

# URBAN, COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

2009

Today's graduates of programs in city planning find themselves in many different professional roles. They may be drawing up land-use plans, managing projects to bring services to new tracts, studying traffic patterns, bringing a neighbourhood back from decay, or conducting a study for a new route of the famous TGV, the high-speed train. The city planner resembles the conductor of an orchestra, unifying three broad fields of knowledge—social, economic, and spatial. City planners coordinate and synthesize contributions from all three domains. Their work requires a global vision. They must think of everything, keeping in mind that the city is a living thing whose elements are tightly connected and interdependent. City planners work upstream and downstream of development projects.

Undergraduate training in urban and regional planning is currently in flux due to the LMD (licence, master, and doctorate) reform, under which France's urban planning institutes are being repositioned within university systems that are themselves in flux. The danger is that the fields will lose visibility and identity once relocated within traditional departments such as geography or economics. The bottom line is that France's urban planners are in the midst of restructuring a very rich array of offerings that include the relatively new fields of regional development, sustainable development, decentralization, interjurisdictional coordination, and even forecasting, negotiation, mediation, and citizen participation.

Degrees in urban, community, and regional planning are offered at several levels: licence, maîtrise, master's, and MST (maîtrise de sciences et techniques). Many institutions offer the DEA (diplôme d'études approfondies) and DESS (diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées). Urban planning can be studied at some engineering schools (École des Ponts et Chaussées, École des Travaux Publics, École des Mines), but only as electives, not as a major. Listed here are universities that have created urban planning institutes; a full list of programs would require too much space. The Web site of the French infrastructure ministry provides a fairly complete list of university programs by level

[http://www.cdu.urbanisme.equipement.gouv.fr/article.php3?id\\_article=102&var\\_recherche=formation](http://www.cdu.urbanisme.equipement.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=102&var_recherche=formation)

## MAJOR PROGRAMS

### • Institut d'urbanisme de Paris, Université Paris XII Créteil

<http://www.univ-paris12.fr/iup/default.htm>

The Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris offers graduate programs leading to a DEA or DESS. Applicants must hold a four-year undergraduate degree (bac+4 or equivalent) in architecture, law, economics, management, geography, history, engineering, political science, sociology, or other related field.

Domestic applicants are interviewed by an admissions committee. International students are admitted based on their application file. Degree programs: DESS in urban planning and management; DESS in urban architectural control; DEA in management of urban regions; DEA in transportation; doctorate in economics, management, and space. A master's in "urban mobility: transportation and city planning" is offered jointly with the Université de Marne-la-Vallée, the University of Paris XII (IUP), the University of Paris VIII (IFU), and the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées.

### • Institut français d'Urbanisme IFU, Université Paris VIII

<http://www.ifu.univ-paris8.fr/>

Interested students should request application forms in March from the department offering the degree they wish to pursue. Applicants will be invited to sit for the entrance exam (involving preparation of a summary and commentary on an urban planning document). The program offers a licence and maîtrise (French national diplomas) in land-use planning, a DESS in urban planning and development, and a DEA. All programs impart technical skills (cartography, statistics, research methods) as well as the theoretical bases of urban planning and related contributions from economics, law, sociology, and geography.

### • Institut d'Urbanisme et d'Aménagement, Université Paris IV

[http://www.paris4.sorbonne.fr/fr/article.php3?id\\_article=72](http://www.paris4.sorbonne.fr/fr/article.php3?id_article=72)

The Institut d'Urbanisme et d'Aménagement of the Université de Paris IV is located within a "literary" university in which all aspects of culture and civilization are studied in depth. Nevertheless the institute maintains very close ties with professional groups such as the Société Française des Urbanistes. Degree programs include: licence, maîtrise, et DESS in development; DESS programs in transport, communications, and international exchange logistics; and a magistère in development and management of land and communities.

### • Institut d'Urbanisme de Lyon II, Université Lumière Lyon II

<http://www.iul-urbanisme.fr/index.htm>

The IUL—part of the Faculty of Geography, History, History of Art, and Tourism at the Université Lumière Lyon 2—offers graduate training and research programs in urban planning and development. It also maintains close relations with other institutions in the region in the form of joint degree programs and faculty exchanges. Those institutions include the École des Travaux Publics de Lyon-Vaulx-en-Velin, the schools of architecture of Lyon and Saint-Étienne, INSA de Lyon, the Institut d'Urbanisme de Grenoble, Université Lyon 3, and Université de Saint-Étienne (<http://www.pole-urbanisme-lyon.asso.fr>). IUL offers a full range of undergraduate and graduate degrees in city planning and regional development.

The DESS in urban planning and city management, a professional program offered since 1974, is accredited by the Ministry of National Education. It offers 800 hours of training in all aspects of city management.

The DEA program in cities and societies combines studies in geography, social science, economics, policy, technology, and city planning. It is offered jointly with the universities of Lyon 2, Lyon 3, Grenoble 2, and Saint-Étienne as well as the École Nationale des Travaux Publics de l'État.

