

**Master cycle, instructions for use**

or how to navigate through the master's programme in Architecture.

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

- the ordinance on bachelor and master programmes
- the ordinance on study control
- the 2024-2025 study plan
- the application regulations for the study control of the architecture section (winter and summer sessions 2025)
- the course booklet (new version 2024-2025 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 Design 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 2024-2025 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 "Domestic space in the 20th century" 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 Autumn 2024, for 2<sup>nd</sup> year Master students (semester Master 3)**

For Autumn 2024, 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 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/> .

In the autumn semester, students enrol in a Design studio, a teaching unit and a course indicated as compulsory for their orientation. Sometimes it is possible to choose between several courses, teaching units or Design studios for the same orientation.

In order to provide students with greater organisational flexibility, it is now possible to take a teaching unit or a course in the spring semester to validate an orientation.

### **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 Territories in Transformation and Climate (TTC)
- 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 2024-2025 Design studios and master teaching units, the registration procedure will be open during the summer from 28 August to 3 September 2024 for the Autumn semester, and for the spring semester from 22 to 28 January 2025.**

In the days that follow, the department head will allocate students to the various studios and teaching units using a distribution algorithm, and will register them.

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 CE 1 6 auditorium on

**Monday 2 September 2024, all day.**

The detailed timetable will be available on the website

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