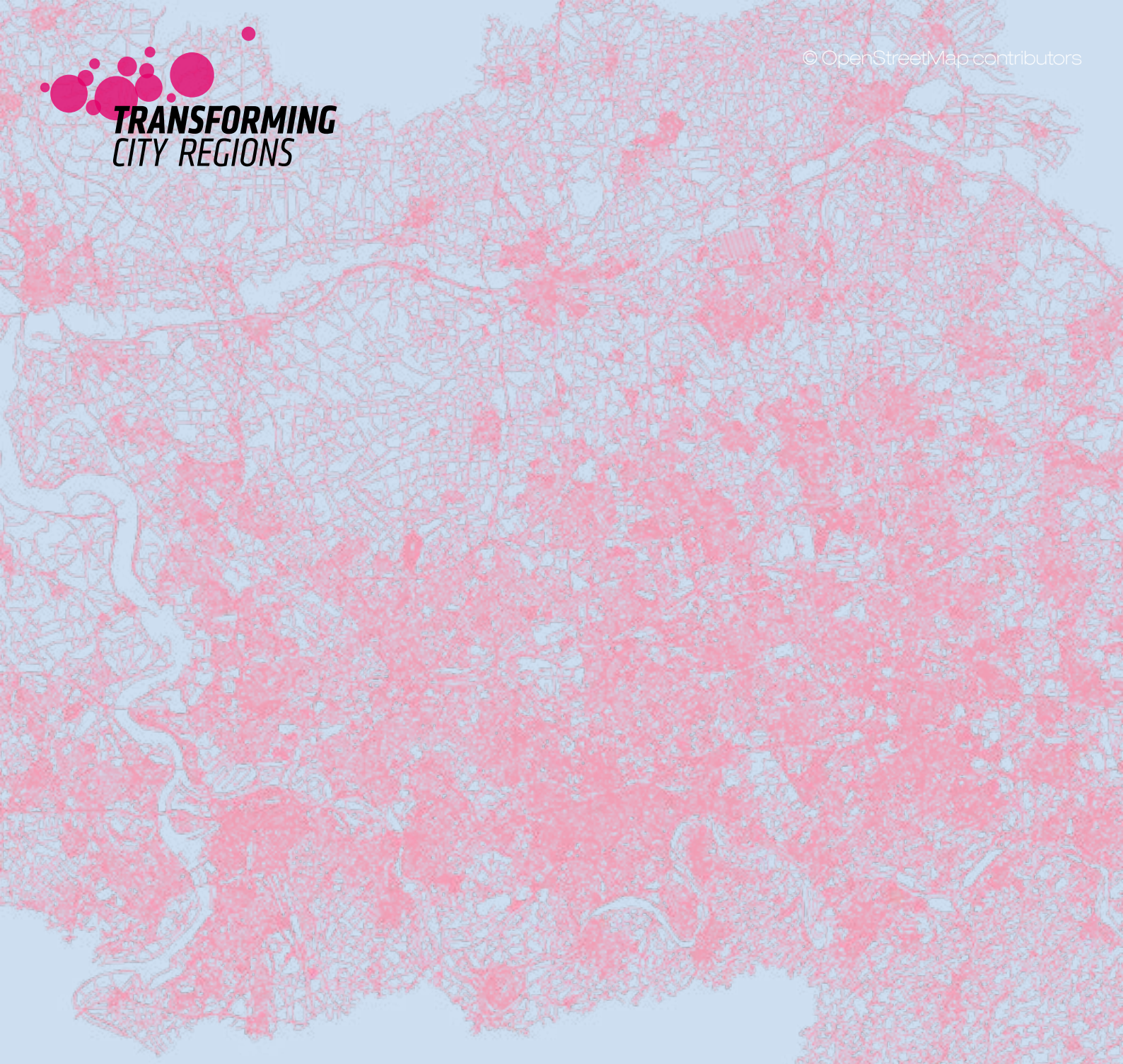
TRANSFORMING CITY REGIONS



European Master of Science

Transforming City Regions

Semester Handbook

Winter Semester 2025/2026

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Preamble

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Dear Reader,

Launched in the winter semester 2019/20, the English-taught Master's programme TRANSFORMING CITY REGIONS (TCR) at RWTH Aachen University continues to be highly sought after by students from Germany, Europe and around the world. This reflects the programme's well-chosen focus on international transformation processes. Students from various disciplines—architecture, urban planning, landscape planning, civil engineering, geography, and cultural studies, among others—have been successful in addressing the challenges of urban design and regional development. These achievements are particularly noteworthy given the programme's emphasis on an international, multidisciplinary and practical environment, which has been consistently praised for its ability to prepare students for the complexities of contemporary urban change.

The programme has actively engaged with the major challenges of urbanization, such as re-urbanization, suburbanization and the restructuring of entire regions, including the lignite mining region of the Rhineland. It has become clear that, on the one hand, these transformative processes are best addressed through the application of well-designed instruments, concepts and strategies, and, on the other hand, that many of the future challenges cannot be addressed solely in a local context. Instead, an international exchange of experience, as facilitated by TCR, is essential.

In today's globalized and increasingly interconnected world, the knowledge gained from understanding international transformation processes is invaluable. It not only opens new career opportunities for graduates but also thoroughly prepares them for future challenges in urban and regional planning. The programme's ongoing commitment to improving its curriculum—integrating international perspectives, promoting interdisciplinarity and emphasizing practical applications—ensures that its graduates are well equipped to make a meaningful contribution to the field.

The course offers presented here show how students will engage with processes of transformation at different spatial scales—from neighbourhoods to cities to entire regions—and how they will successfully link spatial and strategic levels in their work.

I hope you enjoy exploring this semester's handbook.

Prof. Christa Reicher
Head of the international TCR programme


Copenhagen
5 hour distance
Hamburg
2 hours distance
Amsterdam
1 hour distance
Berlin
London
Rotterdam
Eindhoven
Brussels
Aachen
Cologne
Frankfurt
Luxembourg
Paris
Munich
Zurich
Milan
Rome

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Foto: Michel-Kitenge

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Research Assistant
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People

The international teaching and research network Transforming City Regions is based at RWTH Aachen University and led by Prof. Christa Reicher, head of the Chair and Institute of Urban Design at the Faculty of Architecture. The network includes partners from academia and practice and aims to advance the level of knowledge of regional transformation processes in post-industrial areas within the framework of an international comparative action.

Teaching Core

Prof. Dr. Jakob Beetz

Chair for Design Computation (DC)
Module(s): Territorial analysis and digital tools

j.beetz@caad.arch.rwth-aachen.de

Prof. Dr. Stefan Böschen

Chair of Society and Technology (SoTec)
Module(s): Changing Societies and Economies

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Foto: Sirtoli

Prof. em. Dr.-Ing. Andrea Haase

Chair of Urban Design and Institute for Urban Design and European Urbanism
Module(s): Urban Transformation I & II, Elective courses

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Prof. Dr. Agnes Förster

Chair for Planning Theory (PT)
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Module(s): Elective courses

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Prof. Dr. Frank Lohrberg

Chair for Landscape Planning (LA)
Module(s): Evolving environment. Transforming landscapes

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Visiting Prof. Dr. Jan-Peter Voß

Chair of Society and Technology (SoTec)
Module(s): Changing Societies and Economie

Jan-peter.voss@humtec.rwth-aachen.de

Foto: Volker Kuntzsch

Transforming City Regions

is a European master programme that integrates many disciplines in order to educate professionals being able to respond to the challenges of evolving European territories of different scales with respect for the environment, using the technical excellence and a solution-oriented approach, understanding the economic efficiency and respecting social needs.

General Information

Transforming City Regions (TCR) is a unique, multidisciplinary master programme with a strong focus on the European dimension of territorial development. The degree programme is taught in English and is designed to respond to the environmental, social, technological, and economic challenges which European cities and regions are facing. TCR takes a technically advanced and solution-oriented approach so that you can understand economic efficiency and identify societal needs.

The TCR programme is one of the few programmes that have been newly designed at RWTH Aachen University to respond to European territorial challenges. The special focus is on a project and design-oriented education that equips graduates not only with up-to-date and solid knowledge, but also with the tools and methods to help them tackle the problems of Europe's changing cities and regions. Despite its clear multidisciplinary orientation, the engineering and design-oriented profile of the graduates is deeply rooted in the tradition of the Faculty of Architecture at RWTH Aachen University and also gives the programme a strong identity.

Key Facts

Degree:
Master of Science RWTH

Start of Studies:
Winter Semester

Standard Period of Studies:
4 semesters

ECTS Credits:
120

Language:
English

Check out our website!

