

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPACE STUDIES

PROGRAMME JOINTLY OFFERED BY GHEENT UNIVERSITY, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LEUVEN, KU LEUVEN

MAJORS: SPACE SCIENCES - MODULE SPACE LAW, POLICY, BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT - SPACE TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS

60 ECTS CREDITS - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

## WHAT

The space sector is constantly looking for highly-skilled experts with an interdisciplinary perspective. However, it is this interdisciplinary background which is currently lacking for most new graduates, who have typically specialised in only one of the fields related to space science.

The interuniversity UGent/KU Leuven Master of Space Studies aims to cater to these new opportunities by equipping students with the interdisciplinary expertise the space sector is currently looking for. The Master of Space studies trains students in innovative space projects through the symbiosis between technological, quantitative and biomedical sciences, while at the same time supplying them with the economic and policy skills needed to navigate the current legal and political regulations.

## STRUCTURE

This advanced Master's programme addresses students who have successfully completed an initial master's programme in either the humanities and social sciences, exact sciences and technology, or biomedical sciences. The interdisciplinary nature of the programme is set by the requirement that all students follow a common trunk of 30 credits of introductory courses. The goal is to get the students acquainted with the different aspects that form the foundation of space-related activities. Special attention goes to the combination of a high level of knowledge transfer with the diverse backgrounds of the students. Depending on their background and interest students have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge through more domain specific optional courses, for a total of 15 credits, covering the three domains of (A) Space Law, Policy, Business and Management, (B) Space Sciences, and (C) Space Technology and Applications, with the possibility to combine the latter two.

For the Master's dissertation (15 credits) students are embedded in a research team of one of the organising universities, or in an external institute, organisation or industrial company, in which case an academic supervisor is assigned as a coordinator. The Master's dissertation should form a final piece of work of the interdisciplinary programme, in which the acquired knowledge and abilities are applied to a complex and specific project.

## LABOUR MARKET

Graduates will be in a position to develop a career in the space sector or in space research; taking up roles in the space industry (engineers, product developers and technical-commercial functions), research institutions with activities in space (researchers and project developers), (inter) governmental bodies with responsibilities in research and development programmes related to space (project managers and directors), policymakers on the national, European and international levels and in a broad range of companies and organisations which use or are facilitated by space missions. About 75% of our students find a career in the space sector after graduation.

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## TOELATINGSVOORWAARDEN VOOR HOUDERS VAN EEN VLAAMS DIPLOMA

### 1 Na onderzoek van de bekwaamheid van de student om de opleiding te volgen:

- Een diploma van een masteropleiding aansluitend op een bacheloropleiding

#### Additional Information on Admission (Flemish Degree)

The interdisciplinary Master of Space Studies programme is open to students who have already obtained a Master's degree. Applicants should send the following documents to [MSApplication@ster.kuleuven.be](mailto:MSApplication@ster.kuleuven.be):

- a CV
- a comprehensive motivation letter describing the importance of the programme for his/ her professional expectations, in view of the candidate's previous education. As part of the application procedure, candidates may be invited to an intake interview. The aim of the selection procedure is to verify the student's chances of success. Students with an initial Master's that does not have a direct apparent connection with space studies can still apply, and may be accepted depending on the power of conviction of their background and argumentation.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEGREE STUDENTS

Students who did not obtain their previous degree(s) at an institution of the Flemish Community should submit an application via the Admissions Office:

<https://www.kuleuven.be/english/application>.

You can find a list of core documents, which should be submitted with every application, here: <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/application/requesteddocuments>.

The interdisciplinary Master of Space Studies programme is open to students who have already obtained a Master's degree. As part of the core documents, applicants should include the following documents in their application to the Admissions Office:

- a CV
- a comprehensive motivation letter describing the importance of the programme for his/ her professional expectations, in view of the candidate's previous education.

As part of the application procedure, candidates may be invited to an intake interview. The aim of the selection procedure is to verify the student's chances

of success. Students with an initial Master's that does not have a direct apparent connection with space studies can still apply, and may be accepted depending on the power of conviction of their background and argumentation.

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Language requirements Dutch: no language requirements

All applicants must prove their proficiency in English. The accepted English proficiency tests are:

- TOEFL: minimum overall score of 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based) or 79 (internet-based).
- IELTS Academic test: minimum overall score of 6.5

The following applicants are exempted from submitting an English proficiency certificate:

Applicants who have obtained a previous university degree taught in English in **Australia, English-speaking Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America**. Their entire programme should have been completed in English.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Study programme

[studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-science-in-space-studies-en/programma](https://studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-science-in-space-studies-en/programma)

### Information sessions

#### Graduation Fair

[afstudeerbeurs.gent/en/students/further-studies](https://afstudeerbeurs.gent/en/students/further-studies)

### Enrolling institution

KU Leuven

After a positive evaluation of motivation by the selection committee the candidates can proceed with the second step in the selection process, done by the KU Leuven Admissions Office on [www.kuleuven.be/english/application](https://www.kuleuven.be/english/application) (for international students) or [www.kuleuven.be/inschrijvingen/](https://www.kuleuven.be/inschrijvingen/) (for students with a Flemish master degree), where the educational background and credentials will be checked.

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## Application Deadline (for International degree students)

Recommended application deadlines (but late admissions are accepted):

- 1 March (for non-EEA citizens)
- 1 June (for EEA citizens)

Students who hold a Flemish master degree can apply until the start of the academic year, although we also recommend to submit their application before August.

## Tuition fee

More information is to be found on: [www.ugent.be/tuitionfee](http://www.ugent.be/tuitionfee)

## Contact

Institute of Astronomy, Celestijnenlaan 200D, B-3001 Leuven  
Dr. Clio Gielen - [clio.gielen@kuleuven.be](mailto:clio.gielen@kuleuven.be)

[www.masterspacestudies.be](http://www.masterspacestudies.be)