



University of Antwerp
| Faculty of Science

Professional Internship & Master's Thesis

Information session - Master SUBE

28/11/2025

Overview

1. **Information on Professional Internship**
2. **Information on Master's Thesis**
3. **Professional communication**
4. **Year 2 – electives**
5. **Introduction of CityLab 2: Urban Resources & CityLab 3: Human Health and Urban Liveability**
6. **Q&A with MA2-students**

1. Professional Internship

A. What & Why?

Under supervision, the student carries out a well-defined assignment in a company, (non-governmental) organisation, institution, administration, etc., that belongs to the work field of the Master's programme.

Not your current job !

Objectives

- Gaining practical experience
- Gaining insight into the workings and operations of a company / organisation
- Experience how projects run in a business context
- Executing / supporting a real project
- Developing and applying soft skills (co-operation, communication, reporting, planning, ...)
- Creating own professional network & increasing the student's employability

Examples of internship providers

TRACTEBEL
ENGIE

 **pantarein**
WATERZUIVERING

Gimv



SIOEN

 **aqua**duin
lekker kraanwater,
duurzaam gewonnen

 **BOS⁺**

SWECO 

INDAVER

B R U
G G E

 **mec**


BIGH


COLRUYT
GROUP



 **vito**

Capgemini  **invent**

 **Vertiberry**

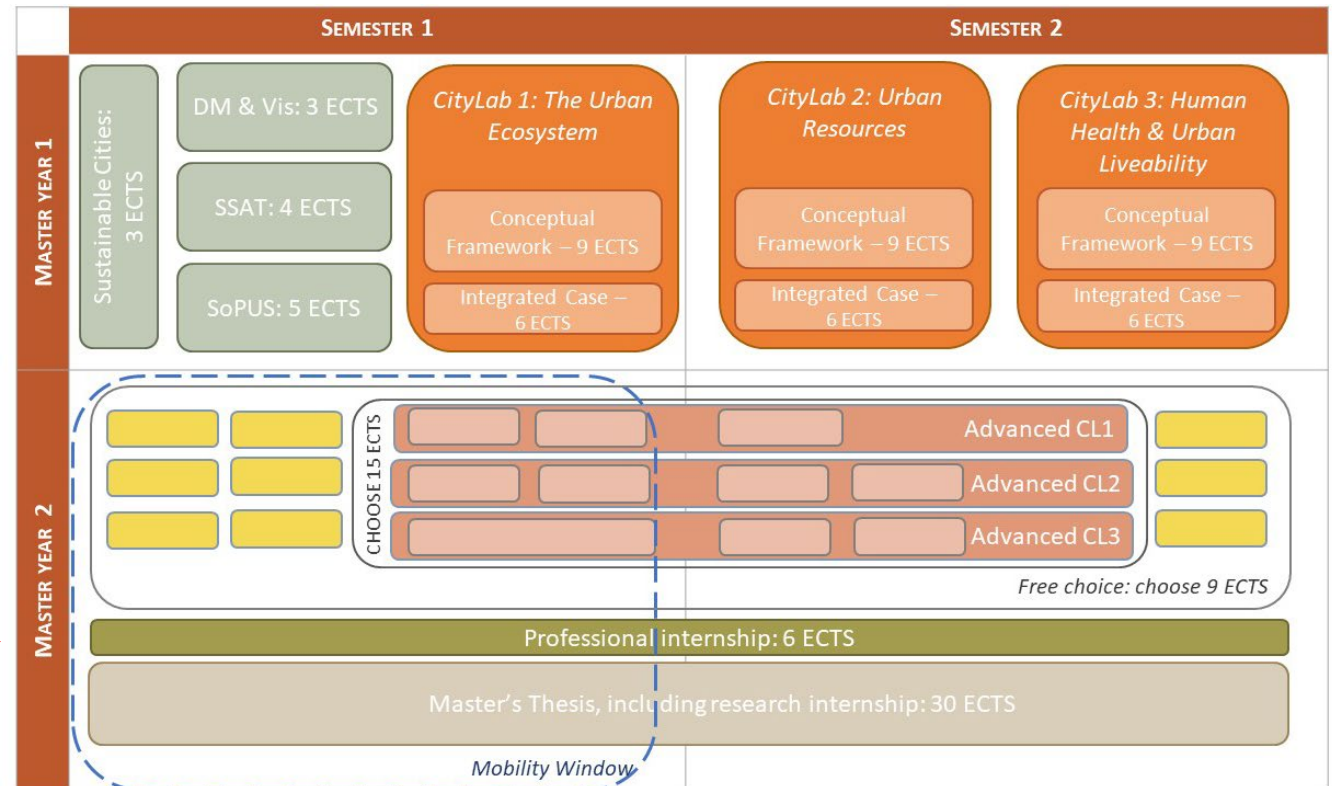
 **Krinkels**

 **Witteveen + Bos**



B. Position in the curriculum

- Second master year
- 6 ECTS
- (minimal) 25 working days
- During whole academic year
 - Advice: during summerholiday
 - Overlap with thesis & electives !
- Parttime or fulltime



C. What's a good internship project?

- **Relevant & representative**
 - Linked to urban environmental/sustainability challenge(s) – CityLabs !
 - Engineering / technology aspects
- **Full involvement in organisation**
 - Can be daily work or project based
 - Not too much administration !
- **Independent and with own responsibility**

D. How to secure an internship position?

Step Action

1. Find an appropriate internship organisation

through the list of potential internship providers or on your own

2. **Apply** with the internship organisation(s) of your choice

Don't wait too long!

3. Work out **an internship project** with the internship supervisor

4. **Register** professional internship in SisA & Mobility Online, after approval of Education Committee

Deadline

- Internships summer holiday / first semester: 30 March 2026
- Internships second semester: 1 October 2026

Deadline

4 weeks before start internship!
→ Internships summer holiday:
before 31 May 2026

E. Guidance

Internship coordinator

- General
- Practical organisation
- Quality of submitted reports