• **Institut d'Urbanisme de Grenoble, Université Pierre Mendès France**

<http://www.iug-grenoble.fr>

The Institut d'Urbanisme de Grenoble is a full-fledged teaching and research department within the Université Pierre Mendès France. It offers degree programs at all levels, as well as continuing education and research. Jointly with the Université Joseph Fourier, it awards the DEUG (first undergraduate degree), licence, and maîtrise in regional planning and development. Recipients of the maîtrise may be accorded the professional title of Ingénieur-Maître by decision of the faculty. Graduate programs include a DESS in urban planning and development, a DEA in city and society, and a doctorate in urban planning.

• **Institut d'Aménagement, de Tourisme et d'Urbanisme de Bordeaux, Université Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux III**

<http://www.iatu.u-bordeaux3.fr/>

IATU delivers an MST in sustainable regional development and a DESS in operational urban planning ("The Evolving City") taught jointly with the École d'Architecture et du Paysage de Bordeaux.

• **Institut d'Aménagement Régional (IAR), Université d'Aix-Marseille III**

<http://www.iar.u-3mrs.fr/>

Each of the first three years of IAR's program leads to a diploma: a DEUG after the first year, a licence after the second, and then a maîtrise in regional planning and development. Students meeting certain conditions may be awarded the professional title of Ingénieur-Maître. IAR also offers a two-year DESS in urban planning and local development and, jointly with the Université de Provence and the École d'Architecture de Marseille Luminy, a DEA in physical and human geography and urban planning.

• **Institut de géographie et d'aménagement régional (IGARUN), Université de Nantes**

<http://www.igarun.univ-nantes.fr>

Programs leading to the MST, DESS, and DEA degrees

• **Doctoral program in urban environment, Marne-la-Vallée**

<http://www.enpc.fr/edve/>

The doctoral program in urban environment was formed by four institutions, École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées, École Nationale des Sciences Géographiques, the Université de Marne-la-Vallée and the Université de Paris VIII. The program draws on 15 research facilities in the Paris region, of which 12 are located in the Cité Descartes in Marne-la-Vallée. All of the facilities play a part in the teaching program.

• **The urban planning program at Sciences-Po**

<http://www.sciences-po-urbanisme.com/>

For more than 35 years the urban planning program at Sciences-Po has provided

multidisciplinary graduate training in 10 months of demanding full-time study. France's top urban planning program (an honor bestowed in 2001) prepares students to enter the last year of the terminal master's in urban planning and real estate at Sciences-Po or a DESS program.

Students who complete the program after October 2004 also receive the diploma of the Institut des Sciences-Po. Each class consists of 36 from a variety of universities. Some have professional experience.

Special procedures are used to admit several international students each year. From 2003 to 2005, students from Beijing and Beijing University will have priority.

• **Institut d'études du développement économique et social, Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne**

<http://iedes.univ-paris1.fr/>

The Institut d'Étude du Développement Économique et Social at the Université de Paris I - Panthéon - Sorbonne offers seven DEA and DESS programs and two doctoral programs.

Research is carried out at the IEDES research center, which publishes the review, Tiers-Monde. The institute is located on the grounds of Paris's Jardin Tropical.

General programs leading to the DESS or DEA are offered at the Université de Haute Bretagne in Rennes, the Université de Toulouse Le Mirail, the Université de Tours (CESA), the Université de Lille (IAUL), and the Université de Reims (IATEUR), among others.

A more comprehensive list of DESS can be found on the Web site of the Ministry of Culture and Communication):

<http://www.ramau.archi.fr/formations/diplomes/dess-amenagement.html>

• Set design, exhibit design, and lighting design:

Consult the sites of the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Techniques du Théâtre (<http://www.ensatt.fr>), the École Nationale des Travaux Publics (<http://www.entpe.fr>), the Association française d'éclairage (<http://afe-eclairage.com.fr>) and the Association des concepteurs lumière (<http://www.ace-fr.org>).

Similar programs, part of the new landscape of contemporary city life, are taught in schools of architecture and design, as well as in institutions devoted to the creation of urban furniture (see the files on *Architecture and Design*).

► **Websites**

• Ministère de l'Écologie, de l'Énergie, du Développement durable et de l'Aménagement du territoire <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>

• Urban planning information center (CDU)

<http://www.cdu.urbanisme.equipement.gouv.fr/>

• Portal for urban planning professionals <http://www.urbanet.com>

• Center for research in networks, transport, urban planning, and public works

<http://www.certu.fr/>

• Pact Arim for the improvement of housing <http://www.pact-arim.org/>

• Archives of the CIDJ

<http://www.cidj.asso.fr/Viewdoc.aspx?docid=527&catid=1>

• French society of urban planners (SFU) <http://www.urbanistes.com>

• French council of urban planners <http://www.cfdu.org>

• Association for the promotion of teaching and research in urban and regional planning <http://www.aperau.org/>