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Urban Design - Revitalisation of Historic City Districts • Brandenburg University of Technology
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# Master's degree

**Urban Design - Revitalisation of Historic City Districts**

Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg • Cottbus

## Overview

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<th><strong>Degree</strong></th>
<th>Master of Science in Urban Design - Revitalisation of Historic City Districts</th>
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<td><strong>In cooperation with</strong></td>
<td>Cairo University and Alexandria University, Egypt</td>
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<td><strong>Teaching language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
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<td><strong>Languages</strong></td>
<td>Courses are held entirely in English.</td>
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<td><strong>Programme duration</strong></td>
<td>4 semesters</td>
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<td><strong>Beginning</strong></td>
<td>Winter semester</td>
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<td><strong>Application deadline</strong></td>
<td>1 June for the following winter semester</td>
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<td><strong>Tuition fees per semester in EUR</strong></td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<td><strong>Combined Master's degree / PhD programme</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
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<td><strong>Joint degree / double degree programme</strong></td>
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## Description/content

The development of historic cities in Europe and in the MENA region (Middle East & North Africa) is one of the most important challenges to sustainable urban development today. A vivid inner city with a historic core can shape the image and the identity of a city and initialise development. The benefits gained from the renewal and revitalisation of such areas spread far beyond the inhabitants and stakeholders of the quarter and across the entire town.

The Master's programme “Urban Design - Revitalisation of Historic City Districts” tackles this topic in a double degree programme that integrates the strengths of Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg, Cairo University, and Alexandria University into a single, project-based curriculum. It is aimed at applicants with a background in architecture, urban design, urban planning, regional planning, or landscape planning.

Students in the double degree programme will study one semester at each of the partner universities, thus integrating three approaches to the topic of urban design and revitalisation: Urban Design and Rehabilitation, Urban Development, and Architecture in Historic Context.
Course Details

Course organisation

First Semester

The first semester takes place at BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg and focuses on the topic urban design and rehabilitation. All students are required to participate in two mandatory modules during this semester:

- Town and House (6 ECTS)
- Urban Design and Rehabilitation Project (12 ECTS)

Additionally, students will choose two out of the following four compulsory-elective modules:

- Landscape Planning and Public Space Design (6 ECTS)
- Experimental Urban Design (6 ECTS)
- Conservation/Building in Existing Fabric (6 ECTS)
- Urban Planning - Life, Work, and Recreation in the Future (6 ECTS)

Second Semester

The second semester takes place at Cairo University and focuses on the topic urban development. All students are required to participate in the mandatory Urban Development Project (12 ECTS). Additionally, students will choose three out of the following five compulsory-elective modules:

- Urban Regeneration (6 ECTS)
- Urban Heritage Management (6 ECTS)
- History of Urban Morphology (6 ECTS)
- Participation in Urban Development (6 ECTS)
- Mobility Planning and Management for Historic Cities (6 ECTS)

Third Semester

The third semester takes place at Alexandria University and focuses on the topic architecture in historic context. All students are required to participate in the mandatory Architecture in Historic Context Project (12 ECTS). Additionally, students will choose three out of the following five compulsory-elective modules:

- New Architecture in Historic Context (6 ECTS)
- Adaptive Re-Use of Old Buildings (6 ECTS)
- History and Theories of Historic Building Conservation (6 ECTS)
- New Technologies for Sustainable Building Rehabilitation (6 ECTS)
- Evaluation, Interpretation and Documentation of Historic Buildings (6 ECTS)

Fourth Semester

The fourth semester is reserved for the preparation of the Master’s thesis (30 ECTS). Students receive support and supervision from two supervisors from two of the three partner universities. Additionally, an introductory workshop as well as an interim presentation and the final presentation will be held throughout the semester.

Regular Study Period

Following the curriculum as described above, students will accumulate 30 ECTS each semester or 120 ECTS over four semesters, thereby completing their studies in the regular study period of four semesters.

Types of assessment

The programme is largely project- and design-based. Accordingly, students will be expected to develop projects, either by themselves or in groups, and present the results through models, graphics, and texts. Project results are often defended in interim and final presentations, thereby
strengthening the students' presentational skills. Some modules may also require written exams, papers or oral exams, depending on the topic.

A Diploma supplement will be issued

Yes

International elements

- International guest lecturers
- Projects with partners in Germany and abroad
- International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context
- Courses are led with foreign partners
- Content-related regional focus

Integrated internships

While internships are not a mandatory part of the curriculum, they are recommended. The summer break between the second and third semester is the longest in the programme and lends itself to doing an internship. Programme advisers and professors can assist students in finding an appropriate internship.

Special promotion / funding of the programme

- Other (e.g. state level)

Course-specific, integrated German language courses

No

Course-specific, integrated English language courses

No

Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR

1,500

Semester contribution

Apart from a few degree programmes, education offered at the BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg is without tuition fees. However, the university does charge a semester fee of around 300 EUR each semester, which includes the semester transportation ticket. It also covers costs for the Student Services Organisation (Studentenwerk) and the Student Council (StuRa).

Costs of living

Studies abroad often have different types of expenses from the ones you know from your home country. You are responsible for covering your own living expenses. Accommodation and other essential living expenses will amount to around 600-900 EUR/month. Of course, this amount depends entirely on individual lifestyle. The following list gives you an idea of some fixed and variable costs that you should take into account for your stay in Germany.

