Desinc Live

Erasmus+

2021

Practices of urban inclusion

Course prospectus

LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Refugees Welcome Italia

POLITECNICO MILANO 1863
DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA E STUDI URBANI

S 27 KUNST UND BILDUNG

architecture sans frontières
UNITED KINGDOM

UdK Berlin

KU LEUVEN

About

This course asks how we can plan, build and put into practice cities that promote inclusion. The course centres around the lived experiences of migration, displacement and exile as key perspectives to understand how urban spaces can produce or challenge exclusion.

In doing so, the course explores how urban planning, architecture and spatial practice can contribute to making cities of care, where more people feel welcome in more spaces.

Who is this course for?

This course aims to bring together a wide range of learners across Europe from different backgrounds, focusing on people who have a personal and/or professional experience of transnational migration, and/or have a background in social work, social policy, urban geography, urban planning, urban design, architecture, visual arts, public performance and other creative disciplines engaging with urban space.

We want to create an international community of practitioners that span these fields and are willing to integrate different forms of knowledge into their future practice.

The course will invite you to confront the pressing social, political and ethical concerns that relate to migration and movement in European cities.

You will critically reflect upon your own forms of urban practice, and develop new ways of fostering inclusion in urban space.

Partners

Politecnico di Milano (Italy), KU Leuven (Belgium), Universität der Künste Berlin (Germany), London Metropolitan University (UK), Schlesische27 (Germany), Refugees Welcome Italia (Italy) and Architecture Sans Frontières-UK (UK).

Key information

Dates

Date of course: 10 May – 29 October 2021
Application deadline: 30 April 2021 (local deadlines may apply).

Locations

Online, Milan, Berlin, Brussels and London.

Timeframe

The course will start on 10 May 2021 and end on 29 October 2021.

Live workshop in Berlin: 28 June – 4 July 2021
Live workshop in Milan: 6–12 September 2021

Programme

Activities

The course will include the following activities and resources.
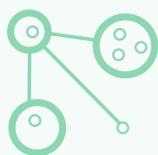
Online Knowledge Platform

A supportive virtual space will allow you to share your thoughts and gain insights from your peers, and to access a variety of learning resources such as readings, media clips, and quizzes.

Facilitated peer-to-peer support

You will have the opportunity to build relationships online with your peers across Europe and through local meet-ups with participants in your city.

Personal reflections

You will be encouraged to reflect on your learning experience throughout the course, by regularly compiling a learning journal in a format of your choice (written, visual, audio, video).
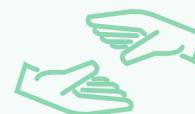
Personal tutoring

You will have regular live or online meetings with a tutor at your host institution, who will support you in all stages of the course.

Live workshops

You will have the opportunity to join two live workshops in Berlin, Germany and in Milan, Italy, where you will contribute to a real project, working closely with local partner organisations and other course participants.

Should fieldwork or international movement not be possible at the time of the workshops, alternative arrangements will be made to facilitate remote engagement and collaboration.

