

BACHELOR

Urban Sustainability Studies



University
of Antwerp

Proud Member of
the YUFE Alliance



Content

Introduction to the programme	4
Programme structure	5
Model path - part 1	7
Model path - part 2	8
Model path - part 3	9
Further studies	10
Job opportunities	12
Why choose UAntwerp	14
Admission criteria	15
Navigating your studies	16
Application procedure	17
YUFE partners across Europe	18



Design your future &
change the world.



Introduction to the programme

In a world shaped by rapid urbanisation, both cities and rural areas are vital for a sustainable future. The Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies, designed by the Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) Alliance, offers an innovative, interdisciplinary education to tackle real-life challenges head-on. Customise your learning path, explore diverse landscapes, and lead the way in urban sustainability across Europe with YUFE!

Over three dynamic years, you'll shape your learning journey to match your strengths and interests. The first year covers essential skills at your starting university. In the second and third years, you'll personalise your studies through YUFE Minors and study at a minimum of three different universities across Europe. The programme culminates in a dissertation to showcase your expertise.

Throughout your bachelor's programme, you'll work internationally with students, teachers, and businesses to address real-world issues in a creative, international and interactive setting.

With input from 10 European universities, each a YUFE partner, the programme offers a diverse curriculum that explores sustainability issues in urban and rural settings!



www.uantwerpen.be/urban-sustainability-studies

Programme structure

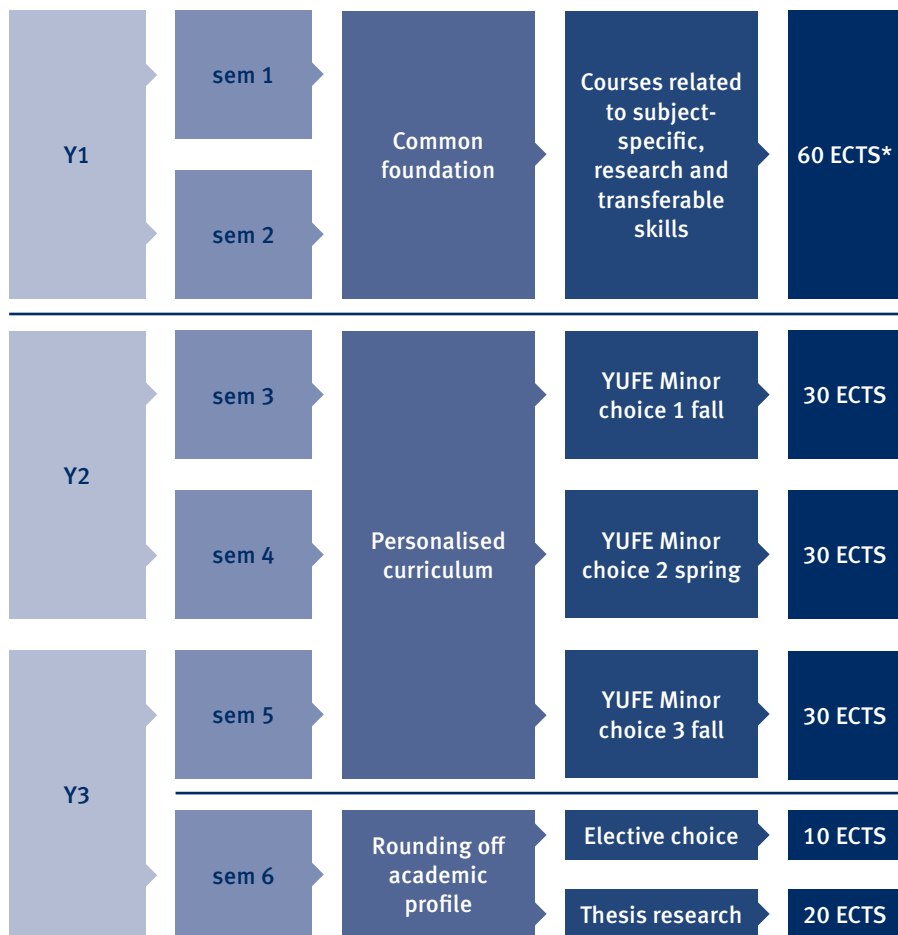
In your first year with YUFE, you'll begin your bachelor's studies at the University of Antwerp (or another chosen university) to build a common foundation in urban sustainability through a mix of on-site and online courses.