Monthly costs:

You will not need to pay for public transport in Berlin and Brandenburg. The semester ticket for buses and trains operated by VBB is already included in the semester fee.

Funding opportunities within the university

Yes

Description of the above-

Studying at BTU is mostly free of (study) fees. Because of this, there are only limited scholarship
Requirements / Registration

**Academic admission requirements**
- A first qualifying academic degree (at least a Bachelor's degree) in architecture, urban design, urban planning, regional planning, landscape planning, or landscape architecture;
- Experience in the recognition of relevant urban development problems, defining tasks, methods, and strategies for solving these problems as well as the ability to develop qualified concepts and present them. (This criterion is evaluated on the basis of a project portfolio that is to be submitted with the application.)

**Language requirements**
A certificate of proficiency in English must be provided. Accepted tests and minimum scores are:
- TOEFL (iBT at least 79 points)
- IELTS (at least 6.0 points)
- Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) (minimum grade of B)
- Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) (minimum grade of C)
- UniCert, at least II

Applicants with a higher education entrance qualification from Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Great Britain incl. Northern Ireland or the United States of America do not have to submit a separate proof of English language skills. Applicants who completed a secondary level degree in English in Germany or in one of the above mentioned countries are also exempted from presenting a formal English language certificate.

German language skills are not required for admission to this study programme.

**Application deadline**
1 June for the following winter semester

**Submit application to**
International applicants must submit their application via the uni-assist e.V. online application platform "My assist": [www.uni-assist.de/en/](http://www.uni-assist.de/en/)

The application is submitted entirely online, no hard copies required.

Detailed information on application requirements, process, and documents on the programme website: [www.b-tu.de/en/urbandesign-ms/application](http://www.b-tu.de/en/urbandesign-ms/application)

Services

**Possibility of finding part-time employment**
There are job opportunities both in town and on campus. Nevertheless, please do not come to Germany expecting to be able to finance your entire studies by working. The study load is high, and it is not always easy to find a part-time job. Students from non-European countries are allowed to work either 120 whole days or 240 half days annually. The 120-day rule is not affected by mandatory internships or student assistance jobs at university. Students from EU member countries, the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland can work without restrictions during their studies in Germany.

**Accommodation**
BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg is a university with three locations where numerous student dormitories are provided. Students can choose between different room types.
The Master’s programme has benefited me by helping me to see the world’s diversity. The students all come from very different backgrounds and experiences. The most amazing feeling is that after some time of studying, we all speak the same language of urban design. I am so happy and grateful to stay until the end and see the world with my own eyes, getting to know so many brilliant teachers, friends from every corner of the world, and of course, opportunities to participate in various events.”

In Germany, it is also very common for students to live alone or with friends. If three or more people share an apartment together, this is called a “WG” in German (“Wohngemeinschaft”, which means a shared flat).

Specific specialist or non-specialist support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event
- Buddy programme
- Accompanying programme
- Cultural and linguistic preparation
- Visa matters

Brandenburg University of Technology
Cottbus-Senftenberg
Located on three campuses and with almost 70 study programmes, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg offers a broad spectrum of market-oriented programmes as well as traditional degree programmes. From the natural sciences and engineering to economics, cultural studies, and even health sciences, BTU offers a wide range of courses. Our 13 study programmes taught exclusively in English are very popular among both German and international students from all over the world.

BTU is partnered with over 160 universities throughout the world, which provides students with a multitude of excellent opportunities to spend part of their time studying or conducting research abroad. Furthermore, in cooperation with our international partner universities, BTU offers a wide range of double-degree and joint-degree programmes.

University location

Cottbus is located in the north-east of Germany, between the country’s capital, Berlin (100 km), and Dresden (120 km). With a population of approx. 100,000 citizens, Cottbus is the second largest city after Potsdam in the federal state of Brandenburg. The Polish border is only approx. 30 km away. The location of Cottbus offers a convenient starting point for trips into the picturesque region of Lower Lusatia. The landscape of Lower Lusatia is characterised by the Spreewald with its small canals and waterways as well as by the Slavonic minority called Sorbs or Wends. Their language, similar to Polish, is still used and spoken in Lower Lusatia. For this reason, many of the road signs and informational boards in Cottbus and the surrounding region are written in both Sorbian and German. Cottbus gained importance as a trade centre in the 12th century. Parts of the original city wall from the 14th century as well as the beautiful townhouses around the old market square are proof of the city’s early splendour. Additionally, the city is characterised by buildings from the “Wilhelminian” times of rapid industrial growth in Germany, which occurred towards the end of the 19th century. The city that first rose to prominence with its cloth and linen weaving industry soon evolved into a growing centre of brown coal mining.

Senftenberg is the centre of the Lusatia Lake District. Former excavation and mining pits have been flooded in order to create the largest artificial lake system in Europe, with a total of 23 large lakes. The water sports area "Senftenberger See", with its water surface of 1,300 hectares, offers exceptional sailing and surfing opportunities, and it is suitable for all kinds of water sports. Senftenberg has thus become a tourist attraction within the region.
Contact

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Bureau of International Studies

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Twitter: https://twitter.com/BTU_CS
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/btucs/

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