The Hamburg-Copenhagen Urban Challenge is offered simultaneously by Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen Business School and HafenCity University in Hamburg. Students from all three universities are taught together spending two weeks in Copenhagen and two weeks in Hamburg. We offer student grants of 275 EURO to all students attending the course. Content courses are innovative, practice-oriented and trans-disciplinary. Student performance will be assessed according to learning objective specific to their home institutions.

Course Context

The vision of the Hamburg-Copenhagen Urban Challenge is to create a trans-disciplinary, cross-institutional, and cross-cultural learning experience for students, researchers, and practitioners that build capacity to identify and solve complex urban issues sustainably and collaboratively across sectors.

Cities are considered to be the melting pots of modern society - the proximity and density of people and organisations tend to foster innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship. One of the biggest challenges in the 21st century is to plan urbanised areas and to design public policies in such a manner that they facilitate thriving businesses, organisations and people, while addressing global environmental and social challenges, such as climate change, immigration and income disparities. At the same time numerous companies cater to the growing demands of urban citizens and local city governments in everything from fast moving consumer goods to housing, infrastructure and energy. The challenge is to balance the many public and private expectations on urban space, without losing sight of urban sustainability. Thus, the Hamburg-Copenhagen Urban Challenge takes a citywide and regional development perspective on public, private, and nonprofit sector actions that shape solutions to the most pressing issues of today’s societies.

Course coordinators/teachers
Dr. Luise Noring, Assistant Professor, Department of Intercultural Communication and Management, CBS
Prof. Esben Rahbek, Department of Intercultural Communication and Management, CBS
Prof. Carsten Rode, Department of Civil Engineering, Building, DTU
Prof. Dr. Jörg Knieling, Department of Urban Planning and Regional Development, HCU
Doctoral fellow Kristjan Jespersen, Department of Intercultural Communication and Management, CBS
Doctoral Fellow Deborah Heinen, Department of Urban Planning and Regional Development, HCU

Main academic disciplines
Sustainable urbanisation
Complexity, localisation and globalisation
Climate mitigation and adaptation in cities
Business and political ethics
Urban planning, design and governance
Non-profit organisations
Business innovation and entrepreneurship

* Most of the work will take place in August 2016. To earn 10 CP for the summer school, an M2-Project will be offered during the winter semester 2016 for Urban Planning Students. REAP and Urban Design Students can attend the summer school as an elective for 5CP.

* All students are legible for a traveling grant of 275 euro

Please visit website for further information: http://www.urbanchallengealliance.com/#menu

Note: HCU students can only apply for the Hamburg-Copenhagen Urban Challenge.
Course Description

Students will conduct a comparative analysis of HafenCity in Hamburg and Nordhavnen in Copenhagen contextualizing both districts within the larger development patterns of Hamburg and Copenhagen. A specific focus will be on finding a sustainable balance of regional, citywide and district needs regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation, housing of immigrants, and dealing with income disparities. Assessing the role of the districts within the larger context will enable students to identify drivers within private, public, and non-profit activities that could enhance the districts and cities ability to address these challenges in a sustainable manner. Based on their initial analysis, students will identify sustainable public, private and non-profit sector solutions to the identified urban challenges within the environmental, social and economic realms. The solutions may include for instance public policy changes, introduction of new standards, new business opportunities, infrastructure projects or non-profit advocacy campaigns.

Guiding questions for the course are the following: How do we make decisions in cities while considering global challenges such as immigration, climate change, and growing income disparities? How supportive are our government policies and relationships with enterprises to meet these challenges? What are the agents of change and who is leading the way? How do NGO’s gain legitimacy and influence local city governments? The case studies of HafenCity and Nordhavnen will help build an understanding of how these neighbourhood transformations can be implemented, and who the active partners are, including public, private and civic, that were engaged in the development, and what their role and interaction is. Questions such as; 1) who is driving the development, 2) who is financing the development, and 3) how sustainable is the development are important as well.