- Contact with internship organisations

Internship supervisor

- Per internship
- Pedagogical guidance and feedback on site
- Daily & final evaluation
- (+ mentors)

Academic supervisor

- Per internship
- Supervising the internship
- Final evaluation

First and foremost: student's own responsibility

F. Intermediate accounts



- **Short blog post (300-500 words) on BB every 5 days**
- **Guiding questions:**
 - Beginning of internship
 - What are your first impressions of the host organisation and its culture?
 - Which expectations or goals do you have for this internship?
 - Which personal or professional skills would you like to develop during this period?
 - During internship
 - What has surprised you most about the organisation's way of working?
 - Can you describe a challenge you encountered, and how you approached it?
 - In which situations did you recognize knowledge or methods from your coursework?
 - (Near the) End of internship
 - What are the three most valuable lessons you learned?
 - How has your perception of the internship organisation (or its field) evolved?
 - Which competencies from your master's programme proved most relevant in practice?
 - In what ways have you grown personally and professionally during this internship?
 - What advice would you give to a future student starting the same internship?

G. Assessment



Evaluation part	By	Score
1. Reflection	Academic supervisor	Pass/fail
2. Daily work	Internship supervisor	Pass/fail
3. Oral presentation	Jury, consisting of the internship supervisor, academic supervisor and internship coordinator	Pass/fail

Pass on the three components to pass the course

+ Personal assessment of the internship (informal)

H. Experiences of previous years

“The integrated cases train problem solving ability, integrating real life examples to put your theory to work. This multidisciplinary approach on problem solving is essential in consultancy cases and helped me out a great deal.”

“This internship has been an invaluable opportunity for self-reflection and growth. It has prepared me to face future challenges with greater confidence and competence.”

“Ultimately, my time at the internship organisation was transformative, sparking my desire to get technical proficiency and expanding my knowledge base.”

“The projects I worked on closely aligned with the core themes of my programme, such as urban ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate adaptation, allowing me to apply theoretical knowledge to practical challenges.”

“Having the internship as a mandatory part of the programme is an excellent idea. I feel like it gives students the opportunity to discover the ‘real world’.”

“If I had to choose again, I would absolutely choose this master’s programme once more!”