Course registration procedure

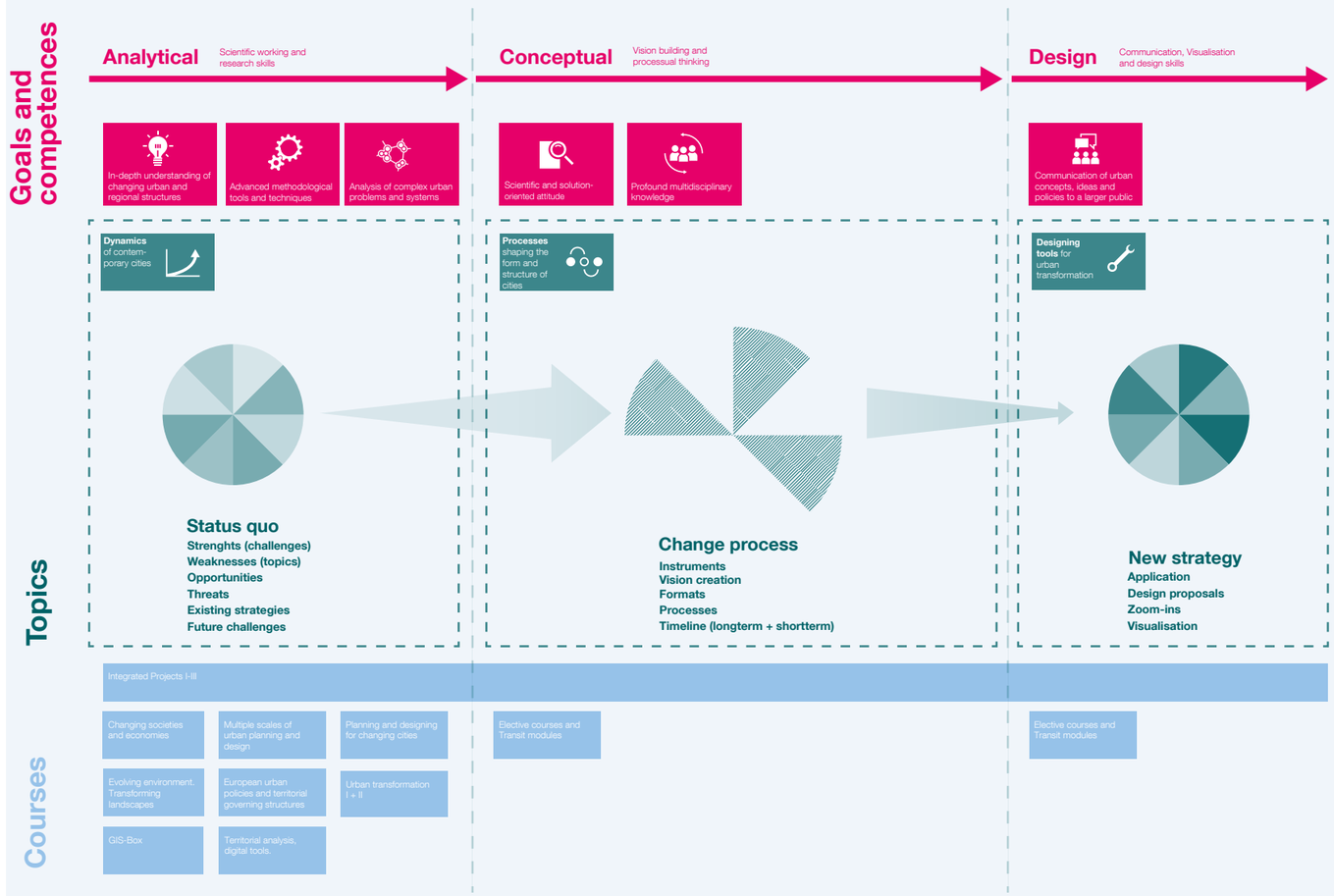
Important semester dates

Programme Structure

The degree programme is structured in 4 semesters, with the last semester being dedicated to the Master thesis. The core of the master programme is formed by three major integrated project works during the first three semester. The increasing territorial complexity and issues with different structural and content-related priorities and the link with the foundations of other disciplines should lead to integrative and conceptual thinking.

These projects are characterised by a broad spectrum of methodological, procedural, morphological, landscape architectural, ecological, legal, and economic aspects. The remaining ECTS are available through compulsory modules, elective courses, research modules, field trips/impromptu courses and transit courses.

If you have a degree in urban design, urban planning, urban studies, spatial planning, regional planning, landscape architecture, architecture, transport planning, environmental engineering, urban geography, urban ecology or urban governance, this degree programme is particularly suitable for you.



Curriculum Framework

The programme consists of a wide range of courses covering current topics of urban planning and design. Within four semesters the students learn theoretical backgrounds and methodological skills. The knowledge is applied in three different integrated projects, as well as the master thesis. There are several elective courses to be chosen from within the faculty and the further pool of RWTH wide courses.

Core Courses

Elective Compulsory Courses

Elective Courses

Semester 1
Winter Semester

Urban Transformation I
2SWS / 3CP

Planning & Design for Changing Cities
2SWS / 3CP

Evolving Environment. Transforming Landscapes
2SWS / 3CP

Impromptu Courses + Field Trip
2SWS / 6CP

Integrated Project I: Transforming Urban Structure
4SWS / 15CP

Semester 2
Summer Semester

Urban Transformation II
2SWS / 3CP

Changing Societies & Economies
2SWS / 3CP

Territorial Analysis, Digital Tools
2SWS / 3CP

European Urban Policies & Territorial Governing Structures
2SWS / 3CP

Research Module in Urban and Regional Transformation*
2SWS / 6CP

Integrated Project II: Evolution of Functional Urban Areas
4SWS / 15CP

Semester 3
Winter Semester

Multiple Scales of Urban Planning & Design
2SWS / 3CP

Elective Courses
2SWS / 3CP

Elective Courses
2SWS / 3CP

Transit
0SWS / 3CP

Integrated Project III: Networked Urban Systems in Europe
4SWS / 15CP

Semester 4
Summer Semester

Master Thesis Project Work & Presentation of the Thesis
0,5SWS / 30CP

Compulsory Modules

The compulsory modules or core courses focus on dynamics of contemporary cities, the processes shaping the form and structure of cities, and designing tools for urban transformation. The knowledge provided by a multidisciplinary teaching staff provides knowledge, tools, and methodologies to respond to challenges of evolving European territories while being aware of different spatial aspects such as social, economic, and ecological ones.

Urban Transformation I
City Portraits

Module Responsible
Prof Christa Reicher,
Chair of Urban Design and Institute for Urban Design and European Urbanism

Teaching Staff
Prof. em Dr. Andrea Haase

Dates
Thursdays, 11:00 - 13:00, SG 301

Examination Date
05.02.2026

Examination Format
Exercise (Map analysis/ text) and digital/oral presentation

3 ECTS Points 30

2 SWS 12

Course Content
This course introduces by lectures and related steps of the exercise basic understandings of „Cultural urban Landscapes“ and their „Spaces“. It considers “Urban Changes” relative to major periods of urban growth in their international historical classification. It defines “Urban Structures” relative to the local conditions of topography, geography, economy and to the politics and socio-cultural influences on guiding Urban Development and Urban Transformation per time and place. It distinguishes classically different categories for types of “Urban Structure”, their growth patterns, their structural characteristics and long-term values.
It invites to understand present conditions for urban transformation different from preceding industrial conditions of urban development - since the upcoming philosophies of the Club of Rome after the second industrial crisis in Europe (1973). It opens up the critical view onto “modernity” relative to the historically inherent conditions and philosophies in the “making professions” (architecture, urban and landscape design, product design and arts), relative to the main three periods of “Modern Movement”, aiming to overcome the respectively historical ways of “modern” (re-)production per period. It founds a basic understandings of structural conditions for qualitative urban growth by urban transformation on the philosophies of Henri Lefebvre and Bill Hillier (space) and Jacques Ranciere (arts), based on the “aesthetics of use and form” as values of usability, changeability, readability and robustness in everyday working and living condition.
Adaptive reuse is introduced as the late industrial perspective in architecture, urban design, transport innovations, (green and de-central) infrastructure and in innovative conservation policies, replacing industrial patterns of quantitative urban growth. “Landscape urbanism” is regarded as a historical movement in consequence of the manifestos of the Club of Rome with major focus on the continuous update of a maturing “Practice of Urban Design”, allowing for the socio-cultural meaning of space instead of functional values. This outlook includes a continued consideration of “sustainability” as “re-generative cultures”. “Common ground” is distinguished from “sacred spaces”, giving respect to the differentiated context of the urban fabric with a range of spatial categories with respective needs for the preservation and conservation of the tangible and intangible heritage and inherited monuments.

Learning Objectives
The students’ home-town in the surrounding region is the object of a case-study about urban growth patterns by map-analysis and notes from personal memories. Major steps of the task: Time-line of origin and historical influences; Definition of type of urban structure and major characteristics of morphologies. Identification and localization of historical and contemporary urban changes (massive/ small spatial/ lack of …). Principle sketches illustrating ongoing processes of the land-market (case of a selected morphology) and needs for counter-balancing the exploitation of natural and man-made resources (scales of morphology/ whole town). The understanding of „structural frameworks“ for urban transformation over time, assuring the continuity of the characteristics of a city with „generic“ quality (see Rem Koolhaas, „The Generic City“) is introduced as a valid strategy, bound to the understanding of a “Third landscape” (see Gilles Clement), preparing for healthy living and working conditions by appropriate frameworks for interconnecting mankind including economy and culture with soil, climate, flora and fauna.

