

# the role, requirements and structure of conversion masters

at the crossroad the disciples of the neighbouring  
disciplines can convert themselves to landscape  
architecture

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[https://www.landscape-portal.org/landing-page/innoland/#Reports\\_of\\_the\\_InnoLAND\\_project](https://www.landscape-portal.org/landing-page/innoland/#Reports_of_the_InnoLAND_project)



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# CONVERSION MASTER

**A conversion master' programme is a specific type of degree aimed at providing graduates from 1st and 2nd cycle programmes in neighbouring disciplines the opportunity to gain a professional qualification in landscape architecture.**

**Coming from a neighbouring discipline – such as architecture, urban and regional planning, geography or biology – applicants to a conversion master programme will have already acquired a range of competences that also are relevant for landscape architecture.**

**While each of these will have their own specific contribution to landscape planning, design and management, these competences alone cannot compensate for the three years of studies in a first cycle landscape architecture programme**

**(ECLAS 2010)**



# Characteristics of conversion masters

## Characteristics different from regular MLAs:

1. the entrance requirements
2. the number of credit points
3. focus on the main competences for landscape architecture
4. integration of multidisciplinary work.



# Existing conversion masters and courses

**UK**

Course provider	Course name and degree
Birmingham city University	Landscape architecture MA
Kingston University	Landscape architecture MLA
Manchester school of architecture	Landscape architecture MLA
Newcastle University	Landscape architecture MA
The Bartlett University College London	Landscape architecture MLA
University of East London	MA Professional Landscape architecture with conversion
University of Gloucestershire	Landscape architecture Postgraduate Diploma / MA
University of Greenwich	Landscape architecture MLA
University of Sheffield	MA/ PGDip Landscape architecture
<i>Source: <a href="https://www.chooselandscape.org/courses/">https://www.chooselandscape.org/courses/</a></i>	

**US**            **universities of Cornell, UC Berkeley and Harvard**

**South Africa**    **University of Cape Town (separate conversion course)**

**Australia**        **University of West Australia**



# The main benefits of CMs

## CMs provide:

- an alternative route of entry for people wishing to become landscape architects but who are past the age of starting on a bachelor programme and also have relevant knowledge and experience in a related discipline.
- an alternative stream of potential entrants to the profession at a time when the numbers of school leavers are falling due to demographic developments.
- a legitimate route for people qualified in related disciplines to enter the profession it also makes it harder for non-qualified members of related disciplines to justify working in the field of landscape architecture.



# Conversion course and MLA vs conversion master in LA

catching up  
course in  
landscape  
architecture  
  
± 60 ECTS

regular  
master in  
landscape  
architecture  
  
± 120 ECTS

OR

conversion  
master in  
landscape  
architecture  
  
± 180 ECTS

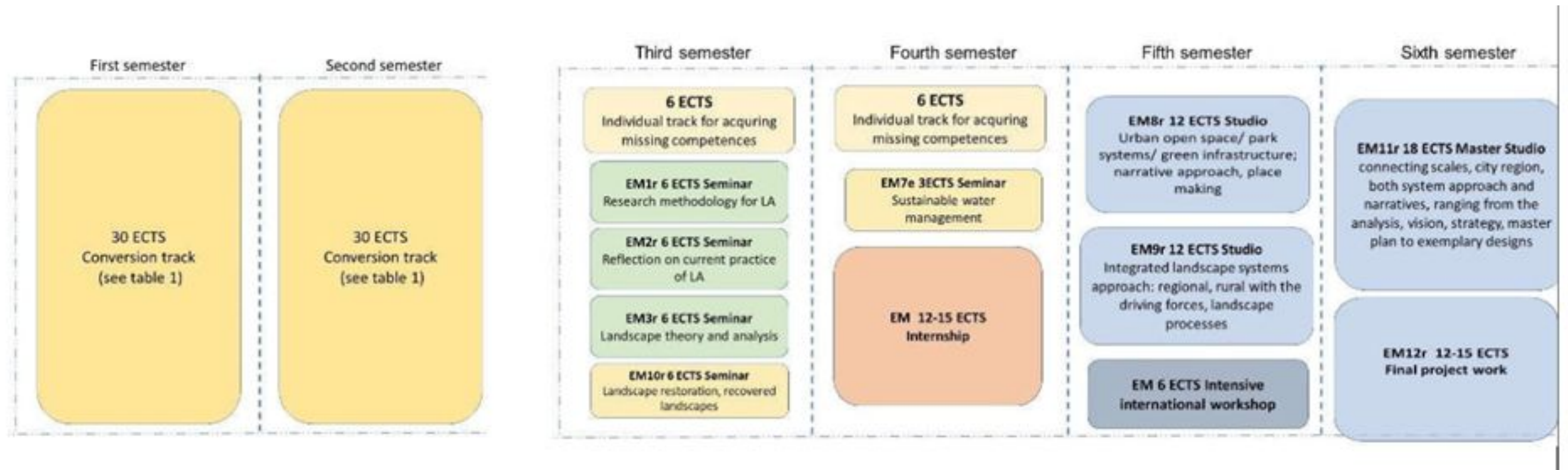
# Tracks in the CM for graduates of other disciplines

