

The research training group (RTG) “**Urban future-making: Professional agency across time and scale**” is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and jointly organized by the HafenCity Universität Hamburg (HCU) in cooperation with the Technische Universität Hamburg (TUHH) and the Universität Hamburg (UHH). The RTG investigates the scope of agency that built environment professionals have in the face of urgent challenges. The project joins scholars and doctoral researchers from the social sciences and from academic disciplines related to the built environment.

Within the framework of this cooperation, we invite applications for one position at HCU, ideally starting **October 1st, 2026** as

Research associate (m/f/d) – Research training group (Postdoc)

Salary Level 14 TV-L

with 39 standard working hours per week. The contract is limited to **September 30th, 2029**, with the option of extension until **March 31th, 2026**.

In the face of urban growth, climate change and natural resource exploitation, and intensified by the coronavirus pandemic, urban areas have become crucial sites where aspired pathways towards desirable futures are imagined, forecasted and variably negotiated. Through the lens of “urban future-making”, the research training group investigates the activities of built environment professionals in administration, planning and civil society responding to the expected threats and risks to urban societies. The central question is how responsible professional action can be possible under present conditions of intensified uncertainty and multiple crises. The research training group investigates strategies and interventions related to the urban built environment which address mobility systems, energy provision, material use, and disaster mitigation and prevention as interdependent fields of action where claims for transformative changes are currently most articulated.

The team of scholars has backgrounds in sociology, political science, geography, urban studies as well as architecture, urban- and transport planning and civil engineering. Detailed information on the scientific programme, the team of supervisors and their disciplines is found on the following website:

<https://urban-future-making.hcu-hamburg.de/>

Tasks

- An independent scientific contribution within the framework of the interdisciplinary research programme of the research training group that serves academic qualification. This includes the opportunity for habilitation.
- This contribution should address the agency of built environment professionals at the intersection of reflection and solution-oriented approaches and should make a theoretical and methodological contribution to the overall programme.
- Publication and presentation of research results, also as a contribution to the international visibility of the RTG.
- Active participation in the joint activities of the training group, contribution to the publications of the training group, and assumption of duties in the organization of scientific events within the self-administration and self-organization of the training group.

Requirements

- A completed PhD in one of the disciplines of the research training group.
- Publications in national and international peer-reviewed journals.
- Excellent knowledge of and experience with research methods.
- The activities of the training group will be conducted in both German and English. Excellent command of English is required, some knowledge of German is beneficial.
- High interest and proven experience in interdisciplinary exchange and willingness to cooperate, combined with communication skills on a high level.

Depending on your discipline, the following skills and qualifications are desirable:

- Experience in the fields of interdisciplinary urban and spatial research, including interdisciplinary, third party funded research projects, or
- Professional experience related to the built environment
- Experience in empirical social science research
- Experience in the organization of scientific events

Offer

- A structured and interdisciplinary qualification programme with colloquia and workshops
- An inspiring institutional setting with international guest researchers
- Financial support for international research stays
- Excellent research infrastructure with project office, joint working spaces and an attractive working environment
- Various support offers as to individual research projects as well as additional qualification measures in national and international contexts
- Participation in cultural and scientific events of the three cooperating universities

HafenCity Universität Hamburg, Technische Universität Hamburg and Universität Hamburg are family friendly institutions and support the compatibility of family and career.

As equal opportunity employers, the universities follow an equal opportunities and diversity strategy. They strive to increase the number of women in academia and strongly encourage applications from suitably qualified female candidates.

Qualified disabled candidates or applicants with equivalent status receive preference in the application process.

Presence in Hamburg is required for the position.

Within the framework of the E 14 salary level the actual salary will be calculated according to different stages of professional experience. Binding statements about the definite salary can only be given by the HR department of HafenCity Universität.

Please consider the information regarding application and selection procedures and data privacy.

Application

Applications should include a detailed proposal for a research project that you would like to pursue and which is related to the research programme of the research training group (5 pages, excluding references and ½ page abstract). The proposal should outline the proposed theoretical and methodological contribution to the research aims of the research training group and include a working programme.

Furthermore, the following documents are requested:

- letter of motivation,
- curriculum vitae in tabular form,
- if applicable, portfolio with documentation of projects,
- copies of degree certificate(s) and transcripts of records for previous studies,
- if applicable, reference from current employer,
- relevant certificates for further education and training,
- for applicants currently employed in the public administration: a current staff assessment report, as well as a declaration of consent that your personnel records can be inspected. Please include name and details of the responsible contact person.

For further information regarding the positions please contact Prof. Dr. Monika Grubbauer, monika.grubbauer@hcu-hamburg.de.

To apply, please send your documents digitally as one single PDF-file (max. 10 MB, no ZIP-file) by **July 3rd, 2026** to:

HafenCity Universität
Personalverwaltung
Stellen-Nr.: 2026-39 - „WiMi Postdoc GraKo“
Henning-Voscherau-Platz 1
20457 Hamburg
E-Mail: bewerbung@vw.hcu-hamburg.de

Please use the following reference in the subject line: **2026-39 - WiMi Postdoc GraKo**

Travel and accommodation costs for job interviews cannot be reimbursed by the HafenCity Universität Hamburg.

Please do not submit original documents as we are not able to return them. Any documents submitted will be destroyed after the application process has concluded.