© Prof Dr Andrea Haase

Planning and Design for Changing Cities

Module Responsible
Prof Christa Reicher,
Chair of Urban Design and Institute for Urban Design and European Urbanism

Teaching Staff
Dr Stefano Cozzolino (ISL)

Dates
Friday, 13.00-16.00, SG301

Examination Date
Written exam: 19.12. 2025 -
Case studies presentation: 20.02.2026

Examination Format
Written exam (individual)
Short report

Course Capacity
35

3 ECTS Points 30

2 SWS 2

Course Content

Cities are complex, largely emergent living systems that continuously change and adapt due to top-down interventions and spontaneous transformations resulting from countless place-based actions developed outside the domain of central planning intentions. Jane Jacobs labelled this phenomenon “a problem of organised complexity” emphasising the role of self-coordinating patterns and the emergent nature of social-spatial configurations of urban realms.

Emergent configurations are unavoidable in cities. Sometimes, they give rise to undesirable dynamics that planners must mitigate and readdress; others generate beneficial dynamics that enable the use of polycentric creative forces in society. How can designers and planners relate to the spontaneous forces of cities?

Innovative studies have investigated the interplay between planning/design and the emergence of spontaneous configurations in recent years. Nowadays, planners stress the positive role of flexibility in dealing proactively with uncertain development scenarios. Nevertheless, the implications for planning and designing for the open-ended and adaptable development of cities and neighbourhoods require ad hoc considerations and a comprehensive understanding of multiple aspects.
In this module, students will deal with:

- Complexity theories of cities and the main self-organising principles of urban change (Why is the city a complex system? What are the main driving forces of urban emergent configurations?)
- The complementarity between design and spontaneity (Why do cities evolve in largely unintentional ways? Why are certain urban areas more spontaneous than others?)
- The main ethical and technical aspects connected to these issues (When is a spontaneous configuration just or unjust? How can planners design/regulate an open-ended and uncertain future?)

Learning Objectives

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Introduce an understanding of complexity thinking in the analysis and design of the urban realm.
- Explore different planning and design conditions that shape the long-term evolution of urban areas.
- Explore methodological design and planning approaches that consider the challenges of adaptability and self-organisation.
- Understand the nature of certain spontaneous transformation processes (e.g., distribution of uses, population clustering, self-regeneration processes).
- Discuss critical ethical questions concerning the interplay between planning and spontaneity.

Reading recommendations

Cozzolino & Moroni (2024) Action, Property and Beauty: Planning with and for Emergent Urban Complexity. Routledge, London.
https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9781003454304/action-property-beauty-stefano-cozzolino-stefano-moroni

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Evolving Environment. Transforming Landscapes.

Module Responsible

Prof Dr-Ing Univ Frank Lohrberg,
Institute of Landscape Architecture

Teaching Staff

Dr Verônica Garcia Donoso

Dates

Wednesday, 15:00-17.00, SG 301

Examination Date

Midterm: 10.12.2025

Final: 04.02.2026

Examination Format

Oral presentation and research report

3 ECTS Points 30

2 SWS 2

Course Content

The course “Evolving Environment – Transforming Landscapes” explores the dynamics of changing environments. Participants will be introduced to key theoretical frameworks for analyzing and designing landscapes as evolving systems. Core themes include environmental planning, land mosaics, green and blue infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and ecological planning. While grounded in theory, the module also emphasizes practical applications.

Learning Objectives

This module provides students with an understanding of the impacts of environmental change and equips them with tools to plan and critically reflect on urban and regional development. It fosters awareness of sustainability, resilience, and risk mitigation strategies, enabling students to approach the challenges of contemporary city regions with informed perspectives.

© Prof. Dr. Verônica Garcia Donoso

Multiple Scales of Urban Planning and Design

3 ECTS Points 30

2 SWS 12

Module Responsible

Prof Dr Agnes Förster,
Chair of Planning Theory and Urban Development

Teaching Staff

Prof Dr Agnes Förster
Martin Bangratz

Dates

Wednesday, 22.10.2025, 14:00-15:30, online
GIS Tutorial:
Wednesday, 29.10.2025, 13:00-17:00, online
Interim presentations:
Wednesday, 08.12.2025, 13:00-18:00, online

Examination Date

Final presentations:
28.01.2026, 13:00-18:00, online
Final exam:
11.02.2026, 16:00-17:00, Dynexite

Examination Format

Online presentation and online exam

Course Content

The GIS-Box collects and provides knowledge, resources and tools to visualize and analyze spatial data. In this module, students will acquire and apply knowledge and skills in mapping specific issues on different spatial scales. What rhythms do neighborhoods, cities, or regions follow? Mapping physical, functional and procedural dimensions of space will help students to visualize and analyze spatial rhythms and processes of transformation. The Euregio Maas-Rhine will serve as a common spatial point of reference. While much of the content will be for self-study, there will be opportunities to engage in a discourse with peers and scholars. In the end, students will present maps and complete an online exam to showcase both their technical abilities and their theoretical knowledge of spatial analysis.

Learning Objectives

- Understanding processes of transformation on multiple scales
- Finding and managing spatial data
- Using basic functions of the software QGIS

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Elective compulsory modules

The increasing territorial complexity and issues with different structural and content-related priorities and the link with the foundations of other disciplines should lead to integrative and conceptual thinking. The elective compulsory courses are characterised by a broad spectrum of methodological, procedural, morphological, landscape architectural, ecological, legal, and economic aspects.

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Integrated Project I
Blue-Green Heritage

Module Responsible
Prof. Dr. Frank Lohrberg (LA)

Teaching Staff
Lailly Vaz de Miranda (LA)

Dates
Mondays 13.30 – 17.30

Examination Date
1st interim presentation: 17.11.2025
2nd interim presentation: 08.12.2025
Final presentation: 09.02.2026

Examination Format
Oral presentation

Capacity
16 students

15 ECTS Points 30

4 SWS 12

Course Content

This design project focuses on Aachen's historic urban layers and hidden water networks as a foundation for climate-adaptive design. The city's identity and urban form have long been shaped by water, from its famous hot springs to the network of small brooks that once fuelled industry and everyday life. Many of these brooks were piped underground in the 19th century, which erased a visible layer of the historic landscape. Today, as cities confront climate change, there is a growing movement to "daylight" these waterways and integrate them with green infrastructure to create cooler and more resilient urban environments.

In this context, the course invites students to reimagine Aachen's central area through blue-green design interventions that uncover water heritage while simultaneously addressing urgent adaptation challenges such as heat stress and flooding risk. Students will learn to connect these climate-responsive strategies with questions of urban identity and legibility, exploring how design can both reveal historical layers and create climate-comfortable, meaningful, and accessible urban spaces.

By bridging heritage and climate adaptation, the course highlights how preserving or reintroducing natural and cultural elements can generate distinctive, climate-resilient, and future-oriented urban environments.

Learning Objectives

During the course, students will learn to conduct comprehensive site analyses at the district and neighbourhood scale and to evaluate Aachen's identity and legibility through its historic urban layers. They will learn to design blue-green interventions that uncover water heritage while addressing climate change challenges, and to communicate their ideas through assessments, plans, drawings, and visualizations. Students will also be encouraged to critically reflect on how their proposals enhance urban heritage and contribute to the creation of climate-resilient public spaces in Aachen.

Daylighted Johannisbach brook at Lindenplatz, ©Lailly Vaz de Miranda (2025)

Integrated Project I

Universities as social infrastructure for climate resilience and action

Module Responsible
Dr. ir. Ceren Sezer,
Chair of Urban Design and Institute for Urban Design and European Urbanism

Teaching Staff
Dr ir Ceren Sezer
MSc. Liyuan Ma
Dr Aslı Alanlı

Dates
Mondays, 13:00-17:00, SG 301

Examination date
Midterm presentation: 22.12.2025
Final presentation: 02.02.2026

Examination format
Oral presentations, and research & design report

15 ECTS Points 30

4 SWS 12

Course Content

Social infrastructure encompasses the local and regional facilities and services that address the social needs of communities. Within this framework, universities constitute a critical form of social infrastructure with the capacity to advance inclusivity, sustainability, and resilience in the face of multiple and intersecting crises. Despite this potential, universities frequently underperform in this role, constrained by limited interaction between experts and non-experts, as well as by insufficient integration of campus life with the urban environment.
This course critically examines these challenges by engaging students in the development of neighborhood-scale scenarios that reconceptualize universities as social infrastructures. Throughout the semester, students will learn to identify, analyze, and map spatial strategies. Students will conclude their projects with oral presentations and a final report.

Learning Objectives

This course enables students to critically examine universities as vital forms of social infrastructure, with particular attention to their potential to advance social inclusion, cohesion, and climate resilience. Students will develop a conceptual understanding of social infrastructure and evaluate its significance in positioning universities as active agents in addressing contemporary societal and environmental challenges. Through an exploration of the spatial, social, and institutional relationships between campuses and their surrounding neighborhoods, students will learn to analyze how universities can act as catalysts for sustainable transformation at the neighborhood scale. The course emphasizes collaborative learning, as students will work together to design scenarios and strategies that integrate academic institutions with adjacent communities, fostering resilience and shared well-being. By engaging in interdisciplinary dialogue and applying design-based approaches, students will bridge diverse forms of knowledge while reflecting critically on the broader role of higher education institutions in shaping inclusive, sustainable, and resilient societies.

