Master of Science in Maritime Science

Ghent University – Vrije Universiteit Brussel
The Master of Science in Maritime Science is an inter-university programme developed by Ghent University (UGent) and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). It aims at students from diverse academic backgrounds, who have a common passion for maritime transport and already hold a Master degree. People working in the maritime sector may also benefit from the programme to enhance their knowledge and skills. The programme comprises three main pillars: a technical/general pillar, an economic/logistic pillar and a legal pillar, and follows the multidisciplinary approach which makes it unique in the global academic landscape.

The programme is taught by experts with international acknowledgment and experience. The strong interaction with the maritime sector through guest lectures and field trips provides students with up-to-date information on ports and shipping. All courses are offered in English, as the maritime sector operates in an international environment. It is therefore essential that students are able to use the English terminology in a correct and efficient way.

The programme is built on a methodical framework, consisting of two course types: compulsory courses (39 CP) and optional courses (6 CP). The compulsory courses represent the core of the programme, whilst the optional courses offer students a way of exploring possible future (career) paths and allow for specialization in a certain aspect of the maritime landscape.

The courses are supplemented by the submission of a master’s thesis on a maritime or transport oriented topic (15 CP). In this written dissertation, students prove their ability to analyse a specific topic thoroughly and independently. At an oral presentation, students have the opportunity to clarify their research and defend their findings.

The courses are supplemented by the submission of a master’s thesis on a maritime or transport oriented topic. Therefore it is crucial that students learn about the scientific and technical principles that govern ships and contemporary problems ports may encounter. The economic/logistic pillar intends to familiarize students with the unique economic character of maritime transport, which is a global phenomenon with very specific dynamics. Therefore it is crucial that students learn about the economic principles that govern and affect port authorities, shipping companies and transport firms.

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STUDY TRIPS AND COMPANY VISITS

The academic activities are complemented with an annual five-day study trip to London. This trip involves visits to organizations and companies that are actively involved in maritime transport, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC), the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), Lloyd’s Register, Steamship Mutual, Intertanko, Intercargo, Inmarsat and IRI/Marshall Islands Registry.

Apart from the London trip, several shorter field trips are planned during the academic year, such as visits to North Sea Port, the ports of Antwerp, Ostend, Zeebrugge and Rotterdam and port-related shipping, handling and cargo generating companies in these ports (DFDS, Euro-Silo, Volvo Cars, ArcelorMittal, Sea-Invest, Stukwerkers, Laleman, Gall). The study trips and company visits are an integral part of the curriculum (5 CP) and are covered by the tuition fee.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Due to the interdisciplinary character of the programme, the organizers choose to accept graduates from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

Candidates should hold a master degree (master degree following a bachelor degree, e.g. Master in Law, Master in Business Economics, etc.), but in specific cases, after examination of their curriculum and in view of their acquired competences, candidates with an equivalent foreign degree may be admitted. Students who are graduating may apply and will be conditionally admitted, subject to the successful completion of their degree.

Candidates must complete the online application form and submit all required documents by the application deadline. They will only be accepted after thorough screening and selection.

TUITION FEE

The tuition fee for the Maritime Science programme is € 5,330. The costs of study trips and company visits are included. Fees do not cover course materials or living expenses. Enrolment in consecutive years does not imply a partly exemption of the tuition fee.

HOW TO APPLY?

Application is online. Please read and follow the instructions carefully.

www.maritimescience.ugent.be