

Information for and structure of the Quality recognition report

I - GENERAL INFORMATION	
Name of the school	Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning (ILP), Faculty of Social Sciences, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) Institutt for landskapsplanlegging (ILP), Fakultet for samfunnsvitenskap, Norges miljø- og biovitenskapelige universitet (NMBU)
Name of the programme	Master in urban and regional planning (Master i by- og regionplanlegging)
Address	Postboks 5003, 1432 Ås
Website	http://www.nmbu.no/en
Official representative of the school	Inger-Lise Saglie (head of department), Eva Falleth (dean, faculty), Mari Sundli Tveit (rector, university)
Contact person	Asc. prof. Marius Grønning (head of the programme committee)

II - OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME	
Level of university education/degree	Master
Duration of the study in the programme	10 semesters / 5 years.
Profile of graduates	The programme was originally an offspring of the school of Land consolidation, in symbiosis with the school of landscape architecture. Thus law, property rights, and property economics still represents an important aspect of the graduates' profile. A specific planning profile is shaped by project skills ranging from place making and local development strategy making, comprehensive land use planning, urban morphology and development, project management, strategic landscape planning, and regional planning with a foci on regional economy or transport infrastructure. This basis in law and public administration on the one hand, and spatial systems on the other, are supported by theoretical knowledge of planning and professional conduct, as well as knowledge of the integration of policies in land use planning, especially related to the themes of public health, the environment, security. The graduates are trained in interdisciplinary collaboration especially with landscape architects, land consolidators, real estate developers.
Scientific objectives/knowledge offered	- Substantive knowledge, drawn from the humanities, from social and natural sciences, about the objects of planning, i.e. the physical environment and their forms of uses. - Knowledge about planning as profession and practice. - Theoretical knowledge about interdisciplinary issues, how they can be discussed and managed in a planning process with many actors. - Deep knowledge about theories in planning and theories of planning. - Wide and deep knowledge about the juridical framework of planning. - Political guide-lines, driving forces, and their situatedness in context. - Ongoing processes and actual issues and questions related to land use and urban development on a local and regional scale. - Planning and development discourses, how they emerged and evolved, as well as their relevance to practice. - Insight in the various roles of a professional planner, and what characterizes the profession in the various roles.

	- The emergence of planning as profession, and the ideas and theories that have influenced the discipline and its results throughout history.
Professional objectives/skills offered	The graduates learn a number of techniques, such as impact analysis, GIS, and forecasting and strategy making by visioning and scenarios, juridical method and planning projects with maps and regulations. Professional objectives are related both to formal procedures prescribed by the Norwegian planning act, and alternatives from a general history of the formation of these techniques, giving them a critical distance to the evolution of juridical frameworks and prescriptions.
Requirements for entering the programme (previous education profile)	Any secondary school degree (examen artium, A-levels, baccalauréat) will allow admission to the programme. Students with bachelors from related studies, such as civil engineering, human geography, political sciences or architecture are admitted at higher level. Usually a 2,5 - 3 years trajectory is required to finish the master degree, combining a selection of the most basic (bachelor level) courses and the advanced master courses.
Standard presentation (optional)	(if applicable)

III - CONTEXT and CONTENTS	
Position in the academic environment: country, university, department	- The Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning is part of the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), located in Ås, in the Oslo region in Norway. - The department sorts under the Faculty of Social Sciences together with the International Environment and Development Studies and the School of Economics and Business - Five department sections: Property and Law, Urban and Regional Planning, Public Health, Large Landscape Management, and Landscape Architecture and Design. - Research units: Urban Sustainability, Housing, Green Cultural Heritage, Landscape Planning and Resource Management, Digital Tools and Virtual Reality, Centre for Land Tenure Studies, and the Centre for Landscape Democracy.
Accreditation obtained (if applicable)	The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT) has given The Norwegian University of Life Sciences the right to give accreditation to their own study programmes. All study programmes are accredited for one year at a time by the Education board at the university. In 2007 the Education board accredited the study program: <i>Master in urban and regional planning</i>. The program ran in its present form for the first time in the autumn 2008.