Reading recommendations

Pavan, L.H., Oliveira, L.F., Mangrich, C.P., Harthmann, G. and Kos, J.R. (2022). Visualizing connections: University campus and social infrastructure. International Journal of Architectural Computing, 20(3), pp.553–566. doi:https://doi.org/10.1177/14780771221120579.

Sharp, D., Quilty, E., Pink, S., Farrelly, M., Rye, S., & Raven, R. (2023). Net Zero Precincts Stage 1 report: Orienting. Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. https://doi.org/10.26180/22827113

Soares, I., Van Quoc, T. N., Yamu, C., & Weitkamp, G. (2022). Socio-spatial aspects of creativity and their role in the planning and design of university campuses' public spaces: A practitioners' perspective. Data & Policy, 4, e35. doi:10.1017/dap.2022.27

Strandberg, C. (2017). Maximizing the Capacities of Advanced Education Institutions to Build Social Infrastructure for Canadian Communities. [online] RECODE. Available at: https://mcconnellfoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Maximizing-Capacities-of-Advanced-Education-Institutions-to-Build-Social-Infrastructure.pdf.

Integrated Project III

Amman as a Scope of Inquiry: Rethinking Urban Space

Module Responsible
Prof Christa Reicher,
Chair of Urban Design and Institute for Urban Design and European Urbanism

15 ECTS Points 30

4 SWS 12

Teaching Staff
Alper Al
Liliana Iuga

Dates
Tuesday, 14:00-18:00, SG 301

Examination Date
Midterm presentation: 16.12.2025
Final presentation: 10.02.2026

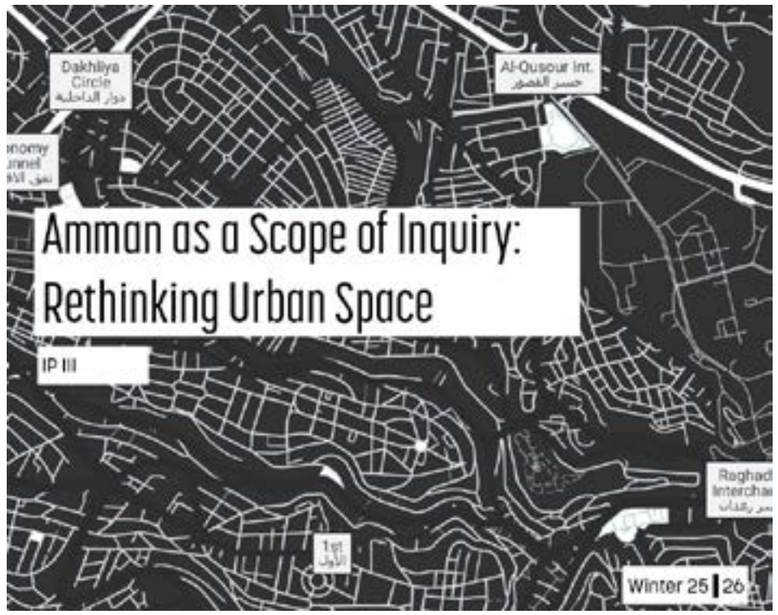
Examination Format
Oral presentations, Spatial narratives through travel diary

Course Content
This course explores the role of urban corridors as a strategic tool to develop structured frameworks connecting mobility, culture, environmental, and economic systems. This integrative approach enables students to navigate between scales, linking regional systems with site-specific urban conditions. The course first asks students to develop their initial urban corridor concepts in Amman. This is followed by a focus on clusters in more detail, with reference to King Hussein Street as a focal axis. Students will investigate how intangible heritage, embodied in practices, memories, and narratives, intersects with planning and design processes. The course emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, bridging architecture, urban design, and cultural studies to critically rethink urban development in the Global South.

Students will work in mixed international teams from RWTH Aachen, German Jordanian University (GJU), and Wasit University (Iraq). Classical urban analysis methods (mapping, observation, spatial surveys) are combined with experimental tools (visual narratives, heritage mapping) to uncover tangible and intangible layers of place.

The course begins with analyses of urban corridor case studies. During the site visit and exchanges among students and experts, the spatial, historical, and cultural dimensions of Amman at the city scale will be explored. Students will present their concepts to refine inclusive, vibrant, and heritage-sensitive design proposals elaborating their clusters in reference to initial urban corridors. In the end, the projects are expected to foster dialogue between academia, practice, and civil society, strengthening networks and advancing culture-sensitive urban design approaches.

Learning Objectives
This course aims to engage students with the historically and culturally rich context in Amman and respond to layered heritage of past and contemporary urban dynamics. Students learn to evaluate how everyday practices, narratives, and memories shape the use and meaning of public space. Students will identify opportunities for design interventions that strengthen social cohesion and cultural resilience in rapidly transforming urban contexts. The course emphasizes collaborative learning, comparative perspectives across regions, intercultural exchange, and practice-based design research.



Integrated Project III
Eutropolitan Daily-Urban-System

Module Responsible
Prof Christa Reicher,
Chair of Urban Design and Institute for Urban Design and European Urbanism

15 ECTS Points 30

4 SWS 12

Teaching Staff
Nicole Maurer and
Marc Maurer

Dates
Mondays, 14:00-17:00, Heerlen NRB

Examination Date
TBA

Examination Format
Oral presentations and posters

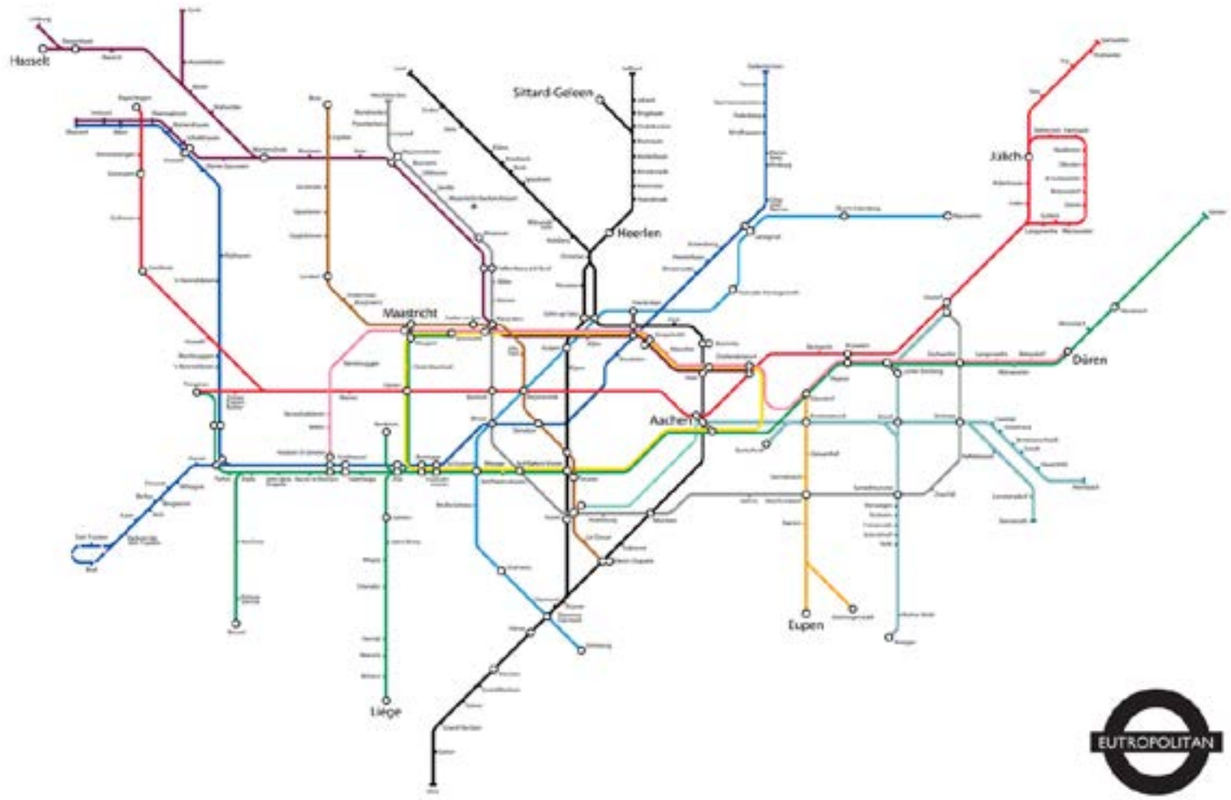
Course Content
This course explores the potential of a cross-border Daily-Urban-System (DUS) for the Eutropolitan Region, with a specific focus on South Limburg and its connections to Aachen, Liège, and the wider Meuse-Rhine area. Building on the results of the ZL'EU research project, students will investigate how infrastructural nodes – in particular railway stations – can become catalysts for sustainable urban transformation. Stations and their surroundings will be studied as multifunctional hubs where mobility, housing, work, and cultural life converge.

The course combines theoretical lectures, field visits, and design-based workshops. Students will learn to analyze urban and regional systems through spatial, economic, and social lenses, and to integrate circularity and inclusiveness as guiding principles. A strong emphasis will be placed on stakeholder engagement, policy alignment, and regional governance structures.

Working in interdisciplinary teams, students will develop proposals that not only address local urban challenges but also respond to the broader cross-border dynamics of the Eutropolitan region. The semester culminates in a collective vision that demonstrates the transformative potential of a functioning Daily-Urban-System for South Limburg: How can it improve accessibility, strengthen housing and mixed-use development, and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient region?

