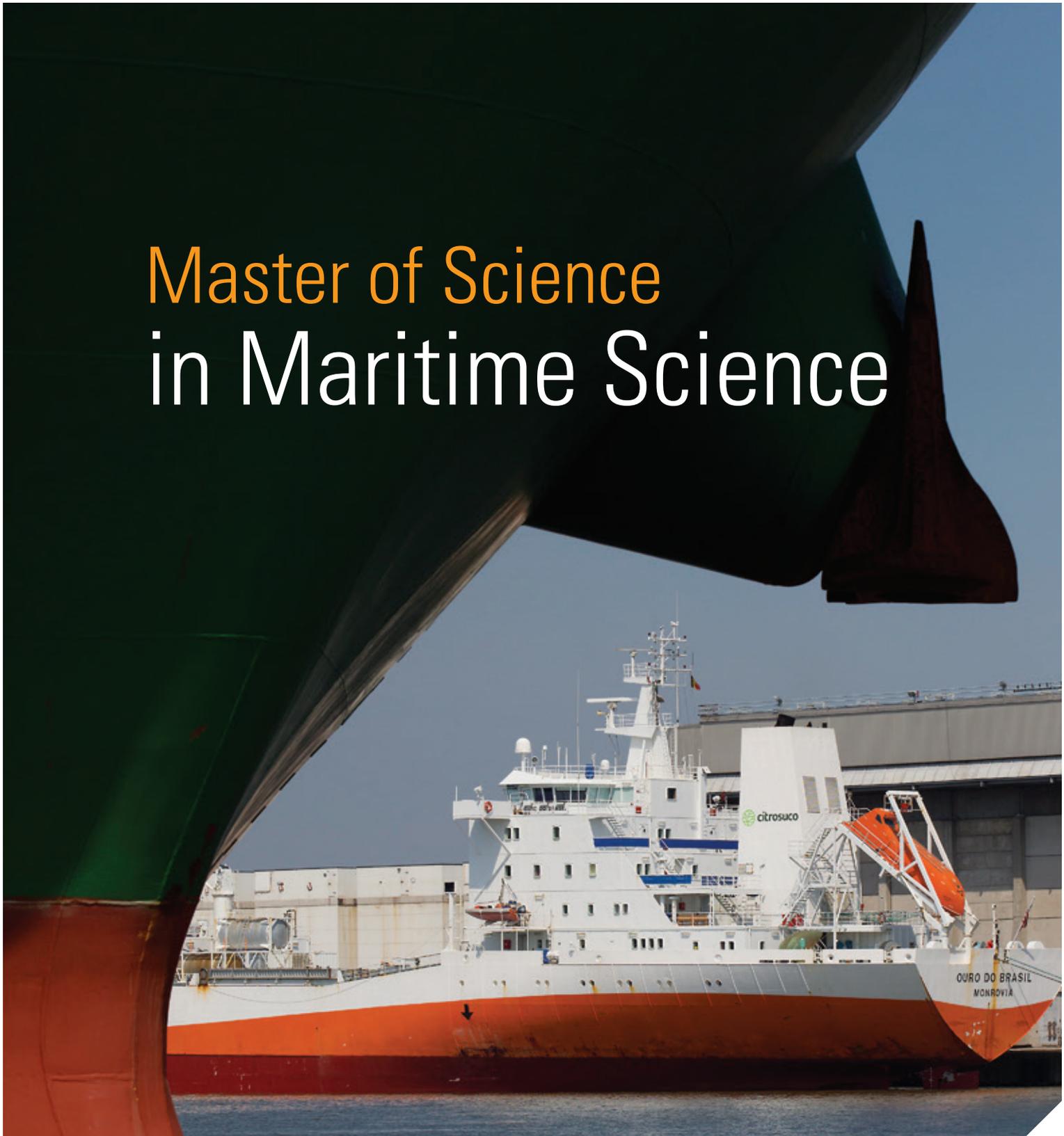


# Master of Science in Maritime Science



Universiteit Gent – Vrije Universiteit Brussel

**INFORMATION  
BROCHURE**

## Introduction

The Master of Science in Maritime Science – an inter-university programme created by both Ghent University (UGent) and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), taught in English and accessible for students who already have a Master degree – will be organized for the first time during the academic year 2015-2016. The history of the study programme goes all the way back to 1985, when Ghent University initiated the ‘Speciale Licentie in de Haven- en Maritieme Wetenschappen’, resulting out of the necessity to develop an academic interdisciplinary programme – combining technical, economic and legal aspects – to fill the employment needs within the maritime sector.

**Once the cooperation with the University of Antwerp (2001-2014) had come to an end, Ghent University approached another partner in order to keep the balance between the different academic fields within the programme. The Vrije Universiteit Brussel was immediately interested to participate in this challenging endeavour, also taking into account the ongoing alliance between the two institutions. Its well-known academic involvement in transport and logistics, as well as in the law of the sea, is providing the programme with a marked added value.**

## General information

The study programme aims at students of diverse academic backgrounds, who have a common passion and interest for maritime transport. People who are already working in the maritime sector can also feel the urge 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 stays true to the multidisciplinary approach, which makes it unique in the global academic landscape.

The study programme is supported by a very strong teaching staff, composed of experts in their respective fields with international exposure and experience.

There is a strong link with the professional maritime sector, providing students with information about the actual operations and common practices on the ground and preparing them for a professional career.

All courses are taught in English, as the maritime sector operates in an international environment. The language that rules the maritime sector is in se English. It is therefore essential that students are able to use the English terminology in a correct and efficient way.

All courses have a European and an international dimension, resulting out of the global nature of maritime transport.



