

Nordic City Challenge 2018

3 ECTS

INVITATIONAL

October 7th-10th 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark

<https://nordicsustainablecampusnetwork.wordpress.com/nordic-city-challenge/>

The Nordic City Challenge is an intensive three-day course and competition focusing on multidisciplinary and practical urban planning and collaboration. The course brings together students, teachers, professors, practitioners and other leading experts from the Nordic countries to share ideas and work together on a real-life planning case, taking on the challenge of developing sustainable cities. The concept involves networking with other Nordic young experts in sustainable urban planning.

Theme and perspectives

The themes of the Nordic City Challenge this year relate to urban learning environments, green spaces, health and well-being. The theme is a follow-up from the previous years; Nordic City Challenge 2016 in Gothenburg and 2017 in Helsinki as well as the Nordic case competition in sustainable urban development that we arranged in 2015 in Espoo, Finland.

During the course, student teams will make a plan to create sustainable solutions to meet the variable demands of Nordic urban settings. Their work will be supported by inspiring lectures. The case is strongly anchored in existing concerns regarding urban development in Copenhagen. Both the City of Copenhagen and the universities nearby are eager to hear the results of the case work and take the suggestions into account when working on future development plans. The case work also includes input from residents. The course will highlight the social-ecological approach of urban planning, which seeks to more closely integrate social and environmental considerations. The course encourages interdisciplinary thinking, which is why the students invited to the course represent various disciplines.

Model of work

The students will be divided into teams, in which they will work on the case assignment throughout the three-day course. The group work will be facilitated by experienced researchers, all with different orientations around urban planning issues. In addition, to give fresh perspectives and raise new questions for the case work, the course features inspirational talks from experts in the field. On the final day of the course the student teams will present their solutions to a wider audience, including planning practitioners from the City of Copenhagen. Finally, a jury will evaluate the results and discuss the solutions with the teams. The course work also includes a written pre-assignment before the intensive course as well as a written report after the course on the learning experiences and case outcomes.

Participants

The participants in the Nordic City Challenge can be handpicked and invited by leading professors in the field. Students can also apply to the course individually. The competition will bring together 25 of the brightest student minds from different disciplines dealing with urban development at Nordic universities.

Why attend?

The course gives students in-depth knowledge and practical experience in actual planning work. The course enables the students to deepen and develop their knowledge with new perspectives from other disciplines and Nordic frameworks. With the case work the students have a possibility to create sustainable solutions with real societal impact. Most of all, the course emphasizes interaction and co-creation of knowledge and gives the students a chance to build vital new networks both with fellow-students as well as with experts and practitioners within the field.

What does it cost?

The course is free of charge. The students' travel expenses to Denmark, accommodation at Schæffergården (2 persons/room) and meals will be covered by the organizers.

Learning objectives

The aim of the course is to give the student a chance to experience a real-life planning case in an international and collaborative environment.

After the course the students should:

- have become acquainted with sustainable urban planning issues, particularly related to the development of the specific case area
- have gained a deeper understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of sustainable urban development and new insights into the social-ecological approach in urban planning
- have a deeper understanding of the realities, different actors and interest groups involved in practical urban planning
- have acquired new skills with regard to co-creation and communication in an international and multidisciplinary team
- have improved their problem-solving skills, analytical and critical thinking as well skills related to expressing and presenting arguments and solutions

Course requirements and evaluation

To complete the course the student is required to finish all the pre- and post-assignments of the course and actively participate in all activities during the intensive course, group-work and discussions. Attendance in all parts of the intensive course is mandatory. Course work will be evaluated by the course leaders and the jury based on activity and participation in the course, as well as on the quality of the completed case assignment written and oral presentation. The course will be assessed passed/failed.

Preliminary program

Sunday

Afternoon:

Welcome reception with a snack

First wrap-up of the pre-task

Grouping and work on each groups name and identity

Evening reception and dinner - networking!

Monday

8.30-9.15 Breakfast

9.30 Inspirational talk: The socio-ecological urban approach

11.30 Lunch

12.30 Visit to the case location

14.15 Panel discussion with central stakeholders/other case-related program

15.00 Coffee break

15.30 Inspirational talk and discussion around urban planning or similar approach related to the case

17.00 Case work – throughout the course in own teams with varying facilitators

20.30 Dinner and networking

Tuesday

Breakfast

9.00 Inspirational talk and discussion

10.00 Case work in teams

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Case work in teams

15.00 Coffee break

Case work continues

20.00 Dinner and networking

Wednesday

Breakfast

9.00 Case work in teams

11.00 Lunch

12.00 Presentation of the case solutions to jury, discussion and feedback
(20 min/group)

14.30 Coffee

15.00 Award ceremony

15:30 Reflection of the case work

17.00 Goodbye – The end of Nordic City Challenge

Venue

Most of the course works will take place in Schæffergården in Gentofte, Copenhagen.

Why do we arrange the course?

The purpose of the course is to enhance the knowledge and skills of the students in the field by giving them a chance to work with a multidisciplinary, collaborative and international approach to urban development. We also hope to get an international student perspective and good ideas for the development of city planning in Copenhagen. Finally, we want to create interaction and close networks between the students and other actors within sustainable urban development in the Nordic Countries. The course is financially supported by Nordplus Horizontal.

Selection criteria and how to apply

To ensure an equal participation from all the Nordic countries and different disciplines, we kindly ask you to make a preliminary sign-up for the course. Write a short motivation letter on why you should be chosen. Please remember to ensure with your professor/responsible teacher that you'll get 3 ECTS at your home university prior to applying to the course. The application can be made here: [APPLICATION FORM](#). The form opens Monday March 12th and closes on Tuesday May 15th.

Questions? Organizers and contact information:

Jonna Similä, Project leader, Nordic City Challenge, **Hanasaari – the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Center**,
jonna.simila@hanaholmen.fi, +358 40 649 5454, www.hanaholmen.fi

Janne Wikström, Project leader, HanaAcademy **Hanasaari – the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Center**,
janne.wikstrom@hanaholmen.fi, +358 40 620 7626, www.hanaholmen.fi

Salla Jokela, Postdoctoral researcher, Institute of Urban and Regional Studies, University of Helsinki, Urban Academy (Kaupunkiakatemia), salla.jokela@helsinki.fi, <https://blogs.helsinki.fi/kaupunkiakatemia>

Meeri Karvinen, researcher, coordinator, **Nordic Sustainable Campus Network (NSCN)**, meeri.karvinen@aalto.fi, +358 50 407 1884, nordicsustainablecampusnetwork.wordpress.com

Katri-Liisa Pulkkinen, researcher, **Aalto University**, Department of Built Environment, School of Engineering, Aalto University, katri.pulkkinen@aalto.fi, <http://builtenv.aalto.fi/en/>