Team	List, qualifications and European engagement of the staff members: Knut Bjørn Stokke, geographer, Associate Professor, Head of Section. Strategic landscape planning, coastal zone planning. Member in a Nordic planning network PlanNord, and is now engaged in a project in Buzau region in Romania in order to establish a Geopark. Petter Næss, architect, Professor, Planning in Urban Regions. Member of the World Society for Transport and Land Use Research, The International Association for Critical Realism. Member of the Council of Representatives of Association of European Schools of Planning (Aesop) 1999 - 2008. Marius Grønning, architect, Associate Professor. Urban and regional planning, PhD in urbanism from the IUAV-university, Venice, and diploma in architecture from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville. Member of AESOP Council of Representatives, and of the national board for Norwegian education in planning (Forum for utdanning i samfunnsplanlegging). President of the Norwegian federation for housing and planning (Norsk BOBY). Elin Børrud, architect, Professor. Urban and regional planning. Member of the board of the Oslo association for housing and planning (Oslo BOBY). Eirin Hongslo, geographer, Associate Professor. Environmental Planning. Kristina Grange, civil engineer, Associate Professor. New roles of planning in European countries.
Programme structure	1. Curriculum The 5 years integrated master degree (without a separate bachelor) is structured according to a flexible system. Compulsory courses are structured with the following progress: - 1st year: introductory courses in law, planning theory, and GIS, as well as a preparatory exam in philosophy and academic thinking. - 2nd year: environmental law, social science methods, spatical strategy making, and comprehensive land use planning. - 3rd and 4th years: advanced project studio courses in urban and regional planning, advanced law related to property and business, and qualitative method. - 5th year: specialization in planning theory, preparation of master thesis project, and master thesis writing (30 ECTS). In order to assure both progress and possibility of choice for the students, courses are categorized with a thee digit code indicating level of advancement: - 100 for introductory courses, mostly meant for the beginning of the programme; - 200 for courses that presuppose an already acquired basic knowledge; - 300 for advanced courses. The courses that are offered are offered by several programmes and available to students from all programmes as long as they have the required introductory courses. Especially the students of land consolidation, urban and regional planning, landscape architecture, and real estate development frequent the same courses in for example juridical method, planning and building law, digital cartography, urban morphology. Also these provenances are identified by a letter code, for example JUS100, JUS320, LAD103, LAA350. 2. Number of credits 300 ECTS 3. ECTS if applicable

Methods of teaching	- Many of the introductory courses in law are auditorium lectures with a written exam. The introductory course in land use planning is a pilot MOOC with multiple choice digital exam. Several introductory courses are based on lectures and exercises, supervised by the course responsible. - Introduction to the planning profession and urban history is based on auditorium lectures, literature studies, and a final written take-home examination. Thematic courses, such as the environment in planning, are based on auditorium lectures, which are provided both in-house by the teacher staff, and by inviting practitioners, municipal or ministry officials, and researchers. - The backbone of the programme is the sequence of studio courses, where knowledge, understanding, and skills are combined in the production of typical planning outputs (strategies, projects, policies, regulation, management plans), and applied to typical objects of planning: local communities, municipalities, urban transformation areas, urban and district regions. Studio teaching activities are combinations of lectures, studio work with a staff of supervising teachers, partial exercise assignments, site survey and study trip, final presentation, and an essay applying theory on the practical experiences. Studio work is usually organised in group work (2-5 students per group). To a large extent the groups are composed by students from other disciplines, such as land consolidators, real estate developers, landscape architects, landscape engineers, and public health professionals. Interdisciplinary group work is seen as a pedagogical means in itself, and interdisciplinary thinking is combined with social actor and interactionist theories. - Field trips and study tours are organised as part of a studio course, or as a course with a scope of analytical method and comparative approaches to spatial systems. Field trips may be accompanied with preparatory workshops and final reports. - Final examination is generally a collaboration of an external examiner and the course responsible.
Title(s) awarded (single, double, multiple degree)	Title/ universities involved in case of joint diploma None
Students in the programme	1.Number (total/per year) total:160 students / per year: 32 students
	2. Percentage of international students
	3. Examples of countries of origin

IV - EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION IN TEACHING	
In the courses (max. 50 words each)	1. International comparative planning We offer a 5 CTS course which compares urban regions in Europe through literature and document studies, fieldwork and study trip, and spatial analysis. Three aspects of planning are highlighted: 1) modern planning history; 2) the local, metropolitan and regional scales of urbanization; 3) contemporary planning issues, strategies and solutions.
	2. European spatial planning The European Landscape Convention is a recurrent reference in various courses of place making and landscape design. Together with the European Spatial Development Perspective it is also a theme for studying the relationships between planning ethics, supranational policies and juridical frameworks for landscape planning and design.
	3. Other The programme share courses with other programmes of the department, especially landscape architecture and land consolidation. Several teachers come from other European countries, especially from Germany and Italy.

