

Module code	SEL514	Level	5
Module title	Future Cities Now	Credit value	10
Common/Core/ Elective	Elective	ECTS Credits	5
		Notional learning hours	100
Courses on which the module is taught	All	Teaching Period	Autumn/ Spring

1. Module description

Our cities are already busy reinventing themselves from the bottom up and, as they are the drivers of human ingenuity and social transformations, we need them now more than ever.

For over 6000 years, cities have been pulling us in with promises of adventure, independence, diversity and new ideas. Today more than half of humanity lives in cities, and this number is expected to reach three-quarters by 2050. But how will our future superorganism-like cities serve as sustainable and thriving socio-economic habitats?

This module provides a glimpse into the economic, political, cultural and technological forces reshaping our urban environments today. It reveals a positive trajectory for both people and planet; the enriching roles our local neighbourhoods play; the ways in which more flexible work patterns increase demand for urban experiences; the different ways in which our public spaces are opened up, rethought, and redesigned; and the exciting new forms of retail and food experiences heading our way.

2. Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module you will be able to:

Innovation (MLO 02)

Analyse and develop the value propositions of policies, initiatives and innovations within the urban space

Interdisciplinary Perspectives (MLO 09)

Investigate alternative urban solutions and their potential impact via multiple disciplines and scenarios

Human and Environmental Impact (MLO 10)

Analyse the systemic environmental impact of urban use of resources

3. Learning and teaching methods

This module takes an active learning approach which places you at the centre of your own learning journey. Each week you will engage in interactive workshops where you will learn to identify and analyse key forces and trends shaping the urban socio-economic and physical environment. You will learn and apply approaches such as Design thinking, system analysis, Canvas to a specific issue/ problem, alongside other tools and frameworks. Using cases studies and field trips you will gain insights on a range of existing initiatives, solutions and future scenarios. You will collaborate and share ideas

with your peers, research key challenges and opportunities emerging with the urban space and question assumptions and thinking with regards to issues and impacts. Through this approach to learning you'll develop new knowledge and skills and practice applying a systemic and pattern-based understanding to real world situations. These activities along with formative assessment and feedback will culminate in the summative assessment which will showcase you have you have met the learning outcomes of the module.

Learning hours	
Directed learning	36 hours
Workshops/classes	36
Guided/Self-guided learning	64 hours
Total	100

4. Assessment, formative feedback and relative weightings

Assessment: Case study

Weight (%): 100%

Word Count or Equivalent: 2000

You will analyse and present a case study exploring key challenges, opportunities and innovative policy ideas within the urban space. Your analysis will explore how alternative policies and solutions have been considered, and the multitude of forces, conceptual and physical innovation-driven opportunities, and stakeholders impacted by choices made.

The final submission could take on a traditional presentation, creative poster, model or video form.

Each summative assessment will be preceded by an opportunity of formative assessment accompanied by formative feedback

Mapping of assessment tasks for the module

Assessment tasks	MLO2	MLO9	MLO10					
Case study	X	X	X					

5. Indicative resources

Boyko Christopher T., *Designing Future Cities for Wellbeing*, (Routledge: 2020)

Brook Daniel, *A History of Future Cities*, (W. W. Norton & Co.: 2013)

Sassen Saskia, *Cities in a World Economy*, (SAGE Publications: 2018)

West Geoffrey, Bruce Mann, et al., *Scale: The Universal Laws of Life and Death in Organisms, Cities and Companies* (W&N: 2018)