

Master programme

# **Nordic Urban Planning Studies**

International joint master's programme

**Roskilde University**

**Malmö University**

**UiT The Arctic University of Norway**

# Do you want to shape urban futures?

What is a city and who are the key actors in urban development? How do cultural, political and economic conditions define urban life? How can we develop innovative, collaborative and sustainable approaches to urban challenges and possibilities?

This programme studies Nordic urban planning in a global context and its distinctive perspectives on urban sustainability, liveability, mobility, 'smart' cities, welfare, empowerment and more.

Taught by leading researchers from Roskilde University (Denmark), Malmö University (Sweden) and UiT The Arctic University of Norway, you will develop international and interdisciplinary perspectives on urban planning and development.

You will also gain expertise in a range of research and communicative skills suitable for employment in private or public organisations working with cities and their futures.

A vertical, multi-level atrium of a modern building, likely a university. The space is characterized by curved balconies and railings on each level. People are seen walking on the upper floors, and a group is gathered on the ground floor near a large glass entrance. The lighting is bright, coming from large windows and skylights, creating a high-contrast scene with silhouettes and bright highlights. The architecture features a mix of dark and light materials, with prominent vertical columns.

**Malmö University**

How can we ensure liveable cities and affordable housing for everyone?



Might these floating and solar-driven apartments be a housing solution for students? Urban Rigger project in Copenhagen, by Bjarke Ingels Group



Should the areas around the city of Tromsø be developed for tourism, or could we plan for alternative futures of Arctic landscapes?



### **Distinctive features of the programme**

- > Draws on the distinctive research and teaching strengths of the three universities, while allowing immersion in a wide range of cities and planning cases.
- > Develops skills in working collaboratively and imaginatively with other students as well as with diverse communities, organisations, companies and municipalities.
- > Offers flexibility by combining core training with opportunities to specialise, including in terms of where to research your thesis.
- > Provides training in appropriate theories and qualitative methods as well as techniques of spatial visualisation and geographical information systems, including through an optional field course on Arctic cities and their planning.
- > Emphasises creative and experimental methods as well as problem-oriented project work for addressing planning issues.

## **ROSKILDE UNIVERSITY**

With 9000 students, the university is ranked 97 in the Times Higher Education Young Universities Rankings. The campus is located just a 25 minute train-ride from Copenhagen, where most students live. Copenhagen has been nominated as among the world's most liveable cities. Roskilde University's primary objective is to contribute to experimental, innovative forms of research, learning and problem-solving that contribute to society's development.

## **UiT THE ARCTIC UNIVERSITY OF NORWAY**

This northernmost university of the world is located on the edge of the Arctic. With 17,000 students, the university has special interest in issues of increasing global importance and public concern associated with the Arctic, including climate change, the exploitation of resources and environmental threats. Studying here makes it possible to combine a high quality learning and student environment with experiencing wild nature and the urban life of Tromsø.

## **MALMÖ UNIVERSITY**

Malmö University is an innovative international institute of higher education with 24,000 students. It is characterised by global engagement and community involvement, and by a multidisciplinary approach to education, research and collaboration that seeks to work with external partners to address future challenges. The university is located in the centre of Malmö, close to the old town, and just 45 minutes by train from Copenhagen.



TROMSØ

MALMÖ

ROSKILDE

# Study structure

Nordic Urban Planning Studies is a flexible two-year programme that combines core training across the three universities with opportunities to specialise at each. Recognising that sustainable solutions for major future challenges cannot be solved with one professionalism alone, it takes an interdisciplinary approach that equips you to solve real-life complex problems, including through group and individual research projects.

The first semester at **Roskilde University** (RUC) provides grounding in urban theory and approaches to planning. Following the distinctive RUC way of teaching, the study structure is based on 50% of courses and 50% of group project work. In project work guided by one of our supervisors, you learn how to identify, frame and research a problem of your own choice with a group of students with similar passions and interests to you.

