

Master cycle, instructions for use

or how to navigate through the master's programme.

To begin with, a few important reference texts, to be read at least before anything else in case of questions:

- the ordinance on bachelor and master programmes
- the ordinance on study control
- the 2023-2024 study plan
- the application regulations for the study control of the architecture section (winter and summer sessions 2024)
- the course booklet (new version 2023-2024 available on the section website).

You will find the ordinances, study plan and application regulations on the EPFL website, on the pages Academic Service and Polylex (<https://www.epfl.ch/education/studies/reglement-et-procedure/> and <http://polylex.epfl.ch>).

The Master in Architecture is a 120-credit Master's degree:

- 90 credits for the master cycle ;
- 30 credits for the master project.

In principle, the Master's degree therefore lasts 4 semesters in total.

The Master cycle corresponds to three semesters of courses, and its structure is as follows

- a "Visions and strategies" group of compulsory elective subjects of 6 credits, from which the student must choose 2 of the proposed courses;
- a "Common Core" group of compulsory subjects of 33 credits
- a group of compulsory projects of 24 credits (corresponding to 2 semesters of architectural projects);
- a group of optional subjects of 27 credits.

Once the 90 credits of the Master cycle have been obtained, the student enters the Master project during the spring semester (4th semester of Master studies).

The "Visions and Strategies" group of compulsory elective subjects consists in its 2023-2024 version of 5 courses from which the student must choose 2 courses. If the student wishes to take more than 2 courses offered in this group, the extra courses will be placed in the options group.

The "Common Core" group of compulsory subjects is made up of 4 subjects in its 2023-2024 version, including the course "The origins of modern domestic space" to be taken in autumn, the SHS course over two semesters, the Superstudio and the Master's theoretical statement, the latter two subjects being reserved for the 3rd semester of Master's studies, directly preceding the Master's project.

The SHS course is split into two semester courses: an SHS Introduction course to be taken in the autumn semester, and an SHS Project course linked to the introductory course, in the spring.

Superstudio Fall 2023, for 2nd year Master students (semester Master 3)

For Fall 2023, Superstudio will be held by a team of teachers from the EAST laboratory, the Section of Architecture and EPFL, under the direction of Professor Martin Fröhlich.

Superstudio: Tuesday and Wednesday all day.

The two courses of Architectural Project Management and Architectural Law, which are compulsory for the validation of the EPFL training, are no longer included in the Master's programme since September 2013, but in the 2nd year of the Bachelor's programme for Law in autumn, and in the 3rd year of the Bachelor's programme for Project Management in spring.

Students who have joined EPFL for the Master only will have to take these two courses, unless they have taken equivalent courses during their Bachelor's degree at their home university, and can attest to this.

The 2nd part of the Law course still exists, it is an optional in-depth course offered in spring during the Master's degree.

The group of compulsory projects includes all the architectural project courses. The student must complete two Design studios during the Master cycle.

The group of optional subjects includes all other subjects.

It includes in particular the teaching units. The student is obliged to attend one teaching unit during the Master cycle, he/she may attend a maximum of two during the Master course.

Each student then chooses from the available electives.

ATTENTION, each course must be validated individually, without any compensation between the marks of the different courses.

A group is passed when a number at least equal to the number of credits registered for the group is passed, branch by branch: in this case, no compensation is possible between two branches.

The number of credits in a group can be higher than the number of credits required to ensure the success of the group.

As you will see quite quickly, time constraints are important, sometimes determining the choice of options since the overlapping of certain courses does not allow them to be taken simultaneously during the same semester. This is due to the increased offer of courses, and the crossing of these branches in the three study plans of the ENAC sections.

Please check the following points carefully :

- the prerequisites between one subject and the other, as indicated in the study plan grid or the course booklet for the subject in question
- the type of examination. The subjects marked as sem A or P in the syllabus are continuous assessment subjects, assessed during the semester and therefore not subject to an examination during the exam session following the end of the semester.

For subjects that are examined, the type of examination (oral or written) and the examination session are indicated.

For example, autumn semester subjects are only examined in winter, spring semester subjects are only examined in summer.

Orientations

At the Master's level, the coherence of each student's programme is reinforced by the system of orientations.

Based on the grouping of courses, teaching units and one or more architectural Design studios, the proposed orientations are :

- A Form - Data
- B Habitats - Housing
- C Cities - Territories
- D Sauvegarde - Resources
- E Types _ Typologies

The choice of the studio in the autumn semester at the beginning of the Master's programme is therefore decisive for the choice of the orientation.

See detailed description of the orientations and the related courses, project workshops and teaching units on page

<https://www.epfl.ch/schools/enac/education/architecture/fr/sar-bienvenue/education/master-ar/> .

Minors

You can choose during your Master cycle to enrol in a minor. For architects, three minors are recommended by the section:

- a transdisciplinary minor in Territorial Development and Urban Planning (DTU)
- a transdisciplinary minor in Integrated Design, Architecture and Sustainability (IDEAS)
- a transdisciplinary minor in Engineering for Sustainability (DUR).

The minor corresponds to 30 credits, the branches are part of the group of optional branches, the detailed modalities are described by the application regulation of the study plan (chapter 4, article 12).

The descriptions of the minors are available on the following website

<https://www.epfl.ch/schools/enac/education/architecture/fr/sar-bienvenue/education/master-ar/> .

I would also like to remind you that you must register via ISAcademia for each of the courses you take, in autumn as well as in spring, as well as for the corresponding examination if you decide to take it.

Check the deadlines for course registration, exams, exam withdrawal and other administrative deadlines on the Academic Service website.

For the 2023-2024 Design studios and master teaching units, the registration procedure will be open during the summer **from 4 to 11 September 2023**, and for the spring semester from 22 to 29 January 2024.

There is therefore no need to rush to register for Design studios and teaching units on ISAcademia earlier, as premature registrations will not be taken into account.

You will find all the information concerning all the courses on the homepage of the architecture section website (<https://www.epfl.ch/schools/enac/education/architecture/fr/sar-bienvenue/education/>).

An **information and presentation session** on the Design studios, teaching units, orientations, minors and Superstudio will take place in the SG1 auditorium on

Monday 4 September 2023, all day.

The detailed timetable will be available on the website

<https://www.epfl.ch/schools/enac/education/architecture/fr/sar-bienvenue/espace-etudiant/> .