Learning Objectives
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
- Understand and analyze the concept of a Daily-Urban-System in a cross-border context.
- Assess the potential of station areas as catalysts for urban transformation, integrating housing, mobility, and mixed-use development.
- Apply principles of circular economy and inclusiveness to regional planning and design.
- Collaborate in interdisciplinary teams and engage with diverse stakeholders to co-create feasible and innovative strategies.
- Formulate evidence-based recommendations that link local interventions to regional and cross-border development goals.

The course enables students to connect spatial design, mobility systems and governance strategies in order to envision and articulate the transformative potential of a cross-border Daily-Urban-System.



Research Module
Urban heritage in UNESCO cities

Module Responsible
Prof Christa Reicher,
Chair of Urban Design and Institute for
Urban Design and European Urbanism

Teaching Staff
Dr F Javier Ostos Prieto

Dates
Wednesdays, 13:00-15:00, SG 301

Examination Date
05.02.2026 (subject to change)

Examination Format
Oral presentation

6 ECTS Points 30

2 SWS 12

Course Content
World Heritage stands as one of the highest categories recognised by the United Nations for the protection and conservation of the Earth's heritage. World Heritage is perfectly integrated in other international documents of the United Nations, such as the objectives of the 2030 Agenda or those of the New Urban Agenda Habitat III. It stands out in section 11, contributing to the formation of sustainable cities (ICCROM, 2011), while in the Agenda approved in Quito, World Heritage is framed in the areas of resilient cities and sustainable cities. The precepts of the 1994 Nara Charter and the 2020 Leipzig Charter have also been considered in new urban policies. In this framework, World Heritage is a key element in urban development at the international level.

Buffer Zones are intended as areas to preserve the heritage values of the building. In many cases this area generates quite restrictive situations for urban transformation through special legislation, thus limiting the increase of urban density, occupation, number of floors, building uses, aesthetics of facades and roofs, among others. This dynamic generates a new urban tension, constraining the city's development and often sparking debates between preserving historical elements and embracing modernisation. In this course we will work on the preservation of UNESCO cities. They represent paradigmatic examples in the management of the urban planning carried out due to their World Heritage status.

Learning Objectives
The main objective is to familiarise the student with the tools of urban planning for the analysis and protection of urban heritage. Through the morphological study of cities, the student should develop his own criteria and handle a methodology that will enable him to work professionally in heritage in the future. A morphological analysis as well as urban and heritage characteristics will be studied. In addition, proposals for heritage protection will be made in relation to the development of the building in its urban context.

Reading recommendations
ICCROM / ICOMOS / IUCN (2013). Managing cultural world heritage. World Heritage Resource Manual. Paris: UNESCO https://whc.unesco.org/document/125839
Martin, O. & Piatti, G. (ed.) (2009) World Heritage and Buffer Zones. In World Heritage papers, 25. Davos.
Turvey, K. (ed.) (2016) Understanding World Heritage in Europe and North America. In World Heritage reports, 43. Paris.

Aachen ©Javier Ostos Prieto

Research Module

The Future Is Passive: Exploring Passive Strategies for Thermal Comfort in Historical Architecture

Module Responsible
Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Raabe

Teaching Staff
Dr. Mina Hajian

Dates
Thursdays, 10:00 (Reiff Museum R 108)

Examination Date
Final Project Submission: Thursday, 29.01.2026, 23:59
Final Project Presentation: Thursday, 05.02.2026, 10:00

Examination Format
Final Design Project Presentation + Layout(s)

6 ECTS Points 30

2 SWS 12

Course Content

This seminar offers master students of architecture and TCR a unique opportunity to explore sustainable design strategies in the context of historical architecture. The focus is on passive approaches to achieving thermal comfort, without reliance on energy-intensive mechanical systems. Students will analyze case studies of historical buildings from different climatic regions, identifying principles such as natural ventilation, shading, insulation, and thermal mass. In each session, a specific climatic context will be discussed, followed by student presentations on examples of historical architecture from that region. Building upon these insights, students will develop a final design project: reimagining their own homes by applying passive strategies. Through lectures, discussions, case studies, and design work, the seminar fosters both conceptual knowledge and practical skills. It encourages students to critically assess the role of passive design in preserving architectural heritage while addressing present-day challenges of sustainability and climate adaptation.

Learning Objectives

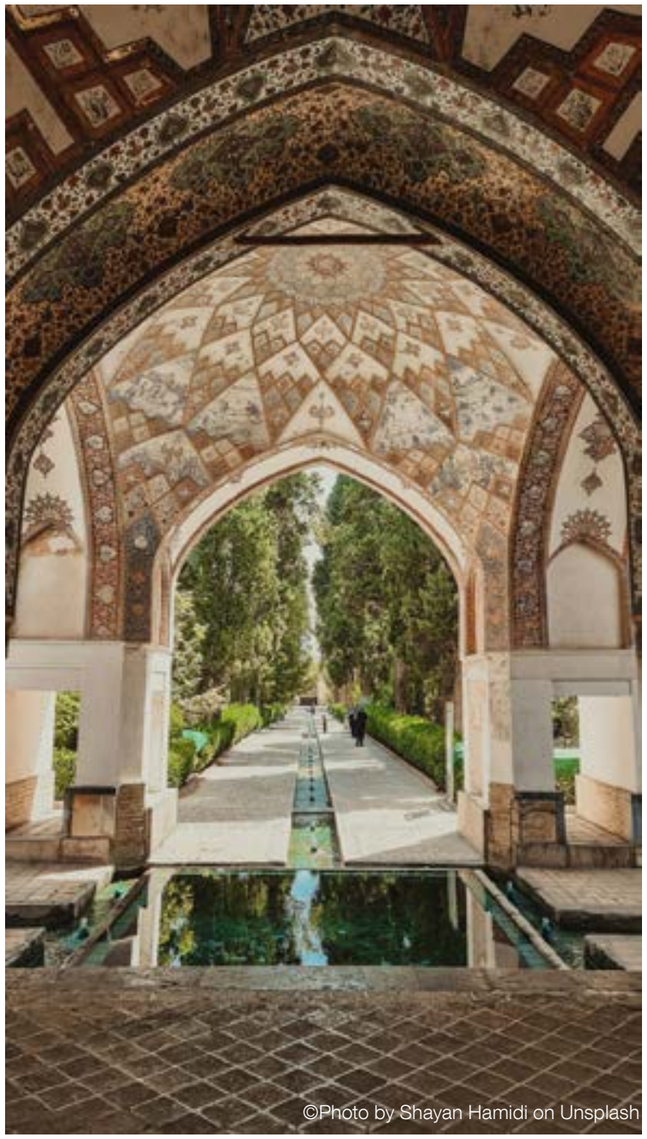
By the end of the seminar, students will:

- Understand key passive strategies for thermal comfort in historical architecture.
- Analyze case studies from different climates to identify effective design principles.
- Translate historical strategies into contemporary sustainable design approaches.
- Develop skills in integrating passive solutions into their own design projects.
- Strengthen their ability to balance heritage conservation with environmental performance.

The seminar equips students with theoretical foundations and practical skills to design energy-efficient and climate-responsive buildings, while deepening their appreciation for the lessons embedded in historical architecture.

Reading recommendations

Lechner, Norbert: Heating, Cooling, Lighting: Sustainable Design Methods for Architects.
Butti, Ken; Perlin, John: A Golden Thread: 2500 Years of Solar Architecture and Technology.
Feilden, Bernard M.: Conservation of Historical Buildings.


©Photo by Shayan Hamidi on Unsplash

Elective Courses

The elective courses supported by a multidisciplinary teaching staff are characterised by a broad spectrum of methodological, procedural, morphological, landscape architectural, ecological, legal, and economic aspects.

Elective Course
Research Methods

Module Responsible
Prof Christa Reicher,
Chair of Urban Design and Institute for
Urban Design and European Urbanism

Teaching Staff
Prof em Dr-Ing Andrea Haase

Dates
Thursday, 14:00 -16:00, SG 301

Examination Date
05.02.2026

Examination Format
Book summary + Text – Selected Topic
(max 5 pages)

3 ECTS Points 30

2 SWS 12

Course Content
The course introduces and trains the skills of “Research Methods” and “Scientific Writing” as a competence in developing knowledge. It aims to support any kind of research approach relative to a selected theme and a research interest to be derived from there in the fields of qualifying the environment. It specifically prepares the selection of thesis subjects and enables graduates from different scientific backgrounds to structure research for testing a hypothesis. It will apply system-thinking (system-, innovation- and modernization theories) in order to overcome obsolete conditions. The course helps finding and using appropriate sources of information by working self-standingly: starting from existing sources (What do I know for certain: literature, images, practices?) and making the process of developing knowledge (What do I want to find out how?) transparent as well as plausible for author and audience in its course of an argument to be carried out. The argument is ideally oriented on finding a constructive perspective (hypothesis = strategy + measurements) for qualifying the environment and its elements sustainably as well as for enhancing the guiding processes by regenerative cultures. This will lead to a formulation by text and/or integrated parts of design in order to develop the existing stage of knowledge (memories/ documented practice/ literature review) systematically in form of an argument with oneself. The students will learn to identify stages of scientific research and their individual position towards it in a wider structure of research (such as a problem statement by objective/ subjective reasoning).