As you continue your studies, you have the freedom to personalise your curriculum by choosing from 20 different minors. With this flexibility, you can select three minors, with at least two of them to be taken at other partner universities. This allows you to travel and study at a minimum of three universities, creating a unique and diverse learning experience. The travel is made possible with Erasmus Funding, which provides financial support to help cover the costs of studying abroad, ensuring accessibility to this international academic opportunity.

You'll round off your academic profile with a bachelor's thesis project and your choice of elective courses at your starting university.



www.uantwerpen.be/urban-sustainability-studies



* The YUFE university partners apply the 'European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System' (ECTS) in their degree programmes. A full-time one-year study programme is equivalent to **60 ECTS credits** (about 30 ECTS credits per semester). One ECTS credit equates to 25 to 30 hours of work including contact hours, preparatory work, study and assessment.

Model path - part 1

Courses can vary depending on the chosen starting university.
The programme below describes the model path for UAntwerp.

	ECTS
Compulsory courses	
Sustainability	3
A Complex Systems Perspective on Urban Sustainability	5
Climate Change. The Physical Basis	6
Contemporary Urban Developments	6
Cities and Citizens in Urban History	6
Introduction to Economics	6
Sociology	6
Statistics for Urban Sustainability	6
Research and Academic Development Skills	4
Academic English	6
Electives	
Supportive sciences - to choose from:	6
European Integration	
Anthropology	
Introduction to Managing and Organising	
Total	60

Model path - part 2

Personalise your curriculum by choosing **three minors**, each worth 30 ECTS credits, from at least two of our partner universities:

ECTS	
Fall semester	
Minor Urban Health and Wellbeing <i>Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland</i>	30
Minor Urban Ecology in Europe: Public Policies, Cultural Narratives <i>Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris, France</i>	30
Minor Design and Perspectives on Heritage <i>University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium</i>	30
Minor Natural Sciences for Sustainability <i>University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany</i>	30
Minor Economic Development <i>University Carlos III of Madrid, Madrid, Spain</i>	30
Minor Urban Environmental and Sustainability Education <i>University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus</i>	30
Minor Borders, Europe and Russia <i>University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland</i>	30
Minor Urban Sustainable Development <i>Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands</i>	30
Minor Urban Inequality <i>University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia</i>	30
Minor Driving Change: Activism, Engagement and Communities <i>University of Essex, Essex, United Kingdom</i>	30
Minor Smart Cities for Sustainable Culture <i>University Carlos III of Madrid, Madrid, Spain</i>	30
Minor Societal Issues in a Contemporary World <i>University of Essex, Essex, United Kingdom</i>	30
Minor Sustainable Business <i>University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland</i>	30
Minor Smart Cities for Sustainable Culture <i>University Carlos III of Madrid, Madrid, Spain</i>	30

ECTS

Spring semester

Minor Cities of Dreams and Nightmares	30
<i>University of Essex, Essex, United Kingdom</i>	
Minor Sustainable Tourism	30
<i>Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland</i>	
Minor Heritage and Perspectives on Design	30
<i>University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium</i>	
Minor Cities and Urbanisation: Interdisciplinary Perspectives	30
<i>University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium</i>	
Minor Urban Ecology	30
<i>University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia</i>	
Minor Urban Sustainable Development	30
<i>Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands</i>	

Total	90
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Model path - part 3

ECTS

The last semester will be taken at the starting university:

Bachelor Thesis Project	20
Elective Courses	10

Total	30
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For a full overview of the programme and courses:



www.uantwerpen.be/urban-sustainability-studies

Further studies

The YUFE Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies offers you the opportunity to explore insights from a wide range of fields, including social sciences (e.g. economics, business, urbanism, and sociology), natural sciences (e.g. environmental engineering, biology, and ecology), technical sciences (e.g. civil engineering, mechanical engineering, and artificial intelligence), and the humanities.