What will I learn?
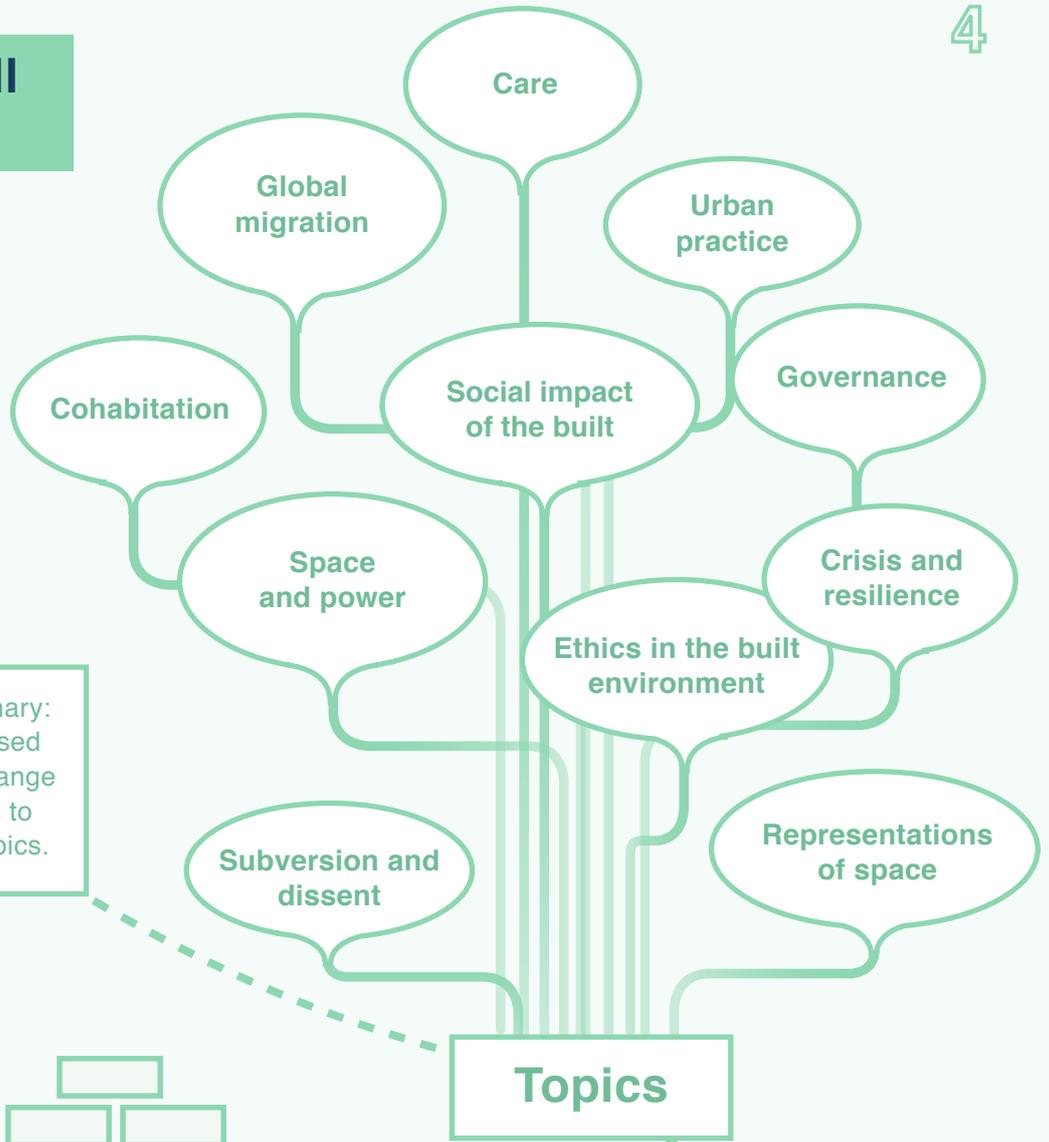
The course is transdisciplinary: theoretical and practice-based activities will draw from a range of disciplinary perspectives to explore and link various topics.

Topics

- Care
- Global migration
- Urban practice
- Social impact of the built
- Governance
- Cohabitation
- Space and power
- Crisis and resilience
- Ethics in the built environment
- Subversion and dissent
- Representations of space
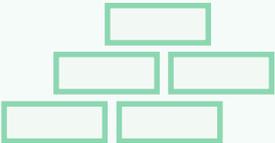
Methods

Developed through the collaboration between civic, arts, and academic institutions, the course provides an opportunity for experimenting with different methodological approaches to examining and transforming urban space.

The course explores methods of community engagement in fragile settings and encourages participants to test creative narrative and visual approaches to studying and representing space.

Through both online and live interactions with a community of learners, you will test collaborative modes of action at the intersection between art, architecture, urban planning and social development. At the same time, you will develop tools of reflection aimed at acknowledging your own position as a practitioner, and assessing the impact of your choices and actions on the city.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, you will have established methods of critical analysis to interpret complex urban situations, and you will have experimented with creative forms of urban practice based on principles of care and collaboration.

This process will strengthen your position as a reflexive and creative urban dweller who can contribute to making cities more inclusive.