Searching for the appropriate material, structure and content will lead to finding/ applying/ combining sources, appropriate for developing knowledge in order to resolve the stated problems by means of secondary and primary data collection (deductive: general knowledge/ inductive: case-studies), data analysis and data evaluation. The analysis, to be assumed here as the most important part of the structure, is about building up the main content of research, testing the hypothesis as an answer to the problem statement (perspective for a strategy/ concept/ measurements) through the discussion of factual values and derived criteria. The conclusion finally takes reasons from the analysis for confirming the hypothesis..

Learning Objectives
The course consists of input (by lectures and presentations as well as by literature, appropriate for self-studying) and immediate appliance of the input. The appliance is related to an exercise, working on a self-selected theme: training all the steps of setting up a piece of scientific writing according to a provided list of working steps and comments from a provided excerpt of a handbook about learning the skill. The provided list of steps for working on the exercise can be used as an open framework for finding the right methodical approach to a specific theme: THEME DEFINITION/ DEFINITION OF RESEARCH INTEREST (PROBLEM STATEMENT/ RESEARCH QUESTION/ HYPOTHESIS)/ METHODOLOGY/ ANALYSIS-DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSION - giving a valid answer to a valid thematic question about qualifying existing conditions in the environment by multi-scale consideration.


©Coding and decoding information by symbols, Foto: Haase, A., 2025

Elective Course
Ecosystem Services and Climate Change

Module Responsible
Univ-Prof Dr rer nat Michael Leuchner,
Physical Geography and Climatology

Teaching Staff
Univ-Prof Dr rer nat Michael Leuchner

Dates
See the course description

Examination Date
See the course description

Examination Format
See the course description

3 ECTS Points 30

2 SWS 12

Course Content
Increasing temperatures, more extreme events, growing pressure on ecosystems and loss of biodiversity are some of the most urgent societal challenges. Healthy, adapted and resilient ecosystems play an important role in providing many supporting, provisional, regulating and cultural services. Important services are climate regulation, water cycling, biodiversity and a clean environment amongst many others. This course focuses on current developments in landscape ecology, ecological climatology and ecohydrology with special focus on ecosystem services and the impacts of climate change in rural and urban areas.
The course

- provides theoretical concepts and insights into ecosystem services, landscape ecology and ecological climatology and hydrology,
- includes current aspects of climate and global change,
- discusses topics such as the interaction of vegetation and climate (on stand, landscape and global level), interactions, coupling and feedbacks between the land surface and the atmosphere, surface energy and mass fluxes, tipping points and extreme events,
- focuses on supporting and regulating ecosystem services such as climate and water regulation, primary production and nutrient cycling,
- looks at different spatiotemporal scales,
- contains applied examples from recent research projects.

The main course language is English to improve foreign language competence for German and international students, however, there will be no disadvantage due to language skills during the course or in the exam. As discussions during the course are encouraged, both English and German are possible working languages.

Elective Course
Urban form-giving techniques

Module Responsible
Prof. Christa Reicher, Chair of Urban Design and Institute for Urban Design and European Urbanism

Teaching Staff
Dr. Fabio Bayro Kaiser

Dates
Tuesday, 10:30–13:30, SG 301
This course combines key on-site sessions with self-paced learning phases.
21.10.2025: Historical & conceptual paradigms
28.10.2025: Paradigm shifts and contemporary leitmotifs
04.11.2025: Fundamentals of urban morphology
11.11.2025: Indicators across scales
18.11.2025: on-demand consultation
09.12.2025: Diagramming and system mapping
16.12.2025: Participation, experimentation, and futures
13.01.2026: Mid-term review

Examination Date
03.02.2026, 10:00–13:30

Examination Format
Oral examination

3 ECTS Points 30

2 SWS 12

Course Content
Urban form is inherently complex, as it evolves across multiple scales, histories, and conditions. Addressing this complexity requires an approach that combines conceptual, analytical, and practical perspectives. Urban form-giving, therefore, refers to the integrated process of understanding guiding paradigms, applying morphological indicators, and using design methods to shape cities. The course introduces these three complementary pillars: paradigms that provide conceptual lenses and visions, indicators that enable systematic analysis and comparison, and methods that translate knowledge into strategies for shaping space. Taken together, they show how form-giving operates simultaneously as a theoretical, analytical, and practical task, thereby equipping participants with a solid foundation for reading and shaping urban form.

The course is structured through a balance of inputs and practice-oriented exercises, thereby connecting conceptual understanding with direct application. Each session begins with a focused introduction to key theories, metrics, or tools, which is then followed by exercises such as mapping paradigms in case-study areas, calculating simple morphological indicators with accessible datasets, or experimenting with diagrammatic sketches and participatory role-play. This sequence allows participants to test and refine ideas through concrete examples, thereby consolidating knowledge while building methodological confidence. Group work and peer review foster collaboration and dialogue, while individual assignments support analytical independence and design autonomy. In this process, participants develop not only core analytical and design capacities but also two transversal skills: multi-scalar design, which helps them recognise which problems can be addressed at neighbourhood, urban or regional levels, and temporal modulation, which enables them to design frameworks that remain flexible under conditions of uncertainty.

Learning Objectives
By the end of the course, participants should be able to:
- understand and compare urban paradigms, recognising how guiding ideas shape the evolution of cities.
- apply basic morphological indicators to analyse and interpret urban structures at different scales.
- use core urban design methods to transform theoretical and analytical insights into adaptable spatial strategies.


@Fabio Bayro Kaiser

Field Trip
(re)cycle Limburg 10

Module Responsible
Prof Christa Reicher,
Chair of Urban Design and Institute for
Urban Design and European Urbanism

Contact
Elif Ertemiz
(ertemiz@staedtebau.rwth-aachen.de)

Dates
17.11.2025-21.11.2025

Deadline of the Application
13.10.2025

Capacity
5 students

1,5 or 3 ECTS Points 30

0,5 or 2 SWS 12

Setup
Urban Living Lab Weert hosts its second international design week to transform Spoorzone Weert through placemaking and tactical interventions. Students will co-create designs rooted in local values, enhancing connectivity, ecological resilience, and social vitality.

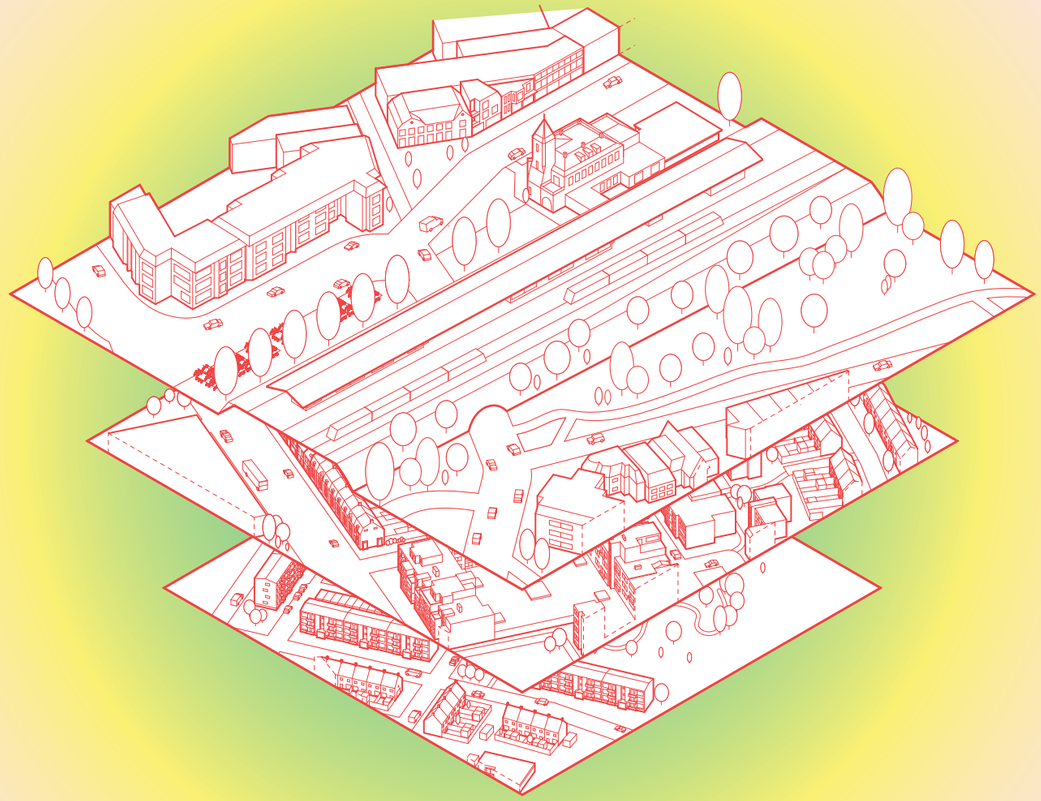
Workshop Goals
- Design tactical urban interventions for selected areas in Spoorzone Weert.
- Prototype adaptable solutions linking to vision of making Spoorzone Weert more vital, connected, and green.

Proposals will be reviewed with local stakeholders. Selected ideas to be realized in Spoorzone with the support of the municipality and other partners.