In the second semester you choose a track from either RUC or Malmö University. At **Roskilde University** the focus is on how globalisation and its mobilities are transforming cities and urban life, and on tools for analysing

planning processes and working with different urban actors. You gain training in GIS and in a range of participatory, creative and qualitative methods, while half of your study is devoted to a group project or a project-oriented internship.

At **Malmö University** you develop proficiencies in identifying, analysing and communicating contemporary urban challenges and issues, relating especially to social sustainable planning. Methods training is combined with an opportunity to develop your interests and skills through project research.

The third semester emphasises planning practice as you choose a track from either UiT or RUC. At **UiT The Arctic University of Norway** you address urban challenges, opportunities and the planning of Arctic cities in a global context. That is through an Arctic field course, involving methods training and exploring urban development and planning in Tromsø. Urban development and geopolitics of the North are also examined in relation to macro trends in the Global South.

At **Roskilde University** you develop your planning interests and competencies through either an extended group project or internship. This is combined with training in urban project management and also in ethnography and visualisation for planning practice, which you develop through working with an external organisation or company.

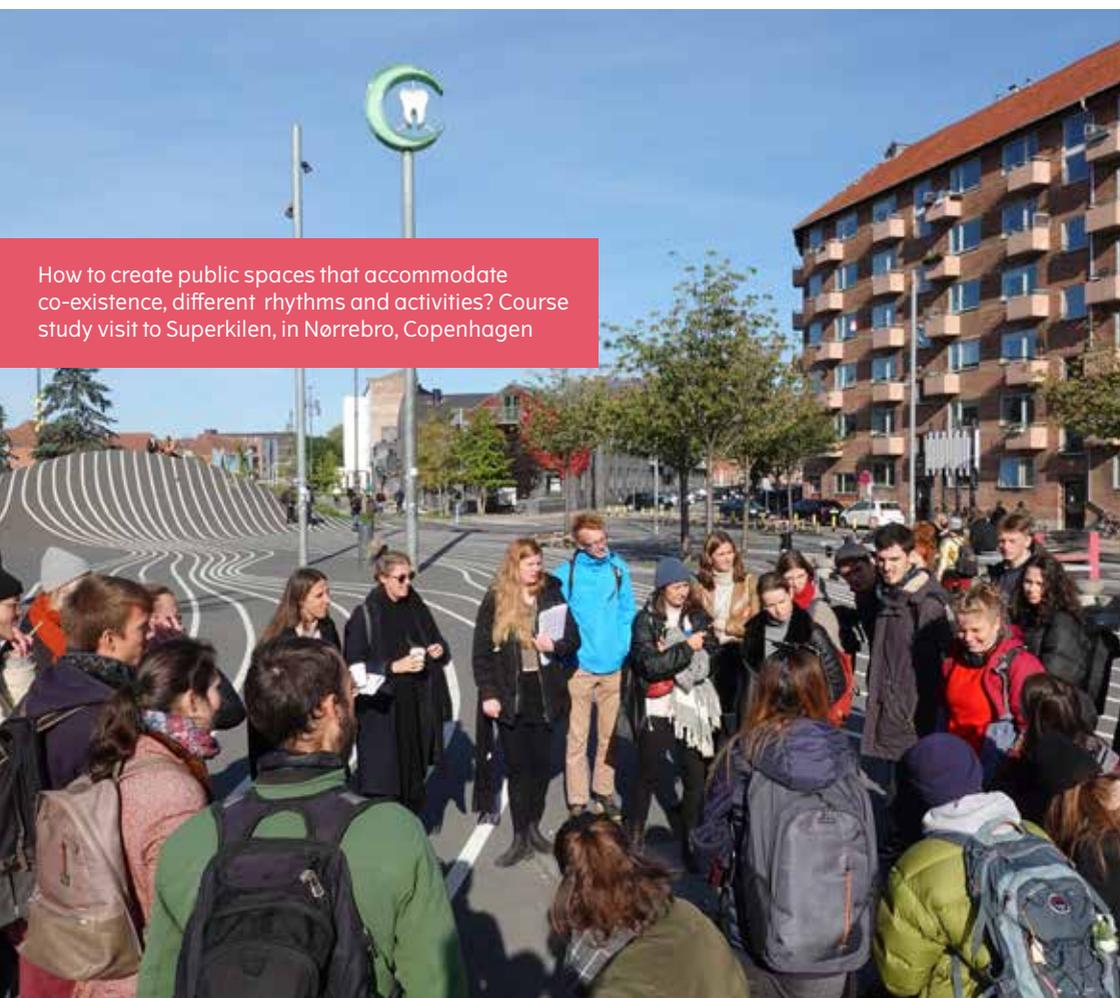
<b>1. SEMESTER</b>	<b>COURSES AND PROJECT WORK AT ROSKILDE UNIVERSITY</b>
<b>2. SEMESTER</b>	<b>COURSES AND PROJECT WORK AT EITHER MALMÖ UNIVERSITY OR ROSKILDE UNIVERSITY</b>
<b>3. SEMESTER</b>	<b>COURSES AND PROJECT WORK AT EITHER UIT THE ARCTIC UNIVERSITY OF NORWAY OR ROSKILDE UNIVERSITY</b>
<b>4. SEMESTER</b>	<b>MASTER'S THESIS AT ONE OF THE THREE UNIVERSITIES</b>