I. Questions ?

1. SUBE-website

Internships -> Information for students and supervisors

2. Internship coordinator

Géraldine Godts

Internship.sub@uantwerpen.be

Campus Groenenborger

G.V.406



3. Academic supervisor

Internship.sub@uantwerpen.be

Campus Groenenborger

G.V.406

2. Master's Thesis

Including research internship

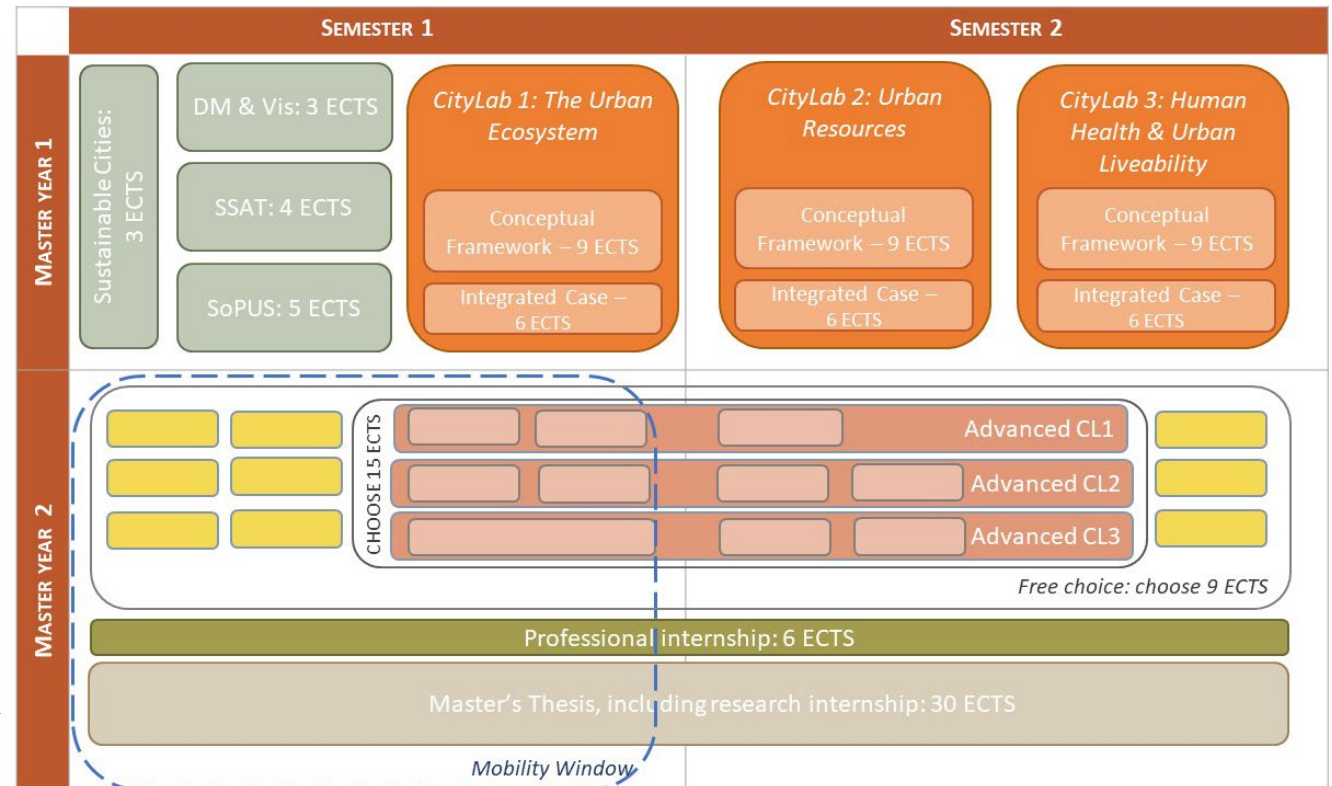
A. What?

As the final part of the Master's programme, the student examines an urban environmental challenge during an individual research project, conducted within a research group in the field of bioscience engineering at the University of Antwerp, Ghent University and/or KU Leuven.

During this research internship, the student demonstrates being able to approach a complex engineering problem - relevant within the academic and/or professional context - from a scientific point of view. Moreover, the student shows that the ability to summarise the acquired insights and proposed solutions in a coherent report. The argumentation is based on literature research and complemented with own empirical data.

B. Position in curriculum

- Second master year
- 30 ECTS
- Research group bioscience engineering (University of Antwerp, Ghent University, KU Leuven)



C. Guidance

Promotor

- Academic with doctoral degree, affiliated with Dept. BIR (UA), Faculty BIW (Ghent University), Faculty BIW (KU Leuven)
- Supervising master's thesis
- Daily & final evaluation

(Co-promotor)

- Academic with doctoral degree, can be from a different discipline
- Supervising master's thesis
- Daily & final evaluation

(Supervisor)

- Any member from AAP or BAP (doctoral student or postdoc)
- Daily follow-up / practical guidance
- Final evaluation

First and foremost: student's own responsibility

Clarify mutual expectations!

