

# Oslo bystudio

## CityStudio Oslo

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### Course content

In this course, students aim to launch a project on-the-ground in Oslo and in close partnership with the City of Oslo. The projects may be experimental or theoretical and must solve a challenge that has been identified by the City of Oslo. The problems may relate to urban policy, sustainability policies, planning or development. To do this, students will work in interdisciplinary teams (of four or five) and students may be from other universities and faculties in Oslo. The first half of the course focuses on building skills and developing idea(s) with input from the City of Oslo. Next, the course shifts to be mainly project work and implementation. By the end of the semester, students will launch and share their projects to the City of Oslo.

The main components of the course are:

- Project Work, including group dynamics, design processes and project management competences.
- Dialogue and Urban Knowledge, including group facilitation, deep listening, theory in urban planning and knowledge of the City of Oslo's structure and challenges.
- Communications, including story-telling, professional relationship development, presentations, posters or other visual representations, writing,

drawing, and presenting the project in the public eye such as a launch event or/and media release.

This is an immersive full-time course focused on experiential learning.

## Learning outcome

### Knowledge goals

Students will gain knowledge in:

- Theory related to dialogue and community engagement, within an urban context.
- Design concepts and processes such as the design thinking approach.
- Recent frameworks and theories in urban planning and sustainable cities.
- How the City of Oslo is structured in terms of departments, goals, challenges and key actors.
- How a student's teamwork is influenced by their own behavior patterns and attitudes, as well as those of others.
- How to incorporate knowledge from their current field of studies to an interdisciplinary context.
- Conflict resolution and organizational theory.
- The problem that their project aims to solve. The students will become experts in knowledge relating to their projects which may include empirical evidence on the issue of interest, experiences of the challenge in the community and how the City operates in this area.

### Skills attainment goals

How to:

- Facilitate group discussions and decision-making processes.
- Use design approaches and interdisciplinary perspectives to solve problems.
- Frame your project in relevant contexts, such as urban planning, for a target audience.
- Manage and implement a group project that benefits the City of Oslo.
- Identify and involve stakeholders and external actors in projects.
- Create a detailed project plan.
- Measure and report project outcomes.

- Host a productive meeting.

## **General competences**

You will be able to:

- Collaborate with students from other fields, developing a combined interdisciplinary expertise.
- Conduct yourself in a professional manner as a liaison between various sectors, and engage with stakeholders.
- Communicate ideas and concepts clearly to audiences outside of academia.
- Contribute to creative and collaborative thinking about urban development and sustainability issues.
- Plan and implement a project.

## **Application and admission**

The opening date for applications is DATE. You must complete an application (it is not possible to register for this course in StudentWeb) which includes submitting a CV, transcripts and a letter of motivation. A committee will review applications and invite top candidates to take part in a short interview.

Applicants who are interviewed will receive a decision regarding a course placement by DATE, and must accept the offer within one week. If a placement is secured, the course will be added by your home school's administration.

Application components are to be compiled as one PDF and submitted as an email attachment sent to \_\_\_\_\_ by DATE and TIME.

We seek a high level of engagement and commitment to the course. Only those who can commit to the course structure should apply.

## **Prerequisites**

- Bachelor students must have obtained 120 ECTS.

- Master students registered in an existing program at UiO.
- If you are enrolled at another university (AHO, NMBU or OsloMet), please see the corresponding course pages at that institution for prerequisite information.

Students from all disciplines are welcome to apply. The course is suitable for bachelor students with 120 ECTS or Master's students.

## Teaching

The format of teaching will be:

- Problem-based, experience-based and pragmatic
- Workshop style and 'hands-on'
- Iterative with feedback in the process for refining project ideas, presentations and writing components
- Supported by group meetings and check-ins with teaching staff and a key contact from the City of Oslo
- Self and group directed in project research and implementation

Teaching will be shared by a regular team comprised of teachers from various faculties and participating institutions. Experts in various disciplines may be brought in to conduct a skill-building sessions in addition to the usual teaching staff. City staff members and community experts will visit this studio to participate in dialogues hosted by students.

A detailed course schedule will be available for registered students. The course will follow a weekly pattern. When students have time to work in the community or out of studio on their projects will be made clear.

### **Compulsory instruction and coursework**

There is a mandatory attendance requirement for this course. Absence is permissible under reasonable circumstances up to 10 per cent. Student attendance and participation is expected at this level. A strong commitment is expected and required for this course. There are mandatory assignments in this course – see Examination section.

This program is full-time and will run Monday – Friday from 9:00 to 16:00. Students may work outside of these hours when implementing projects or for hosting or attending special events. Course time is not limited to occurring at the studio location. There will be time for students to implement their projects and learn in the community. Students however will be expected to base their 'in-office' work at the studio.

## Access to teaching

Only students admitted to the course can follow teaching activities.

Students who have passed the course will not have access to the course at a later time.

## Examination

There will be mandatory individual assignments that need to be completed by the students before moving into the project phase of the course. The mandatory assignments will include:

- Communications element such as a written opinion editorial
- Hosting a dialogue
- An contribution to a mini-project
- Written reflects regarding self-learning and dialogue topics
- An oral presentation related to the curriculum material

Completed mandatory assignments must be completed.

Two Final Examination grades will be allocated in relation to the project, one individual grade and one group grade. Both are pass/fail.

**Group grade on project deliverables**, including the group's project presentation and final project report which are written and delivered as a group. The group must be available to make a formal presentation and showcase of their project at a pre-defined location and date which will be known at the start of the course. The students must present their projects and findings to the City of Oslo. This is assessed at a group level (four students). Project criteria and project report requirements will be discussed at the beginning of the course.

**Individually grade** for their work relating to the project phase of the course.

Participation and progress throughout project's development are both considered for this grade. This is a process oriented assessment of the project work and students will be asked to reflect on their own learning as part of this. A reflection in written format will be submitted and the remaining grade will be derived from participation.

If projects are not declared ready for presentation to the City by a defined deadline, or the report and presentations fail to meet standards, the group will be given 10 working days to rectify the report and re-submit.

The student must pass both final exam components.

## Language of examination

English

## Grading scale

Passed/ Not passed

## Explanations and appeals

It is recommended to request an explanation of your grade before you decide to appeal.

### Appeal

- [Appeal against grades](#)
- [Complaint about formal exam errors](#)

### Explanation

Feedback will be a common occurrence on both mandatory assignments and project development throughout the course.

The deadline to request an explanation on final grades is one week after the grade is published.

## Special examination arrangements

Application form, deadline and requirements for [special examination arrangements](#).

## Evaluation

The course is subject to continuous evaluation. At regular intervals we also ask students to participate in a more comprehensive evaluation.