The Master of Science in Digital Humanities is an opportunity to learn how to transform data from our global cultural heritage, historical archives and social media into a deeper understanding of the world we live in. Students acquire a toolbox of essential computer science and humanities skills for applications across interdisciplinary fields, giving them the acute insight and unique foresight to become decision makers and leaders of tomorrow.

From data to knowledge
Critical decisions need to be taken on a daily basis, but decision makers with a critical approach are rare and in high demand. Interpreting data into meaningful knowledge about specific events and global trends necessitates a wide range of skills in both the humanities and computer science that EPFL’s Master of Science in Digital Humanities is uniquely positioned to offer.

The Digital Humanities studies begin with educating students on how to transcribe, analyze and visualize cultural data—converting raw information into socially and economically relevant knowledge. At EPFL students master data acquisition and analysis, audio and image processing, machine learning and pattern recognition, but also learn to grasp the underlying humanistic structures in society that come from proximity to the cultural milestones of great thinkers and creative geniuses.

Students also learn how to interpret, manipulate and visualize data to take informed, high-level decisions. The Master in Digital Humanities fosters this deeper understanding of the global issues at stake in any academic, cultural or industrial process. A profound sense of responsibility springs from this transformation of data into knowledge, thus curating information into an intellectually rich understanding of the world.

Project-oriented studies

Today’s Digital Humanities students aspire to discover the next algorithm that could revolutionize how we perceive literature or interact with social media, and also have their sights on leveraging this unique knowledge to activate change and growth for society as a whole. This type of mindset can best be obtained through project-oriented studies, and EPFL offers rich options for student projects thanks to the activities of its top-of-the-field professors. Some examples of exciting projects and opportunities are:

The Venice Time Machine is a flagship of Digital Humanities projects, known around the world for using machine-learning to analyze 1,000 years of maps and manuscripts from the floating city.

The Montreux Jazz Digital Project offers students the possibility to analyze and explore over 50 years of concerts with cross-disciplinary collaborations in musicology, signal analysis and digitization.

EPFL’s ArtLab is a massive on-campus experimental art gallery where professors and students can present innovative exhibits in digital culture and museographic technology.

Jutta Kaht, Secquaero (CH) : “There is a need to merge technical expertise with humanities. Everywhere there are patterns to be discovered.”

Albert Einstein: “We cannot solve the problems using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”
Master of Science in
DIGITAL HUMANITIES

2-year program – 120 ECTS

Master’s Thesis
30 ECTS

Computer Science
20 ECTS

Digital Humanities
26 ECTS

Internship in academia, cultural institution or industry
30 ECTS

Optional courses
14 ECTS

CAREER PROSPECTS

Digital humanists, those who have both advanced technical skills and profound cultural awareness, are leading the current technological revolution in information technology, mobility and consumer products. Whether one launches a startup straight out of the program or lands a position in a major industry or cultural institution, a Master in Digital Humanities is as much a set of technical skills as it is a mindset for success.

ADMISSIONS

Interested students must have a bachelor’s degree in a science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) discipline with excellent records and a solid understanding of programming, algebra, statistics, and signal processing. Students must also express an active interest in culture and humanities through previous studies or extracurricular activities and personal projects.

Contact information: master-dh@epfl.ch

IMAGE COVER

“When the Music is Good – 2013”
This artwork connects the artists of the Montreux Jazz Festival if they have played together on stage at least once in the last 50 years.
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