Track for architects designers and planners	ECT	Track for graduates of agricultural and environmental programmes.	ECT
EU-LAND21-001-M2 Landscape Basics (Ecology, Soil, Water, Geography) – basic	6	EU-LAND21-001-M1 Landscape Basic Project (including supporting courses) - basic	6
EU-LAND21-B1-M1 Garden & Park design (site design) including planting plan – basic	6	EU-LAND21-A1-M2 Theory and methodology in planning and design; selected theories - basic	6
EU-LAND21-B1-M3 Urban Open Space Design (incl. detailing)- basic	6	EU-LAND21-B1-M1 Garden & Park design (site design) including planting plan - basic	6
EU-LAND21-B3-M2 Landscape management at a site level – basic	6	EU-LAND21-B1-M2 Green infrastructure design (urban or countryside) & planting - intermediate	6
EU-LAND21-D2-M1 Landscape park and vegetation establishment – intermediate	6	EU-LAND21-B1-M3 Urban Open Space Design (incl. detailing)- basic	6
EU-LAND21-D2-M4 Research and vision for Landscape management and vegetation development, combined with a case study and project proposal -advanced	30	EU-LAND21 B2-M1 Theory and Methodology of Planning, lectures - basic	6
		EU-LAND21-D2-M1 Landscape park and vegetation establishment - intermediate	6
		EULAND21-E1-M1 Introduction to GIS and Geodesign - basic	6

**A complete overview of all the bachelor programme modules of EU-LAND21 with the full description of the competences are presented in the EU-LAND report (EULand-21, 2018)**



# Proposed structure of a CM by InnoLAND



The programme makes use of the:

- bachelor modules of EU-LAND21 with the full description of the competences are presented in the EU-LAND report (EULand-21, 2018)
- master modules of InnoLAND in the report Model of an Exemplar Master Study Programme in Landscape Architecture (InnoLAND, 2023).





# Conclusions on the content of the conversion master

<b>Number of ECTS</b>	<b>at least 180 ECTS of study.</b>
<b>ECTS for conversion track</b>	<b>60 ECTS for a conversion track</b>
<b>Preprogrammed track</b>	<b>Different tracks for graduates of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- design and planning disciplines</li><li>- disciplines relating to ecosystems, vegetation, planting, and water management (including agriculture and forestry).</li></ul>
<b>Orientation</b>	<b>A CM should have a professional orientation and focus on the main competences of landscape architecture.</b>
<b>‘Interdisciplinary’ teams</b>	<b>Students with different backgrounds and competences contribute to interdisciplinarity and competences for collaboration</b>



# Discussion on the content of the Conversion Master

**Is there a need for a conversion master in your country?**

**Do you have a preference for a conversion course or an integrated conversion master? And for what reasons?**

**Do you agree with our conclusions on the duration of the CM, the conversion tracks within the programme, the professional focus of the CM?**



# References

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