Application & Selection
Bachelor's and Master's students, along with young professionals from fields such as the built environment, architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, spatial planning, or other related disciplines can participate in this workshop.

Candidates will be selected based on their portfolio, along with a brief motivation statement. Participation is subject to a limited number of places. Interested students are kindly asked to submit the required documents via email to **Elif Ertemiz by Monday, 13th of October**. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

(re)cycle LIMBURG 10



17/11 - 21/11 2025

Join us to co-create tactical urban interventions and use placemaking to transform Spoorzone Weert into a more vital, connected, and green area – as part of the 10th edition of (re)cycle LIMBURG and the second international design workshop in Urban Living Lab Weert.

Impromptu Course

Pt.Talks: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Discourses Methods

Module Responsible
Prof Dr Agnes Förster,
Chair of Planning Theory and Urban Development

Teaching staff
Martin Bangratz

Important dates of the course
Wednesday, 29.10.2025, 15:30 – 16:30, Zoom
Wednesday, 5.11.2025, 17:30 – 19:00, Zoom
Wednesday, 19.11.2025, 17:30 – 19:00, Zoom
Wednesday, 14.1.2026, 17:30 – 19:00, Zoom

Examination date
Friday, 06.02.2026

Examination format
Written assignment

1,5 ECTS Points 30

0,5 SWS 12

Course content
The aim of this Stegreif is to engage in meaningful conversations about various topics in the area of planning theory and urban development with young scholars from a range of international institutions and disciplines. Participants will be invited to attend three Pt.talks, an established event series by Pt with the aim to foster a scientific and public discourse about current and emerging critical topics in urbanism. Within the guiding theme of global challenges for sustainable urban development, we see this format as an opportunity to explore new areas of research from different perspectives.
Each talk will feature a young researcher giving a talk on a specific topic and provide for informal, open discussion among all guests. The format can give students an opportunity to network across thematic and geographical boundaries, exchange feedback, and be inspired by new inputs and discussions.
Students attending this Stegreif will produce summaries of each talk, supplementing their own conclusions by relating them to each other and to general topics of planning theory.

Learning Objectives
An understanding of current and emerging topics in urbanism
An opportunity to develop own ideas, contribute and network with researchers.

Impromptu Course

Small Towns in Focus

Module Responsible
Prof Dr Agnes Förster,
Chair of Planning Theory and Urban Development

Teaching staff
Prof. Dr. Silke Weidner, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg

Important dates of the course
Monday, 27.10.2025, 16:30 – 17:15
Monday, 03.11.2025, 16:30 – 18:30
Monday, 10.11.2025, 16:30 – 18:30
Monday, 17.11.2025, 16:30 – 18:30
Monday, 24.11.2025, 16:30 – 18:30
Monday, 01.12.2025, 16:30 – 18:30

Examination date
Upload 18.01.2026 by 23:59
Monday, 19.01.2026, 16:30 – 19:00, Webex

Examination format
Poster Presentation (online)

Participation is online (Webex):
https://b-tu.webex.com/b-tu/j.php?MTID=mba9e62808e998103be257130dd601ea2

1,5 ECTS Points 30

0,5 SWS 12

Course content
This lecture series explores current research and practices relating to the development of small and medium-sized towns in selected European countries. It discusses ongoing spatial dynamics, ranging from small neighbourhoods and inner cities to regional and national perspectives. These dynamics are closely linked to political debates and planning strategies in the relevant countries, as well as to the wider European context. Small towns are not only peripheral -both geographically and mentally- but also represent strategic stepping stones for large-scale spatial issues and future development challenges. This applies to the quality of services in regions undergoing demographic change and housing provision in both metropolitan areas and decentralised regions. We explore how current and future planning cultures can be inspired by small towns and what lessons can be learned from the experiences of various European towns.

The Stegreif is a cooperation between RWTH Aachen and BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg. Students will reflect on the lectures by creating portraits of small German and international towns.

Learning Objectives
An understanding of the current and emerging topics of small town development in Europe.
Reflection on the relevance of these topics in a chosen German or international small town.
Insight into the AESOP Thematic Group on Small Towns.

Impromptu Course
Urban Echoes

Module Responsible
Prof Christa Reicher,
Chair of Urban Design and Institute for Urban Design and European Urbanism

Teaching staff
Dr. Fabio Bayro Kaiser
Dr. Javier Ostos Prieto

Important dates of the course
Tuesday, 16:30 - 18:00, SG 309
14.10.2025: Introduction
28.10.2025: Discussion I: Cities of time & memory
11.11.2025: Discussion II: Cities of desire & imagination
09.12.2025: Discussion III: Cities of perception, signs, and exchange
13.01.2026: Mid-term review

Examination date
27.1.2026

Examination format
Oral examination

1,5 ECTS Points 30

0,5 SWS 12

Course content
Urban Echoes captures the idea that cities are never just bricks, streets, or skylines; they are living reservoirs of memory, desire, and imagination. Building on Italo Calvino's Invisible Cities, the concept highlights how every city resonates with traces of the past, longings for the future, and meanings that emerge from daily life. These echoes may appear in architecture, language, rituals, or even in silence and absence, shaping how people perceive and inhabit urban space. To listen to a city's echoes is to recognize that it functions both as a material environment and as a cultural mirror of human experience. This perspective is especially relevant today, when global urbanisation makes it urgent to reflect not only on what cities look like, but also on how they feel, what they remember, and what they make possible.

The course takes the book Invisible Cities as its central object of study, serving as both inspiration and training ground. Participants will read and debate the novel closely, while three guided discussions will anchor the process around overarching clusters: time and memory, desire and imagination, and perception and exchange. These sessions will clarify complex themes, resolve interpretive challenges, and provide a space for collective dialogue. Beyond reading, participants will practice mapping these echoes in real urban contexts, learning to trace how abstract ideas—such as nostalgia, aspiration, or symbolism—manifest in streets, buildings, and everyday encounters. By moving between literature, discussion, and urban observation, the course develops a double vision: the ability to interpret fictional cities and, at the same time, uncover the hidden dimensions of actual ones.

This course is connected to a field trip in the summer semester 2026.

Learning Objectives
By the end of the course, participants will:
- strengthen their ability to read and interpret complex literary and theoretical texts, using them as tools to think about the city.
- develop skills in discussion, debate, and collaborative interpretation, thereby practicing dialogue as a method of inquiry.
- learn to map insights from Calvino's imagined cities onto real urban contexts, translating reading into a practice of urban imagination and critical observation.

Reading recommendations
Calvino, Italo (2023) Invisible Cities. London: Vintage Classics. ISBN: 9780099429838


@Fabio Bayro Kaiser, AI-generated

Master Thesis Suggested Topic

A cross-border urban landscape – from Roman heritage to a concept for the future

Module Responsible

Prof Christa Reicher and
Prof. em Dr. Andrea Haase
Chair of Urban Design and Institute for
Urban Design and European Urbanism

30 ECTS Points 30

0,5 SWS 12

Important dates

First Colloquium: 12.11.2025
Second Colloquium: 08.12.22025
Third Colloquium: 12.01.2026
Final: 16-19.02.2026

Examination format

Master Thesis

Contact

Dr. F. Javier Ostos Prieto
(javier.ostos.prieto@staedtebau.rwth-aachen.de)
Consultation: Tuesday, 08:00-10:00

Course Content

The settlement of Vetschau, first recorded in 1215, emerged where the Roman road between Aachen and Heerlen crossed a fertile floodplain dotted with Roman estates. Its name most likely refers to this rich landscape. During the Roman period, political borders as we know them today did not exist. Instead, the region was defined by trade, exchange, shared infrastructure, and cultural intermingling.

Building on this legacy, a new project envisions the creation of a cross-border archaeological landscape park along the ancient Via Belgica. The aim is to bring Roman life in the region to life in an innovative and participatory way—by people and for people, across national boundaries. Closely connected to this vision is the Miljoenenlijn, the oldest cross-border railway in Europe, which runs from Vetschau via Simpelveld to Maastricht. Today it serves not only as a historic transport link but also as an important tourist attraction between Germany and the Netherlands.

The project's focus goes beyond preservation: it seeks to make the shared Roman heritage of Germany and the Netherlands tangible and accessible for people of all ages, particularly in rural areas. On the Dutch side, the vision of such a park has been taking shape for several years, and now there is a unique opportunity for Germany to join and contribute ideas.

To achieve equal partnership and to foster a shared European cultural landscape, targeted support is needed—especially for planning, network building, and raising awareness. The Via Belgica Archaeological Landscape Park is far more than a tourist initiative: it represents living European cooperation, a common history, and cultural participation across borders.