It is a requirement to attend at least two universities during the first three semesters

# Semester description

Note that course titles and details may be subject to change.  
For the latest programme information, see: [www.ruc.dk/nups](http://www.ruc.dk/nups)

How to create public spaces that accommodate co-existence, different rhythms and activities? Course study visit to Superkilen, in Nørrebro, Copenhagen



# 1. semester

Your first semester will be at Roskilde University. The semester will consist of three courses (5 ECTS each) and project work (15 ECTS), as outlined in the following.

## **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.

## **LIVEABLE CITIES (5 ECTS)**

Involving collaboration with public and private sector organisations, this course explores current planning projects concerned with improving public space, mobility, sustainability and more. Through visiting and researching local cases, particularly in Copenhagen, you gain analytical experience and insights into real-life challenges.

## **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 regular meetings with a supervisor, this project draws on the training from the courses to analyse planning processes and/or work with a concrete planning challenge of your collective choosing.

## 2. semester

In the second semester you choose between either Malmö University or Roskilde University (see details below). Note that you must attend at least two universities in the first three semesters.

### **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 'good cities' along with how they might be created.

#### **METHODS IN COMMUNITY PLANNING (5 ECTS)**

The course introduces key methods in planning and urban development, including participatory, creative and qualitative methods. The course equips participants with means of analysing and working with planning processes and projects from the perspectives of different actors and interests.

#### **GIS AND VISUALISATION (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. Students can choose to do an internship in place of the project.

# 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. The focus is on how to identify and analyse significant urban planning questions and problems, using different methods, from GIS to forms of ethnographic research. It also addresses ways of communicating analyses and perspectives through text, image and oral presentation, so as to develop dialogue with urban development actors.

### **MAKING URBAN STUDIES (15 ECTS)**

The course involves an independent research project on an urban planning issue, guided through seminars and peer-feedback sessions.



‘I was interested in having the opportunity to study planning in a new context, where I could learn about the alternative ways that Nordic communities approach development and planning issues. I wanted to be able to gain new perspectives, ideas, and tools, particularly with regards to winter cities, rural development, and community engagement.’

- Harriet Stanford, from Canada

# 3. semester

In the third semester you choose between either UiT The Arctic University of Norway or Roskilde University (see details below). Note that you must attend at least two different universities in the first three semesters.

## UiT The Arctic University of Norway

### **ARCTIC CITIES FIELD COURSE (20 ECTS)**

This course addresses challenges, opportunities and development trends in the urban Arctic. Following an introduction to field work methods, the course explores urban development and planning in an Arctic context. Participants study first hand the contestations of competing futures for Arctic cities, attending in particular to how planning methods and tools are deployed and combined in ongoing planning processes, involving conflict management and resolution.