With this degree, you can pursue various master's programmes, with even more options available depending on your chosen minors. You'll find opportunities at the University of Antwerp, our YUFE partners, and other universities worldwide.

Master's programmes at UAntwerp

Master of Urban and Spatial Planning (Dutch)

Want to shape cities and open spaces? The Master in Urban and Spatial Planning is your path! Master analysing, designing, implementing, and evaluating. Learn key theories and methods.



www.uantwerpen.be/stedenbouw

Master Heritage Studies (English track)

Want to preserve objects and monuments? Interested in art, culture, and heritage? The Master of Heritage Studies is for you! Enhance the life of historical items and make them relevant for the future. Work with heritage communities to shape today and tomorrow.



www.uantwerpen.be/erfgoedstudies

Master of Gender and Diversity (Dutch)

Explore inequality in our interuniversity, interdisciplinary Gender and Diversity master programme. Examine sexism, feminism, racism, migration, poverty, and more across media, policy, and society. Prepare for impactful careers in policy, business, civil society, or research. More information on:



www.mastergenderendiversiteit.be

Master in Security Sciences (Dutch)

Safety is a critical and broad topic in today's news, covering cyberattacks, virus outbreaks, drone security, and workplace burnout. Our society and businesses need skilled professionals who can handle diverse safety challenges effectively. Interested in studying safety across different disciplines and applying theory to practice?



www.uantwerpen.be/veiligheidswetenschappen

Master's programmes at partner universities

Sustainable Development and Global Governance

University Carlos III of Madrid, Madrid, Spain



Sustainability Science, Policy and Society

Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands



Environmental Policy and Law

University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland



And many more...

Visit the UAntwerp website and partner university websites for a comprehensive list of relevant master's programmes.

Job opportunities

Unlock job opportunities in urban sustainability!

The YUFE Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies is a brand new programme, starting in academic year 2025-2026. This means you will be **among the first ones** to graduate from this international, multidisciplinary programme.

Our programme's Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) equip you with the **skills and knowledge** needed for careers in urban sustainability. Covering economics, business, urbanism, engineering, environmental sciences, and the humanities, our interdisciplinary approach bridges professional fields and fosters a global perspective.

With a strong focus on **critical thinking, adaptability, and lifelong learning**, you'll enjoy diverse options and flexibility in your learning journey, ensuring you are well-prepared for various roles in making cities sustainable and resilient.

Enhance your employability and become a leader in urban sustainability! An international outlook, with strong language proficiency in other languages, for example English, further strengthen your position. As the programme sets a leading example in international joint education, it also prepares you to grow in international collaboration. As a graduate of the Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies, you'll have already built an international network with students, teachers, and businesses across Europe.

Orientation year

As an international student, you can choose to look for work opportunities in Belgium after completing your studies. You can apply for an orientation year and extend your stay in Belgium by 12 months. Guidance and administrative assistance with this process is available through the university.



*Emma Caals & Sara De Bruyn,
alumni of the YUFE Minor BEAR in Joensuu, Finland*



Testimonial Student minor on Borders, Europe and Russia

The minor on Borders, Europe and Russia (BEAR) was an incredibly enriching academic experience. Not only did we have the chance to gain insights into the Finnish academic world and society, we also spent an entire semester learning about the dynamics of EU-Russia relations from highly experienced professors and lecturers. The unique geographical location of The University of Eastern Finland (UEF) clearly enables them to develop significant expertise on Russia and the post-Soviet world, offering a highly versatile and in-depth programme. Thanks to the flexible structure of YUFE, there was a good balance between compulsory and elective courses – though it was hard to choose since everything looked so interesting! The programme also allowed us to delve deeper into topics that are only briefly touched upon in our master programme at UAntwerp due to time constraints, such as border dynamics, Russia and Europe, and the region that once formed the Soviet Union. It was the perfect “specialisation” within our broader international relations and diplomacy programme! Highly recommended.

Why choose UAntwerp

Our university is located in the **city of Antwerp**, in the heart of Belgium and Europe.