D. How to secure a research topic

Step Action

1. Choose a research topic



A. List of potential topics

- Contact promoter(s) of at least 2 topics
- Submit first and second choice through online form

Deadline

- Research project abroad: 15 February 2026
- Research project not abroad: 15 March 2026

Deadline funding / scholarship

1 February 2026

B. Own topic

- Topic related to an urban environmental challenge & framed within one or more CityLabs
- Embedded in current research → provide own promotor
- Contribute to realisation of learning outcomes

Deadline

15 February 2026

D. How to secure a research topic

Step Action

2. **Register** research topic & promoter(s) in SisA, after approval of Education Committee

Deadline

Last week of classes of SEM2

3. **Register** research internship in SisA & Mobility Online

Deadline

4 weeks before start research internship!

→ Internships summer holiday : before 31 May

E. Assessment

Evaluation part	By	Weight
1. Written report	30 % promotor(s) 15 % per assessor	60 %
2. The student's performance and growth process during the execution of the Master's thesis	Promoter(s)	20 %
3. Oral presentation and defence	Jury, consisting of the chair, the promoter(s) and the assessors	20 %

Pass for all three components = pass for the thesis

F. Experiences from previous years

Sustainable Indoor Air Quality Solutions: Exploring Botanical Biofilters



Seppe Vandeweghe
Under supervision of prof. dr. Siegfried Denys
A-PECS research group (UAntwerp)

Development of a Roadmap Towards a Sustainable Food Environment in an Urban Context (Indonesia)



Fran Van Dyck & Janelle De Decker
Under supervision of prof. dr. Liesbeth Jacxsens & dr. Carl Lachat
Food2Know research unit (Ghent University)

F. Questions?

1. SUBE-website

Master's Thesis

2. Promoter

3. Academic coordinator prof. dr. ir. Tom Tytgat

sube@uantwerpen.be


Campus Groenenborger

G.V.406



3. Professional communication

A. Tips for a successful CV

1. A personalized CV
2. Use a lay-out that suits you
3. KISS – Keep it Short and Simple
4. Pitch your personality
5. Make your CV competence-oriented
6. Don't forget the essentials! 

- Personal information & contact details
- Education
- Experience
- Language skills
- Other competences
- Hobbies
- References

B. How to write a good motivation letter?

1. Keep in mind the essential questions

- What appealed to you in the vacancy ?
- Why are you who you are?
- What makes you fit with the company?

2. Take the general principles into account

- Customization !!
- Be open and honest
- If applying by e-mail: motivation letter = e-mail (don't add it as an attachment)

3. Provide a clear beginning, middel and end of your letter

- **Preface:** what function are you responding to? How did you find the position?
- **Middle:** why this company and why this position? Here you can explain relevant work experience and skills. Then tell more about who you are. Why you? What can / do you want to do.
- **End:** finish in a nice way, but not too jovial.

C. Building steps of your future career

- **Keep in mind when contacting externals / promoters**
 - Correct & polite communication
 - Respecting deadlines
 - Honoring commitments
- **Need more tips?**
 - My Career Companion
 - Career Center University of Antwerp
 - Student Portal

4. Second master year

A lot to juggle !

A. A full schedule

Year 2 – model trajet (60 ECTS)

- Internship – 6 ECTS
- Master's thesis – 30 ECTS
- Electives – 24 ECTS
 - Advanced electives – min. 18 ECTS
 - Free electives – max. 6 ECTS

Choose wisely !!

B. Electives

- **Advanced electives – choose from list Study Programme**
- **Free electives – free choice from programmes of the three partner universities**
 - Criteria
 - No bachelor courses
 - Related to urban environmental challenges and/or applications
 - Subject to approval by the Study Progress Committee
 - Don't forget about winter- or summer schools ! (e.g. Energy Transitioning)
 - Application deadlines
 - Tuition fees (reduction for current students)

5. Introduction to CityLab 2 and CityLab 3



URBAN ECOSYSTEM



URBAN RESOURCES



**HUMAN HEALTH &
URBAN LIVEABILITY**



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| Faculty of Science

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