### **CULTURE, POLITICS AND PLANNING (10 ECTS)**

Through various themes and cases, this course explores the significance of the interdependence between Global North and South, and the value of North-South comparison, for addressing key policy and planning challenges.

## Roskilde University

### **PROJECT OR INTERNSHIP (20 ECTS)**

This extended project or internship provides opportunities to develop urban planning interests, skills and profiles through a focus on planning in practice. It is alternatively possible to choose a Live Cases project (15 ECTS), and an approved elective course (5 ECTS).

### **URBAN PROJECT MANAGEMENT (5 ECTS)**

Through engaging with current cases from an integrated perspective, this course develops abilities to analyse, reflect on and inform aspects of urban project management for sustainable urban development.

### **ETHNOGRAPHY AND VISUALISATION FOR PLANNING PRACTICE (5 ECTS)**

Based on collaborating with an organisation or company, this course involves learning how to conduct consultancy work and specifically fieldwork to inform planning. It also develops communication skills.

## 4. semester

Your fourth semester is focused on writing your master's thesis. You can choose between all three universities in this semester.

### **MASTER'S THESIS IN NORDIC URBAN PLANNING STUDIES (30 ECTS)**

An individual or group research project, supported by individual and group supervision.



**UiT The Arctic University of Norway**

# Academic staff at Nordic Urban Planning Studies

Programme co-ordinating staff include:



**LASSE KOEFOED**  
**Roskilde University**

Urban planning and cosmopolitan urbanism, multicultural cities, public space, mobility and immigration, urban security politics, critical urban studies.



**DAVID PINDER**  
**Roskilde University**

Urbanisation and the production of space; utopia and urban planning; mobile and nomadic urbanism; art, performance and spatial politics; critical urban theory.



**KATRINE HARTMANN-PETERSEN**  
**Roskilde University**

Urban mobilities planning and policy, urban rhythms, communities on the move, everyday life and transport.



**GUY BAETEN**  
**Malmö University**

Urban development projects, sustainability and urban planning, neoliberalism, housing, smart cities.



**CARINA LISTERBORN**

**Malmö University**

Urban social geography, feminist urban studies, neoliberal planning, housing inequalities, urban safety.



**KARIN GRUNDSTRÖM**

**Malmö University**

Urban planning and design, architecture, appropriation, housing, everyday life, mapping, mobilities, urban (in)equality



**TORILL NYSETH**

**UiT The Arctic University of Norway**

Urban planning, place development, and citizen participation in planning and multicultural cities.



**ANNIKEN FØRDE**

**UiT The Arctic University of Norway**

Place and landscape transformations, tourism dilemmas, mobility and cross-cultural encounters, innovation and creative approaches to planning and development.



**TONE BLEIE**

**UiT The Arctic University of Norway**

Globalization, rural-urban development and new threats to liberal democracy and security, with particular attention to international/multilateral institutions, the state, civil society and 'the local'.

Roskilde University

Grupperum



# Career options

Nordic Urban Planning Studies qualifies you for a wide range of job opportunities. Graduates will be attractive for businesses, public authorities and organisations working nationally and internationally with cities, regions and urban life, including:

- › Project leaders and entrepreneurs in urban consultancies
- › Managers, facilitators and coordinators of city development in international planning, design and consultancy companies
- › Urban planners and social innovators for international organizations and NGOs
- › Urban planners for local, regional and national public authorities and municipalities
- › Advisory positions in public and private sector working to build urban futures
- › Research positions, including within universities (providing a strong basis for PhD studies).

# Would you like to know more?

If you have any further queries about programme and course content, please contact:

Mail: [nups-info@ruc.dk](mailto:nups-info@ruc.dk)  
[ruc.dk/nups](http://ruc.dk/nups)

If you have further queries about studying at RUC, please contact:

Study Guidance at  
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