAS ETH in



Housing. The seminar weeks focus on key topics of the MAS and over the coming three years will be conducted in partnership with UN Habitat in a country of the Global South. The seminar week in the Autumn Semester will provide an opportunity to visit the country, learn about its national housing strategy, visit projects, and meet with related communities and stakeholders. The seminar week in the Spring Semester will take place in Switzerland; through practical exercises, and with the participation of experts from UN Habitat, it will be dedicated to reflect upon contextually appropriate housing solutions for the country in question.

The **second block** (January-February) takes place during the semester break. This period

will be dedicated to the participants' individual research projects. We encourage participants to conduct empirical research on relevant issues of their choice in their own country or on a subject and context related to their personal interest or professional experience. Whenever possible we will also facilitate opportunities to conduct research in the framework of housing projects executed by our partners.

The **third block** (March-June) is dedicated to writing the thesis under the supervision of the ETH CASE scientific staff and its partners. During this period, the participants will be stimulated to reflect upon their research findings and guided in writing their theses in the framework of regular group meetings and individual coaching.





Studying at ETH and living in Zurich

The MAS ETH in Housing is intensive and demanding, but participants find time to enjoy an active student life. Zurich is a very attractive and dynamic multi-cultural city, offering a high quality of life and a wide range of cultural and recreational activities. Zurich is well-known all over the world for its good housing governance and for the important role of the municipal government to provide affordable housing. A high number of innovative housing cooperatives reflect a strong tradition of bottom-up, community-driven initiatives, enabling housing policies and collaborative housing organizations. Leading architects have contributed to translate cooperatives'

housing aspirations into high-value affordable and sustainable housing complexes that we will have the opportunity to visit in the framework of the MAS program.



«The MAS ETH in Housing course was a wonderful opportunity to grow both professionally and personally. It gave me the tools to learn how to do research and to produce knowledge. I recommend attending the course if you're ready to challenge yourself and if you are interested in having an ambitious cultural exchange where you will enrich your professional future.»

Maria Florencia Medina
Architect MAS ETH
Executive Editor of PLOT magazin

Selected lecturers from the ETH Zurich

Prof. Hubert Klumper
Chair of Architecture and
Urban Design, D-ARCH

Prof. Christian Schmid
Chair of Sociology, D-ARCH

Dr. Jennifer Duyne Barenstein
ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE

Dr. Eveline Althaus
ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE

Dr. Anthony Boanada Fuchs
ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE

Dr. Tanja Hertd
ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE

Dr. Margrit Hugentobler
former director
ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE

Dr. Marie Glaser
ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE

Dr. Jan Silberberger
ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE

Each year the MAS ETH in Housing
also involves several invited lecturers
from other universities and
from public and private organisations
with relevant expertise.

Bodies responsible

ETH Zurich, Department of Architecture
ETH Wohnforum - CASE
www.wohnforum.arch.ethz.ch

Course Directors

Chair of Architecture and Urban Design

Prof. Hubert Klumpner

Chair of Sociology

Prof. Christian Schmid

ETH Wohnforum – ETH CASE

Dr. Jennifer Duyne Barenstein

Senior lecturer and program coordinator

Place of Study

ETH CASE Centre for Research on
Architecture, Society and the Built
Environment

Department of Architecture
ETH Zurich-Campus Höggerberg

**Course Duration**

1 year full-time, 600 contact hours

2 years possible on request

Registration

ETH Zurich

Centre for Continuing Education

Raemistrasse 101

HG E 17 - E 18.5

8092 Zurich

Switzerland

info@zfe.ethz.ch

Documents required for registration

Please submit your Curriculum Vitae, two references (from employer or professors at your university), and a motivation letter including preliminary ideas for a MAS research topic along with the registration documents to the ETH School for Continuing Education.

Fees

CHF 9000 plus costs for one-week seminar trip and excursions, approx. CHF 1500.

Cancellation fee

From 30 days after admission: CHF 4500.

Detailed information

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Registration

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