The port of Antwerp is one of the biggest in the world. Antwerp is not just an ancient medieval and baroque city, full of history. It is also a bustling metropolis with a vibrant social scene, impressive architecture and cultural contrasts. This cosmopolitan vibe is also reflected at the University of Antwerp. English is widely spoken in Antwerp, though if you learn Dutch during your stay here you will become a local in no time.

First-rate research and education make the University of Antwerp a wonderful place to study and to work. We foster the nexus between research and education. Internationalisation is key to our mission. It is no coincidence that the University of Antwerp is a partner in a highly promising European university network, the Young Universities for the Future of Europe



www.YUFE.eu

As home away from home to over **23,000 students**, the University of Antwerp prides itself on operating on a human scale. Our faculty and staff will welcome you into top-notch infrastructure on one of our four campuses. While you're here you are also invited to enjoy our vibrant cultural programme, sports facilities and many student services.



Admission criteria

To enrol in an academic bachelor's programme at the University of Antwerp, you need to have (at least) a secondary education degree that entitles you to enrol in a comparable programme in a university of the country in which the degree was conferred. For Belgian students this is a secondary education diploma of the Flemish-speaking, French-speaking or German-speaking communities in Belgium.

If your degree has already been recognised by NARIC as equivalent to a Flemish diploma that gives direct access to the programme, then you also meet the diploma requirements.

Since the programme is taught in English, applicants with a prior degree issued outside Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxembourg are required to demonstrate their proficiency in English.

- Applicants can do so by submitting a **language certificate** showing their TOEFL, IELTS, ITACE or Cambridge English results (the level required can be checked on www.uantwerpen.be/admission).
- Applicants who have **previously obtained** a diploma in an English-taught programme in Australia, English-speaking Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and/or the United States of America are exempt from providing an additional language test certificate.
- Applicants with a diploma of a European School or an International Baccalaureate, and English as Language 1 or Level A, should contact the Registrar's Office to have their documents checked for equivalence to the required proficiency in English.

Please note that the Board of Admission may still ask for additional proof of proficiency in English.

Navigating your studies

Academic advisors

Upon enrolment, you'll receive an advisor to help you navigate your academic journey. Your academic advisor will help you select courses, integrate YUFE Minors and electives, and meet your programme goals. Your advisor will guide you in refining academic goals, understanding course connections, and exploring career paths, as well as preparing for master's programmes.

Organising your stay in Antwerp

For incoming international students, the International Students Office at the University of Antwerp can assist you as you prepare for your arrival at our university.

Newsletters on student housing, webinars on costs of living, an app to introduce you to fellow students, and a Welcome Week at the start of the academic year, will help you to find your way in no time.

 www.uantwerpen.be/study

Organising your stay abroad

As you will be studying at a minimum of two YUFE partners in Europe, you will need to consider the costs and logistics of your stay abroad. How to find student housing and costs of living while doing your minors, will greatly depend on the mobility partners involved. However, all of our partners are strong players in the field of internationalisation within their universities and are well equipped to help you get settled and organised.

Application procedure

Start application at Virtual Campus

You start your application procedure by applying at YUFE Virtual Campus where you can specify your preferred starting university, e.g. the University of Antwerp. You will be asked to demonstrate you meet the entry requirements and will be contacted by a YUFE admission officer to guide you through the application process.

Application deadlines vary according to the starting university. Please check the YUFE Virtual Campus.



virtualcampus.yufe.eu

Continue your admission and enrolment at your chosen starting university

To start at UAntwerp, Belgian students with a secondary education degree from the Flemish-speaking, French-speaking or German-speaking community, and candidates with a degree mentioned on www.uantwerpen.be/admission can enrol directly as **of 1 July 2025**.

If the degree of secondary education is not mentioned or if you need to apply for a visa, you will need to follow an additional procedure through the online application tool Mobility Online to determine if your degree can be accepted for enrolment and/or to obtain a letter of acceptance required for a visa. Applications for academic year 2025-2026 can be submitted in Mobility Online from early november onwards.