Sites

The two live workshops aim to enhance participants' capacity to work collaboratively and reflexively, engage with diverse stakeholders, map complex urban territories and produce multi-dimensional analyses of places, and envision and test potential change via performative actions and temporary interventions.
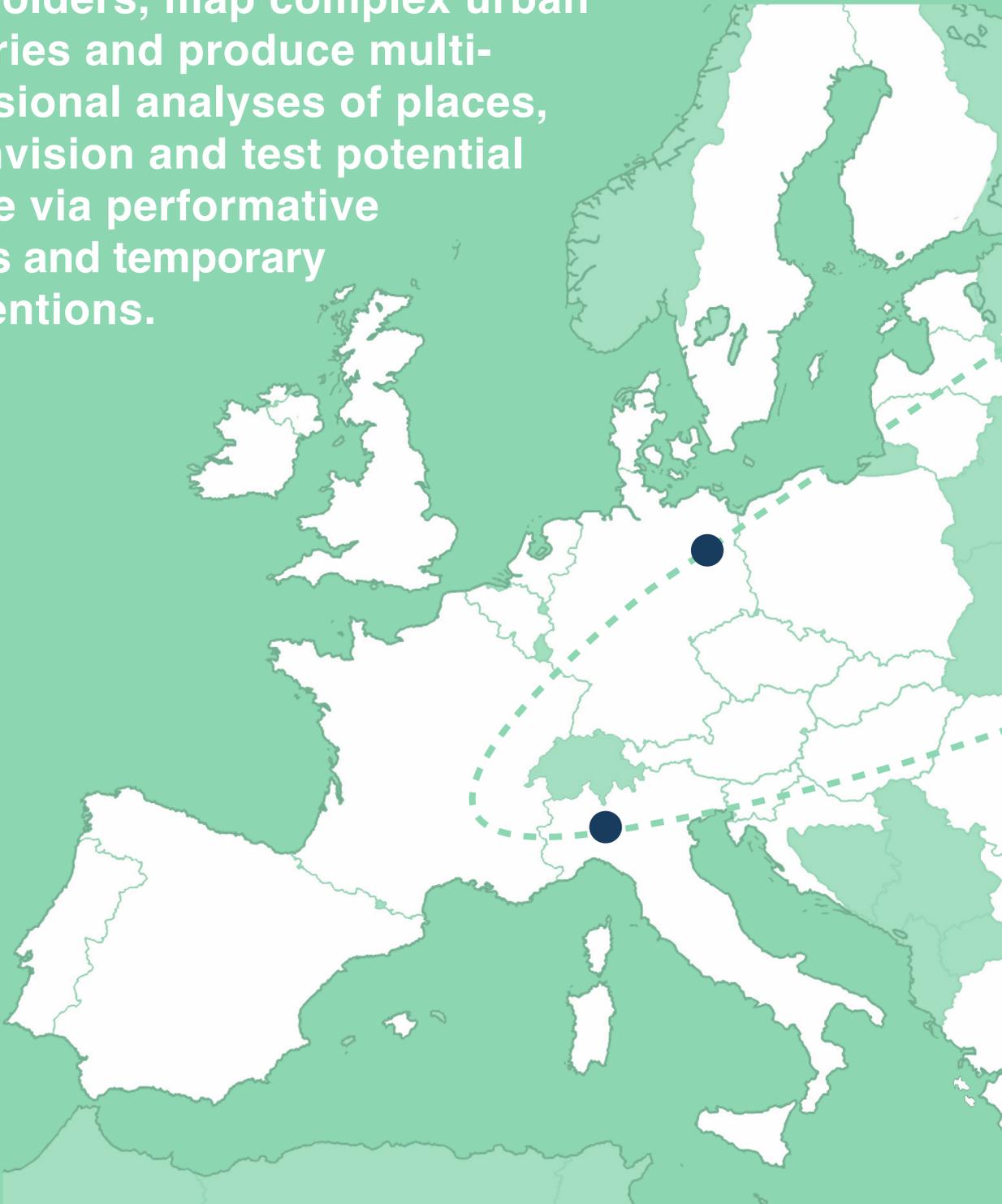
Berlin, Germany

The Berlin workshop will take place in the district of Marzahn, located on the outskirts of the city. Here, a refugee camp initially set up as an emergency shelter is now one of the largest accommodations for refugees in Berlin. The workshop will engage with this context through the 'experimental construction site' known as Stadtwerke mrzn, which was initiated by S27 in Summer 2020 as a model campus for the new citywide urban practice network. Stadtwerke mrzn utilises art-based methods to explore how local residents can gain agency to transform both their livelihoods and the spaces where they live. The workshop will ask how art and architecture can contribute to building local resilience in the context of migration and social exclusion – particularly during the current global pandemic. The workshop will take a collaborative and cross-disciplinary approach, to understand urban space as a product of multiple relationships, and urban practice as an instrument for social change.