In the practical activities (max. 50 words each)	1. Placement periods abroad (localities, length, percentage of students) All students doing a degree at the programme Master in Urban and Regional planning have the opportunity to study one or two semesters abroad. The requirements are that the students have 60 ECTS before leaving and that they are enrolled at the foreign university for a minimum of three months. NMBU recommends a minimum GPA of C to apply for the exchange. Approx. 15-20 percentage of the students study abroad. Our students recently attend the following universities abroad: - Kassel, Tyskland - Nebraska-Lincoln, USA - Lincoln, NZ - UBC, Canada - UPV, Spania - KU Life, Danmark - SLU, Sverige - Guelph, Canada - Wageningen, Nederland - Lund University, Sverige - UWA, Australia NMBUs partner universities: http://www.nmbu.no/en/students/exchange/where/partner_universities
	2. Workshops abroad (localities, length, percentage of students) None
	3. Study tours (localities, length, percentage of students) One regular field work course with study tours of one full week to European metropolitan areas: Paris, Barcelona, Vienna, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Stockholm and Copenhagen. The offer is available to 20 students each year, but is only organised when a sufficient amount register. Over time we reckon 30-50 percent of our students will profit from the offer. Other courses offer ad hoc thematic study tours to cities abroad, related to the specific topics of each course.
	4. Other None
In other activities (max. 50 words each)	
In the final thesis and/or project	1. Comparative or European topics for the thesis Some European or international comparison of housing policy, planning systems or urbanism.
	2. Projects in foreign countries None
	3. Possibility to submit in different languages English, Swedish and Danish (but hardly used)
	4. Other None
Involvement of foreign teachers	1. Visiting professors A limited number of professors from other European countries have been involved in teaching. Recently: Raine Mantisalo (Finland), Barbara Havel (Poland).
	2. Guest lecturers Some, especially from Nordic countries.
	3. Other forms of involvement (reviewers, evaluators, jury members ...) Some final examiners from Nordic countries.

Language(s) of tuition	English and Norwegian are used both in monolingual and in multilingual courses.
V - INSTITUTIONAL EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION	
International institutional collaborations (max. 50 words each)	1. Active cooperation agreements (specify type of cooperation) None
	2. Erasmus Our university has a wide range of ERASMUS agreements: http://www.nmbu.no/en/students/exchange/where/europe In 2013-14, the programme Master in Urban and Regional Planning had 8 outgoing students. Of these 8 students there were 3 ERASMUS students. We had a couple of incoming students who attended some of our project courses.
	3. Joint courses None
	4. Joint diplomas None
	5. Mobility of students (capacity) NMBU have a wide range of agreements within Nordplus, ERASMUS and also bilateral agreements (outside Europe).
	6. Mobility of staff (capacity) NMBU has several agreements, as mentioned above, for staff. However these possibilities have not been used.
	7. Summer schools None
	8. Intensive programmes None
	9. Distance learning None. A pilot project for developing a digital platform for basic planning theory lectures is in progress. However, for the moment it is being worked out in Norwegian.
	10. Other None
VI - EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION IN RESEARCH	
Research programmes/projects with European scope	- 203784/E40 Local ideals - 209848/H20 CompactConf - 230313/E40 Where and how should we build our homes? - 235642/E10 Spatial planning, vacation homes and climate change - 235859/URBANEFF - 220561/H20 URB Land
Research programmes/ projects with European funding	- GeoSust - JPI-prosjekt SimCity Value Cap
Other	The department has established an interdisciplinary and international research centre Centre for Landscape Democracy (CLaD)
VII OPTIONAL INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTING DISTINCTNESS OF THE PROGRAMME	

Since the building act of 1924 Norway had formal city plans. Before becoming a university of life sciences, the NMBU was the national agronomic college of NLH, with programmes in land consolidation and landscape architecture. Planning was city planning, and mainly the business engineers and architects of the polytechnical school in Trondheim (NTH). In 1965, however, general plans became statutory in all Norwegian municipalities, also in the districts.

Today's master programme in planning was born with the 1965 Norwegian building act. A response from the NLH to the massive need for planning competence was to specialize land consolidators as planners, founding a new school of planning with a focus on property, land use rights and law in rural contexts. The recent reform from an agronomic college to a university of life sciences gives a new focus on the environment. Today the programme is more holistic, comprising urbanisation and urban spatial design and planning. The programme is now pervaded by political themes such as public health, the environment and security which are treated in the spatial perspective of urban and regional development. The programme's tradition and reorientations makes it perhaps the most relevant in Norway with regard to juridical frameworks and the challenges of sustainable urban and regional development.

The interdisciplinary nature of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning gives immediate opportunities to broad collaboration and knowledge exchange between different fields of research and studies. Also the faculty and the university are arenas for interdisciplinary collaboration related to the themes of the environment, strategy making and sustainable development.

The NMBU university is located in the vicinity of Oslo, progressively integrating in the regional academic, economic and spatial structure. The region is Norway's most populated and one of the fastest growing in Europe.