The study programme is built on a logical, uncluttered framework, consisting of compulsory courses (39 SP) and optional courses (6 SP). The compulsory courses represent the core of the study programme, while the optional courses offer the student the possibility to choose which (professional) direction he/she wants to go, according to his/her personal interests and ambition, and allow for specialization in a certain aspect of the maritime world. The three pillars are represented in both categories and these academic courses are supplemented by the writing of a master thesis (15 SP). The master thesis is a written essay about a maritime or transport oriented subject, wherein the student proves that he can analyse a specific topic thoroughly and individually and write his findings down in a structured and coherent manner. An oral presentation, in which the student clarifies and defends his work, is also included.

**The legal content** of the study programme aims at developing in-depth knowledge of international law of the sea, maritime law and transport law. This is realized by the compulsory courses *Law of the Sea, Maritime Law and Maritime Transport Law*, and the student can enhance this knowledge by choosing for the optional courses *Law of the Sea: Special Issues, International and European River Law, Transport Law, Transport Insurance Law, International and European Environmental Law or Air Law*. Through these legal courses, the goal of developing the necessary knowledge and skills with regard to the legal aspects of maritime transport is reached.

**The economic-logistic content** of the study programme aims at familiarizing the student with the unique economic character of maritime transport, which is a global phenomenon with very specific dynamics. Therefore it is crucial that the students know about the economic principles that govern and affect port authorities, shipping companies and transport firms. This is realized by the compulsory courses *Maritime and Port Economics and Supply Chain Management*, and can be supplemented by the optional courses *Transport Economics and Policy, Urban Mobility and Logistics and Transport Business Economics*. Through these economically oriented courses, the goal of developing the necessary knowledge and skills with regard to the economic-logistic aspects of maritime transport is reached.

**The technical-general content** of the study programme comprises the essential principles of port technology (basic knowledge of the typical technical infrastructure and facilities in ports), ship technology (basic knowledge of the scientific and technical principles that govern ships) and actual port problems (insights into contemporary spatial and economic issues that determine the investment and infrastructure policy in ports). The technical-general content is represented by the compulsory courses *Ship Technology, Port Technology and Contemporary Port Problems*, and the student can enhance this knowledge by choosing for the optional courses *Spatial Analysis of Maritime and Port Development, Port Planning and Port History*. Through these courses, the goal of developing basic knowledge concerning ship and port technology, port planning and the maritime sector as such is realized.