Learning Objectives

The aim of the project is to develop a German-Dutch archaeological landscape park along the relevant section of the Via Belgica. Going beyond the ViaVia project, the aim is to connect existing Roman sites, historical routes, replicas and museums to create a cross-border experience – both analogue (e.g. through hiking and cycling trails, historical reconstructions, events) and digital (e.g. through apps, AR experiences or joint online portals). In the long term, this landscape park should be integrated into a large-scale, holistic natural landscape plan. The project is working on three levels, in parallel in both countries: Local, Bilateral level and Euroregional

Xanten © Javier Ostos Prieto

TCR Talk
History of Urban Form of India

Speaker
Prof. Pratyush Shankar

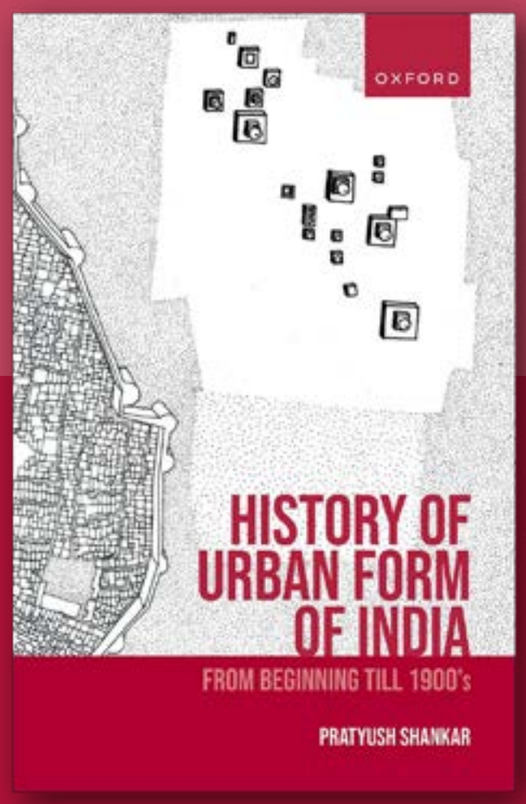
Important dates
Tuesday, 16.10.2025, 11:00-12:30

Content
South Asia has had a rich history or urbanization, spanning many centuries and the Indian sub-continent has been a site of some of the most varied and intriguing examples of urban formations. However not much attention has been paid to the question of form and typologies of Indian cities. The Indian sub-continent makes for a compelling case for studies of urban formation as correlated with the larger conceptual ideas around role of geography, religious political authority, mercantile guilds, royal bureaucratic structures and expression of colonial intent. The book “History of Urban Form” which is published by Oxford University Press, covers 42 case studies in great depth across the Indian sub-continent including the Himalayas.

Design and Planning of contemporary Indian cities have been a challenging task and quite often the results of the same, appear not only chaotic but also full of contradictions. This book shifts the gaze to certain historical patterns that still seem to haunt the present. Not much attention has been given to the historical form of Indian cities and quite often it is reduced to being perceived as some “exotic spiritual” or “organic” expression.

The talk will focus on the colonial cities established by the British, Portuguese and French in India, and emphasize the key differences in their approaches. The other aspect that will be highlighted are the late 19th century experiments in city building and the creation of a public sphere that best exemplify the development of an indigenous form of modernity in many parts of India. The talk will emphasize the underlying theme of the book, which is the evolution of public spaces and public sphere in Indian cities over time and its correlation with urban spatial structures.

TCR **Talks**
History of Urban Form of India



Winter Semester 2025/26
Thursday, **October 16th**, 11:00 - 12:30

Speaker:
Prof. Pratyush Shankar
Provost & Dean, School of Environmental Design and Architecture, Navrachana University, Vadodara, India

Room SG301
Chair and Institute for Urban Design
UNESCO Chair for Cultural Heritage and Urbanism
Wüllnerstr. 5b, 52062 Aachen

TRANSFORMING CITY REGIONS
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ENHANCE

„ENHANCE, the European Universities of Technology Alliance, brings together ten research-intensive universities with the common goal of making the European Education Area a thriving space for excellent education and open exchange. “ (RWTH, 2023)

ENHANCE
European Education Pathways

Partner Universities
RWTH Aachen University
Chalmers University of Technology
ETH Zürich
Gdańsk University of Technology
Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Politecnico di Milano
Technische Universität Berlin
Technische Universiteit Delft
Universitat Politècnica de València
Warsaw University of Technology

Facts & Figures
10 Partner Universities
Simplified recognition through pre-approved courses
Physical mobilities funded through ERASMUS+ programme
Summer & Winter Schools
Research Stays & Master Thesis abroad
Micro Credentials & Certificate Programmes
Regular Online Courses

„What are the European Education Pathways?
ENHANCE offers a wide range of different exchange opportunities that are united in the so-called European Education Pathways (EEP program): from classic semester exchange with ERASMUS+ funding; to short-term exchanges (such as Summer/Winter Schools); research stays and thesis abroad; or completely virtual formats. All courses offered within the European Education Pathways are pre-approved and the recognition of ECTS credits is guaranteed.

Advantages of the EEP Program
- Simplified recognition through pre-approved courses
- Scholarships for Summer & Winter Schools (except ETH)
- Scholarships for Research Stays & Thesis abroad (except ETH)
- Support in preparing for an exchange:
  - » Pre-Departure Seminar for Outgoing Students
  - » ENHANCE Language Tandems
  - » Workshops on Diversity and Equality

What‘s behind it:
- Deep dive into a specific topic
- Set of Courses (min. 20 ECTS): complementary to TCR Courses
- Carefully selected and recommended by TCR and ENHANCE colleagues

Our service for you:
- 1 extra spot per partner university (except ETH + TU Delft)
- Close guidance/support:
  - » Secured places at ENHANCE Partner University
  - » Guaranteed recognition for TCR study plan
- Possibility of achieving an ENHANCE Degree Label (Certificate)

Deadlines and event notes
- Next application Deadline (only for classic semester mobilities through Erasmus+) in the Academic Year 2026/2027: **January 31st 2026**
- Save-the-Date --> Event notes:
  - » **TCR Info Session:** 30.09.2025; at 13.00, Online
  - » **RWTH Go Abroad Fair** 21.10.2025; 14:00-17:30, Super C, 6th floor
  - » **Go Abroad Talk - Europe Edition:** 12.11.2025, at 16.30, SuperC, 6th floor

Voices about ENHANCE
„Attending the ENHANCE Summer School in Warszawa was a game-changer! Warm people, enriching experiences, and nourishing knowledge made it unforgettable. I tackled problems in new ways and hit exciting milestones. Plus, the cultural exchange with classmates and locals opened up fresh perspectives and endless possibilities. Best decision ever!“
(Nitisha Sai Kiran Srikurmam, TCR student at the ENHANCE Summer School on Climate Action @Warsaw University of Technology, 2024)

Check this for further information!

Stay up-to-date with our offers and follow us on Instagram: @enhancealliance

Master Thesis

Brief information before starting to the project work and presentation of the thesis. Master thesis shall be prepared within one semester time. The presentation and defence of the thesis will take place at the end of the 4th semester

FRIEDPARK
Im Wandel der Zeir- Stadtebaustein Friedhof: Wie kann ein multifunktional genutzter Friedhof der Zukunft aussehen?
Supervised by: Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Christa Reicher, and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Nicole Pfoser
Advisor: Caner Telli

Before Starting to the Thesis
Information

Dates
Application for admission of external second examiners:
Deadline 20.02.2026
(Contact: bayrokaiser@staedtebau.rwth-aachen.de)

Application for admission (ZPA):
Deadline 05.03.2026
(Contact: marion.matheis@zhv.rwth-aachen.de)

30 ECTS Points 30

Requirements
- At least 81 credits completed
- Module **Scientific Integrity** completed
- Free or suggested topics are possible
- Theoretical scientific work or a design project are possible
- English or German language is possible
- It is an individual work, but materials and research/design questions can be prepared as a team
- Two examiners: The first must be from the faculty. The second can be from the faculty, university, or external. Both supervisors must be ful professors.
- Single right of return
- Online submission via CMS DIVA: **Tutorial**
- Max. 80 pages
- Citation style to be discussed with the examiner
- If applicable, 2 Reiff-Walls for design posters + maquette(s)
- Joint (public) examinations

TCR Master Thesis and Q&A
30.09.2025, 14:00
Zoom: https://rwth.zoom-x.de/j/99488595469?pwd=dUtsSjlOSDRpS1RYcm1LYUVwRVBMQT09
Meeting-ID: 994 8859 5469
Code: 090783

Resources
Dates
RWTH Examination Regulations
TCR Examination Regulations
TCR Moodle Room

Thesis Dates and Deadlines
Summer Semester 2026

Free Topic

NOW	Work on the topic and task Contact a chair/institute for supervision. Clarify requirements and conditions for supervision. Also dates and deadlines.
05.01.2026–15.01.2026	**Declaration of intent for the thesis in RWTH online** Selection of free topic
by 20.02.2026	Request for approval of external supervisors
by 05.03.2026	**Submission of “Application for Admission” at the ZPA** (incl. confirmation of supervision)
20.03.2026	**Start of Master Thesis** 5 months of independent work With colloquia and individual consultations if necessary
20.04.2026	Single right of withdrawal
17.08.2026	**Online submission of thesis**
21.08.2026	**Hanging of posters and maquettes**
24.08.2026–27.08.2026	**Master examinations**

Suggested Topic

NOW	Work on the topic and task Explore chairs/institutes and their topics.
05.01.2026–15.01.2026	**Declaration of intent for the thesis in RWTH online** Selection of suggested topic
by 05.03.2026	**Submission of “Application for Admission” at the ZPA** (incl. confirmation of supervision)
20.03.2026	**Start of Master Thesis** 5 months of independent work With colloquia and individual consultations if necessary
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CITY REGIONS

Impressum

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