To contextualize the two case studies, students will be presented with a selection of other ‘real-life’ cases. Examples of such case are;

- Identifying ways in which Nordhavn and HafenCity meet and do not meet the social sustainability demands of a modern metro, including the social composition of the citizens living in the neighbourhoods and understanding their ability to integrate into the social fabric of the neighbourhood.
- Determining in which ways Nordhavn and HafenCity meet environmental sustainability measures, including measures put in place to address climate adaptation and migration in the face of storm water, waste management, green building standards, energy efficiency, etc.
- Strengthening public transport connectivity, so that citizens can access jobs and other opportunities easily and cheaply.
- Find ways to tackle freight transportation in densely populated areas, so that freight does not add needlessly to congestion and pollution.
- Explore how specific sustainability tools and methods can address and solve multiple urban problems, such as improve traffic flows and handle storm water or provide green spaces and migrate rain water or ensure access without increasing traffic congestion, etc.
- Present recommendations of how to include urban nature-based solutions in the urban development in order to diminish pollution, congestion and improve liveability
- Demonstrate new collaboration models for public, private and civic actors to engage in and leverage on for urban transportation systems that are people-centered and community-driven
- Explore principles from the International Building Exhibition Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg 2013 for the revitalization of neighborhood and sustainable urban development

The partner company Rambøll will share insights and experience as a leading engineering and design consultancy.

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Learning goals
The Hamburg-Copenhagen Urban Challenge intends to achieve the following:

- Build a lasting collaboration between students and faculty of Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen Business School and HafenCity University in Hamburg;
- Develop a foundational unit for trans-disciplinary and cross-country and -city approaches to research, teaching and learning within urban sustainability;
- Stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship skills of higher education researchers, teachers, graduate students and practitioners within urban sustainability;
- Facilitate the exchange, flow and co-creation of knowledge within urban sustainability through mobility and cross-city cooperation between Copenhagen and Hamburg.
- To establish a dialogue and close collaboration with key business stakeholders and thereby strengthen the relationship between universities, cities and local businesses.
- Foster meaningful collaborations between economists, engineers, political scientists, social scientists, life scientists, urban planners, policymakers, developers amongst others and many others.

Course Structure
The Hamburg-Copenhagen Urban Challenge includes two weeks of exchange in Copenhagen followed by two weeks in Hamburg. Students will work together in mixed study-groups across culture and disciplinary backgrounds. During a preparatory phase at HCU students must select a focus on climate change, immigration or social income disparities and start preparing initial analysis for their cities regarding citywide needs. This will take place during June and July 2016.

By the end of the preparatory phase the initial citywide analysis should be finalized, the actual exchange will take place with four weeks of fieldwork in Copenhagen and Hamburg. The stay in Copenhagen and Hamburg is structured through lectures, company visits, group and field work, and project presentation. During the group work, students will examine the case study in relation to citywide needs and compare the two case studies towards identifying public, private and/or non-profit approaches to address the needs.

Participants are expected to take part in all planned activities, and help make the Hamburg-Copenhagen Urban Challenge a great experience for everyone, - both academically and culturally.

- Students will be grouped into cross-institutional teams so as to identify and analyze complex urban challenges – teams may choose to focus on either climate change, immigration or income disparities at the district and citywide scale;
- Assess new technologies and models for sustainable change;
- Identify the interdependencies, actors and networks of the chosen urban challenge;
- Evaluate the scope and viability of potential solutions that help tackle the chosen urban challenge;
- Uncover potential innovative business opportunities for tackling the chosen urban challenge;
- Work alongside leading companies who are actively seeking to make lasting changes within cities.

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Application and Organization
The core seminar will take place during August 2016 in Copenhagen and Hamburg. The dates are:

Copenhagen: August 1st – August 12th
Hamburg: August 15th – August 26th

For HCU-students: To earn 10 CP for the summer school, an M2-Project will be offered during the winter semester 2016 for Urban Planning Students. REAP and Urban Design Students can attend the summer school as an elective for 5CP. Students will start preparatory work for the summer school in June and July 2016 during two three hour seminars. The core course will take place during the month of August 2016. Once the winter semester 2016 starts, HCU students will work on the final written group assignment which will be presented in November.

The Urban Challenge is supported by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements. However, we do provide a student travelling grant of 275 EURO per student. The course is open to all master students at HCU, including Urban Planning, Urban Design and REAP. For questions please contact Prof. Dr. Jörg Knieling and Deborah Heinen. HCU master students can apply by sending your resume/curriculum vitae and application form to coordinator deborah.heinen@hcu-hamburg.de. The deadline for applying is April 4th 2016. All applicants will be notified shortly hereafter.

Exam form
REAP and Urban Design
• Written group assignment of 15 pages

Urban Planning/ M2-Project
• Written group assignment (meeting M2-Project requirements)
• Presentation at HafenCity University

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Suggestions for readings


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