## STUDY PROGRAMME MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MARITIME SCIENCE 2015-2016

Courses	Lecturer	Semester	Contact hours	Study time	Credits
<b>→ General courses</b>					<b>39</b>
Port Technology	P. De Baets	1	45	150	5
Ship Technology	M. Vantorre	1	45	150	5
Contemporary Port Problems	D. Schalck	2	30	90	3
Study Trip and Field Trips	F. Maes	Y	90	150	5
Maritime and Port Economics	P. Verhoeven	2	45	150	5
Supply Chain Management (VUB)	C. Macharis	2	40	150	6
Law of the Sea	F. Maes	1	30	90	3
Maritime Law	K. Bernauw	1	30	90	3
Maritime Transport Law	K. Bernauw	2	30	120	4
<b>→ Elective courses</b>					<b>6</b>
Port History (VUB)	C. Koninckx	1	30	90	3
Port Planning	L. Boelens	1	45	150	6
Spatial Analysis of Maritime and Port Development	L. Boelens	2	30	90	3
Transport Economics and Policy	F. Witlox	1	30	90	3
Urban Mobility and Logistics	F. Witlox	1	30	90	3
Transport Business Economics	N.N.	2	30	90	3
Law of the Sea: Special Issues (VUB)	E. Franckx	2	40	160	6
Transport Law	K. Bernauw	1	45	90	3
Transport Insurance Law	K. Bernauw	1	30	90	3
International and European River Law	M. De Decker	2	30	90	3
Air Law	M. Wouters	2	30	90	3
International and European Environmental Law	A. Cliquet	1	30	90	3
<b>→ Master's Dissertation</b>					<b>15</b>
					<b>60</b>

Yellow courses = Technical - General

Red courses = Economic - Logistic

Blue courses = Legal



## Study trips and company visits

As a supplement to the normal academic activities and courses, an annual study trip to London is being organized. During this trip, organizations and companies that are actively involved in maritime transport, are visited (International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPCF), International Maritime Bureau (IMB), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), International Shipping Federation (ISF), Lloyd's of London, Lloyd's Register, Steamship Mutual, Belgian Embassy, Ince & Co Law firm, Intertanko, Intercargo, Inmarsat, ...).

Next to this, several other visits are planned during the academic year (Ports of Ghent, Antwerp, Ostend and Zeebrugge, Belgian Navy, Volvo Cars Ghent, ArcelorMittal Ghent, boat trip to the North Sea offshore wind mills with DAB Vloot, DFDS Seaways, Van Heyghen Recycling Ghent, Waterbouwkundig Laboratorium (Flanders Hydraulics Research), ...).

The five-day study trip to London and the other field trips and company visits are integrated as a full-fledged component (*Study Trip and Field Trips, 5 SP*) of the curriculum and are covered by the tuition fee.

## Conditions of admission

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

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

Students need to apply for admission to the MSc in Maritime Science programme before the deadline, with the completed application form and all required documents. They can only be accepted after a thorough screening and selection.

## Tuition

The tuition fee for the Maritime Science programme is € 2,775. The costs of the study trip to London and the other field trips are included. Partial or full tuition fee waivers may be granted, depending on financial need and available resources. Fees do not cover course materials or living expenses.

## How to apply

For more information on the study programme and the application procedure, please visit our website:

[www.maritimescience.ugent.be](http://www.maritimescience.ugent.be)



### FURTHER INFORMATION

For questions about the study programme and the application procedure:

→ [maritimescience@ugent.be](mailto:maritimescience@ugent.be)

For questions about personalized trajectories, complementarity with a professional career and possible exemptions:

→ [karen.verpoest@ugent.be](mailto:karen.verpoest@ugent.be)

