Nordic Urban Planning Studies

Course description
NOTE THAT COURSE TITLES AND DETAILS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR THE LATEST PROGRAMME INFORMATION, SEE: ruc.dk/en/nups

First Semester: Roskilde University

**Critical Urban Studies (5 ECTS)**
This course provides strong foundations for urban and planning studies by addressing key theoretical approaches to urban life and urbanization, and by exploring their significance for understanding and intervening in contemporary urban processes.

**Planning, Welfare and Business Models in the Entrepreneurial City (5 ECTS)**
Based on current planning projects, and involving collaboration with public or private sector organisations, this course considers the social, political, economic and cultural conditions for Nordic planning. Cases are chosen from the Copenhagen, Roskilde and Malmö regions.

**Approaches to Urban Planning (5 ECTS)**
This course addresses planning theories and approaches to planning from an interdisciplinary perspective, especially in terms of how they enable the analysis and understanding of urban conflicts and societal challenges in the Nordic welfare context.

**Project: Urban Planning in a Welfare Context (15 ECTS)**
Based on working in small groups and supported by workshops as well as regular meetings with a supervisor, this project analyses planning processes and/or works with a concrete planning challenge of your collective choosing.

Second Semester: choose ONE track

1) Roskilde University: Mobility and Globalizing Cities

**Cities, Culture and Politics (5 ECTS)**
The course addresses how urban spaces are being remade through processes of globalisation and mobility. It explores challenges for urban planning around issues of social diversity and cultural co-existence, and competing conceptions of the ‘good city’.

**Methods in Community Planning (5 ECTS)**
The course introduces key methods in planning and urban development, including experimental and creative methods. The course situates these within methodological debates and equips participants with a ‘toolbox’ that can be used in analysing and working with planning processes and projects.

**Geographical Information Systems (5 ECTS)**
The course provides an introduction to digital tools and techniques for the collection, analysis and presentation of geographical data used for urban planning.
Project: Mobilities and Globalizing Cities (15 ECTS)
This small group project involves analysing or designing planning processes and plans in a specific case or area, relating to the themes of mobility and globalizing cities.

2) Malmö University: Socially Sustainable Planning

Catching Urbanity (15 ECTS)
Through workshops, exercises and presentations, this course develops methodological skills and theoretical understandings of issues relating to urban studies, including skills in identifying and communicating urban contexts in dialogue with varied urban actors.

Project Work: Making Urban Studies (15 ECTS)
The course involves an independent research project on an urban planning issue, guided through seminars and peer-feedback sessions.

3) Tromsø University: Planning and Culture in the Urban North

Arctic Cities (10 ECTS)
This course addresses how the urban Arctic is constituted and how cities in the region are undergoing socio-cultural and spatial changes, also in relation to climate change and increased mobility.

Culture, Politics and Planning (10 ECTS)
This course explores the significance of understanding the interdependence between Global North and South, and the value of North-South comparison, for addressing key policy and planning challenges. Cases are from the Arctic as well as South Asia and Africa.

Planning and democracy (10 ECTS)
Although public planning is based on democratic principles, the democratic control of planning processes is under challenge today. This course explores how and why that is the case through a focus on different attempts to analyze, understand and respond to the complexities involved.

Third Semester: Tromsø University and Malmö University

Arctic Cities Field Course (Tromsø University, 15 ECTS)
Following an introduction to fieldwork methodologies and methods, this course explores and analyses urban development and planning in an Arctic context. An extended residential field course in northern Norway allows participants to study first-hand challenges, opportunities, development trends and planning practices of Arctic cities.

Project and Process Management for Sustainable Urban Development (Malmö University, 15 ECTS)
This course develops a critical and constructive understanding of urban development projects from a sustainability perspective. Themes include: the project as a dominant form of organising
urban development; project management; networks in design, implementation and governance of urban development; and conducting a pre-study for an urban development project.

Fourth Semester: Master thesis (at the university of your choice)

Master thesis in Nordic Urban Planning (30 ECTS): an individual or group research project, supported by individual and group supervision.