

SUMMER SCHOOL

15-19 July 2024, Berlin, Germany

Urban synergies: Co-creating thriving connections for humans with nature

→ Grants available! ← [APPLY](#) until 7 March 2024



Photo: Ana Isa Mourinho

How can we live and thrive together? How can we not only overcome polarities but nurture diversity and dignity for all? How can cities not only adapt to climate change but restore and regenerate relationships with nature, resources and with communities around us? Our approach to the city is an evolving and potentially transformative journey. It involves creative, embodied, and transdisciplinary approaches to learning about current challenges and injustices, drawing new linkages, and to designing change. This summer school invites you to reimagine conviviality and community-building in the city through a transdisciplinary lens.

- Join an international group of changemakers and co-create to transform the future
- Gain key knowledge, grow your network and find inspiration for your own research
- Receive a certificate of participation equivalent to 6ECTs
- Have a meaningful experience in the vibrant and creative city of Berlin

Context

Cultural and technological transformations that define modern life have pulled us away from our fundamental connection with nature and each other in ways that are unhealthy for people and the planet. This is particularly true within cities, where urban alienation and disconnection from natural systems are especially pronounced. Today, more than half the world's population lives in cities, and more than two-thirds will live in urban areas by 2050. As rapid urbanization and ecosystem dysfunction (e.g., climate change; biodiversity loss) accelerate, we ask, how can we begin to reimagine urban life in ways that restore our connections to one another, our communities, and to the natural systems within which we are embedded? Moreover, since cities are places of deep, visible, and longstanding material and social inequities, how can we envision urban futures in ways that recognize, address, and transcend historic injustices to build more just, equitable alternatives?

Objectives

The summer school is an activity of the Cost Action [SHIFT](#) which studies the contribution of the Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts to sustainability transformations and climate resilience. Organised by the Working Group 3, this summer school explores the potential of transdisciplinary, art-science approaches in addressing the complexities in urban spaces, drawing new linkages and designing connections that shape regenerative and thriving urban environments. Moving beyond disciplinary approaches to environmental challenges, this summer school integrates holistic, transdisciplinary approaches and creates spaces for imagining and co-creating just, livable, healthy futures that foster a sense of belonging and kinship.

The goal of this summer school is to provide participants with theoretical and practical knowledge of transdisciplinarity, transformation and regeneration in urban spaces. The chosen approach integrates arts-based, design-driven and experiential learning practices with theoretical knowledge. The summer school will offer a space to explore how to navigate between perceived polarities and seeming contradictions to create new, regenerative imaginaries of the future. Taking place in Berlin, the summer school provides participants with opportunities for experiential learning through field visits and creative experiments.

Format

The summer school is conceptualized as a transdisciplinary learning space. It will offer a balanced program of lectures, interactive sessions and experiential field trips in Berlin provided by experienced and internationally renowned trainers and researchers. The summer school will take place during the day with a few optional evening events.

Key topics

Community; Connection; Transdisciplinarity; Regeneration; Environmental and Climate Justice and Responsibility; Kinship and Connection to Nature; Berlin context; Embodiment; Arts and Humanities; Architecture and Urban Design; Futures.

Admission requirements, grants for travel expenses and credits

The summer school is designed for Master's and PhD students. Minimal requirement for admission is a Bachelor's degree in Natural/Social Sciences/Humanities/Arts and Design and other related areas as well as an interest in creative approaches. Grants are available for 12 participants coming from [Cost Member Countries](#). The grants cover a daily allowance of 125 EUR/day for the course days, including travel days. The grants don't cover travel costs and those expenses should be paid by participants. Participants based in Germany are not eligible for the grants. Requests for the grants must be done until **7 March 2024**.

DAILY ALLOWANCE

Daily allowance will be calculated against the attended days (as confirmed against participant's signature on the official attendance list for each day of the event that they attend), and the travel start and travel end dates and hours (as evidenced in the travel supporting documents). The table hereunder describes how those criteria are taken into account in the calculation of the daily allowance:

Travel to the event:	
- travel starts before 11:59	Full allowance
- travel starts between 12:00 and 18:59	90% of Daily Allowance
- travel starts after 19:00	80% of Daily Allowance
Event days when participant does not travel:	
Each event day attended by the participant	Full DA rate
Travel from the event:	
- travel end before 11:59	20% of Daily Allowance
- travel ends between 12:00 and 18:59	30% of Daily Allowance
- travel ends after 19:00	40% of Daily Allowance
Arrival and departure on the same day of the event:	
For participants arriving and departing on the same day to the event, the calculation of their daily allowance depends on their travel time.	Between 20% and 40% of DA rate

Decision on grants will take into consideration motivation, geographical diversity, gender balance, as well as the COST Inclusiveness Policy. Confirm your eligibility to participate in section [6.4. Eligibility to Receive Financial Support of the COST Annotated Rules](#). Participation in the Summer School is free of cost. However, participants without grants have to cover their expenses. All participants must make arrangements for travel. The reimbursement of grant holders is made after the summer school by the e-cost platform. This course can have a recognition of 6 ECTS for Master and PhD students. Upon completion participants will receive a certificate, however your institution will be required to grant equivalence. Participants need to deliver a group presentation on the last course day and a report after the course.

[APPLY HERE FOR THE SUMMER SCHOOL](#)

Important Dates

7 March 2024 – Application deadline

End of March 2024 - notification of applicants

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