Otto-Rosenberg Platz, Marzahn, Berlin.

Milan, Italy

The Milan workshop will be set in the district of San Siro. San Siro is one of the largest public housing estates in Milan and a large percentage of its population has a migratory background. Despite its physical proximity to the city centre, the area is generally perceived to be part of Milan's periphery due to its challenging material and social conditions, ranging from intense intercultural and intergenerational conflicts to poor buildings maintenance. At the same time, San Siro is also home to a vibrant network of individuals and organisations – known as Sansheros – who collaborate closely to support local residents and ameliorate living conditions in the neighbourhood. Their work of Sansheroes ranges from research-based, policy-oriented initiatives, to the provision of day-to-day services such as legal counselling, language courses, and more. The workshop will engage with the reality of San Siro and its many stakeholders, addressing questions of diversity, cohabitation and care through collaborative storytelling, mapping and scenario building.

San Siro neighbourhood, Milan.

Politecnico di Milano
Italy

The team is based in the San Siro neighbourhood in Milan. They work closely with Politecnico's social responsibility programme: Polisocial, and contribute to Mapping San Siro, a live lab committed to working with San Siro's residents to co-produce stories of the neighbourhood and scenarios for its transformation.

Refugees Welcome Italia
Italy

RWI is a non-profit organisation and a member of the Refugees Welcome international network. It aims to promote cultural change in society by involving citizens in supporting refugees and asylum seekers through hosting, mentoring and volunteering; and by advocating for policy change at the local and national levels.

London Met University
United Kingdom

The team at London Metropolitan University experiments with critical spatial practice through live projects set in both local and international settings. The group's research and teaching explore architecture as a method to engage with the cultural and political dimensions of urban change.

Partners

Architecture Sans Frontières-UK
United Kingdom

ASF–UK is a non-profit design organisation that builds the capacity of urban practitioners and communities to participate in the co-production of more equitable cities. The organisation works in partnership with civil society groups, local governments and academic institutions both in the UK and internationally.

Schlesische27
Germany

S27 Art and Education develops experimental projects for and with young people. By encouraging creativity and artistic expression, the aim of S27 is to enable young refugees to discover their own talents, learn German, understand local structures, and eventually find a job or apprenticeship in Berlin.

Universität der Künste Berlin
Germany

The team at UdK works at the intersection between architecture and social action to address complex urban issues such as those relating to humanitarian crises, displacement, migration and social diversity. Teaching activities are strongly interdisciplinary and aim to foster a culture of openness and experimentation in art and design.

KU Leuven
Belgium

The team at KU Leuven explores socially engaged spatial practice in the context of globalisation and rapid urban transformations. By developing reflective forms of urban practice that can deal with a diverse range of contextual conditions, the team's research and teaching emphasize the relevance of critical thinking and of working across scales.

Who can apply?

We accept applications from candidates with a wide range of skills and abilities across the built environment, arts, social work and social policy sectors.

Applications are open to current students of the partner universities and further places are available with the partner non-profit organisations. You do not have to be a student to apply for a place with one of the non-profit organisations, but you must be based within their country. Please email the relevant institution for details.

Fees + Funding

All positions are fully funded, including travel, accommodation and subsistence costs during the Live workshops in Berlin and Milan.

Apply to join!

Application process

Recruitment for the course will close on Friday 30 April 2021.

The first stage of the application process is completing an Expression of Interest. Please email the relevant institution for details on how to apply.

Capacity

There are 18 places available on the course.

Credits

Some of the project partners will be able to award credits for attendance to the course. Please email the relevant institution for details.

Contacts

KU Leuven

Viviana d'Auria
viviana.dauria@kuleuven.be

Politecnico di Milano

Francesca Cognetti
francesca.cognetti@polimi.it

Refugees Welcome Italia

Giorgio Baracco
giorgio.baracco@refugees-welcome.it

Schlesische27

Vera Fritsche
v.fritsche@s27.de

Architecture Sans Frontières -UK

Lucia Caistor-Arendar
l.caistor@asf-uk.org

London Met University

Beatrice De Carli
b.decarli@londonmet.ac.uk

Universität der Künste Berlin

Katharina Rohde
k.rohde@udk-berlin.de

www.desinclive.eu