Application deadlines to submit an application through Mobility Online

For non-EEA nationals and for students who need to apply for a visa:
before 1 March 2025

For EEA nationals: **before 1 June 2025**

YUFE partners across Europe

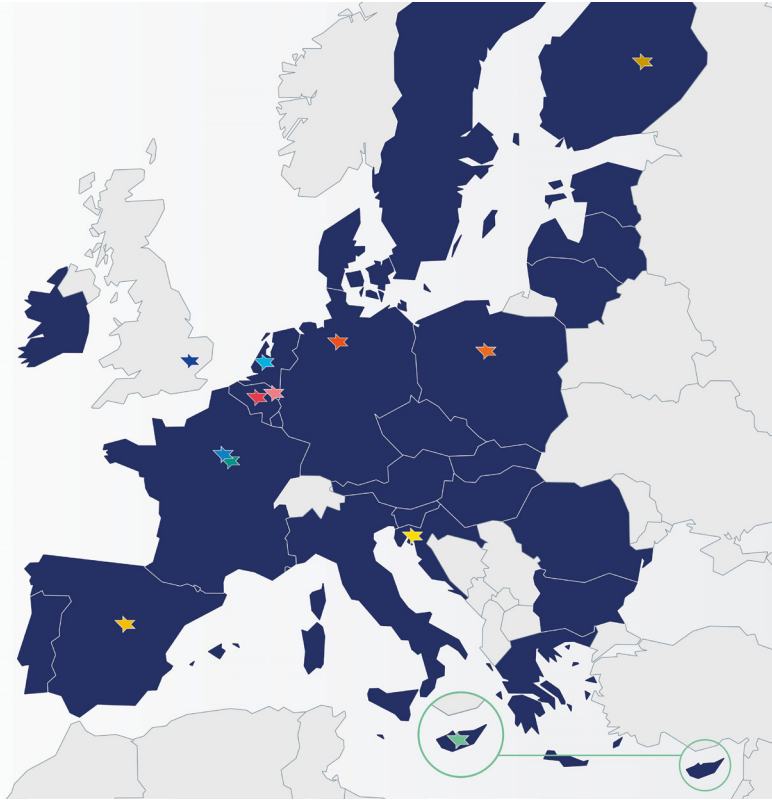
Explore the possibility of studying at these universities during your Bachelor in Sustainability Studies.

- **Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands**
A city brimming with history, art, and exquisite architecture.
- **Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland**
A captivating medieval town with a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a vibrant student life
- **University Carlos III of Madrid, Madrid, Spain**
A dynamic metropolis offering world-class museums, vibrant nightlife, and a passionate spirit.
- **University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany**
A vibrant city known for its maritime history, innovative spirit, and stunning Town Hall.
- **Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris**
The City of Lights, renowned for its iconic landmarks, world-renowned museums, and rich cultural tapestry.
- **University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus**
A historical city blending diverse cultures, where ancient ruins meet modern life.
- **University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland**
A gateway to breathtaking natural beauty, serene lakes and vast forests.
- **University of Essex, Essex, United Kingdom**
A city steeped in Roman history, offering historical landmarks and a lively student atmosphere.
- **University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia**
A captivating coastal city boasting stunning architecture, a rich maritime history, and a vibrant cultural scene.
- **University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium**
A historical gem renowned for its diamond trade, artistic legacy, and charming canals.



YUFE Partners

-   University of Antwerp
-   Maastricht University
-   University of Bremen
-   NICOLAUS COPERNICUS UNIVERSITY IN TORUŃ
-   uc3m | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
-   UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND
-   UNIR
-   University of Cyprus
-   Sorbonne Nouvelle
-   University of Essex
-   ETS | GLOBAL Association of Educational Testing Service
-   THE ADECCO GROUP



All information on the YUFE partners and opportunities



www.yufe.eu

All information on the Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies



www.uantwerpen.be/urban-sustainability-studies

HAVING DIFFICULTY CHOOSING A PROGRAMME?

Don't worry. We are happy to help with info sessions throughout the year.

Discover the calendar on

www.uantwerpen.be/info-sessions

Register and stay in touch

- ☒ Open days
- ☒ Campus tours
- ☒ ...

Questions about how to choose a programme?

We offer support with that too. Discover it on

www.uantwerpen.be/choosing-a-programme

WHY UANTWERP

UAntwerp is home to those who think and act out of the box. Want to know more?

www.uantwerpen.be/this-is-uantwerp