

YUFE's Joint Bachelor in

Urban Sustainability Studies



Bachelor degree
from 7 European
universities!



Co-funded by
the European Union



NICOLAUS COPERNICUS
UNIVERSITY
IN TORUŃ

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Shape the world you want to live in!

In a world shaped by rapid urbanisation, both cities and rural areas are vital for a sustainable future. The joint 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 cultures, and lead the way in urban sustainability across Europe with YUFE!

Over 3 dynamic years, you'll shape your learning journey to match your strengths and interests. The 1st year covers essential skills at your starting university. In the 2nd and 3rd years, you personalise your studies choosing different sets of courses (Minors) abroad. The programme culminates in a dissertation to showcase your expertise. You finish the Bachelor with a degree awarded by 7 European Universities.

Throughout your bachelor's programme, you 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 (7 Degree Awarding Partners and 3 Mobility Partners), the programme offers a diverse curriculum that explores sustainability issues in urban and rural settings!



YUFE's Joint Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland.

Meet our partner universities



10 dynamic, research based European Universities create YUFE – they've joined their forces to offer a unique bachelor programme. Meet the partners:

Maastricht University, The Netherlands

A city brimming with history, art, and exquisite architecture.



University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

A historical city blending diverse cultures, where ancient ruins meet modern life.

Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland

A captivating UNESCO-listed medieval town and a dynamic “city of water”, both boasting vibrant student life.



University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland

A gateway to breathtaking natural beauty, serene lakes and vast forests.



University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain

A dynamic metropolis offering world-class museums, vibrant nightlife, and a passionate spirit.



University of Essex, Colchester, United Kingdom

A city steeped in Roman history, offering historical landmarks and a lively student atmosphere.



University of Bremen, Germany

A vibrant city known for its maritime history, innovative spirit, and stunning Town Hall.

University of Rijeka, Croatia

A captivating coastal city boasting stunning architecture, a rich maritime history, and a vibrant cultural scene.



Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris, France

The City of Lights, renowned for its iconic landmarks, world-renowned museums, and rich cultural tapestry.

University of Antwerp, Belgium

A historical gem renowned for its diamond trade, artistic legacy, and charming canals.



 – Degree Awarding Partners

All of the partners add courses to the programme!

Maastricht University,
The Netherlands



Nicolaus Copernicus University
in Toruń, Poland



University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain



University of Bremen,
Germany



Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris, France

University of Cyprus,
Nicosia, Cyprus



University of Eastern Finland,
Joensuu, Finland



University of Essex, Colchester,
United Kingdom



University of Rijeka, Croatia



University of Antwerp, Belgium



Programme structure

In your 1st year you can begin your bachelor's studies at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (or another chosen university) to build a 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 different minors – sets of courses exploring various aspects of the sustainability. With this flexibility, you can select 3 minors, 2 of them to be taken at other partner universities. This allows you to travel and study at 3 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 at your starting university.

Y1	semester 1	COMMON FOUNDATION	Courses related to subject-specific, research and transferable skills	60 ECTS
	semester 2			
Y2	semester 3	PERSONALISED CURRICULUM	YUFE Minor choice 1	30 ECTS
	semester 4		YUFE Minor choice 2	30 ECTS
Y3	semester 5	ROUNDING OFF ACADEMIC PROFILE	YUFE Minor choice 3	30 ECTS
	semester 6		Thesis research and elective choice	30 ECTS



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.

How does that work in practice?

Check a model path for starting at NCU:

1st and 2nd semester courses:



Computer-assisted qualitative and quantitative data analysis



Occupational Safety, Health and Ergonomics



Basics of urban economics and management



Urban geography and Sociology



Complex Systems Theory



Introduction to urban Sustainability



Contemporary Urban Developments



English in the city



Cities & citizens in European History



Science in response to anthropopressure-induced change



Research and academic development skills



Cycling in modern urban mobility

3rd, 4th and 5th semester year:

You choose 3 minors, 1 at starting university and 2 abroad. We have an academic advisor to help you compose the best programme based on your preferences.









What can you choose in a fall term?

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



What can you choose in a spring term?

University of Essex, Colchester, United Kingdom		Minor Cities of Dreams and Nightmares
Nicolaus Copernicus Univeristy in Toruń, Poland		Minor Sustainable Tourism
University of Antwerp, Belgium		Minor Heritage and Perspectives on Design
University of Antwerp, Belgium		Minor Cities & Urbanisation: Interdisciplinary Perspectives
University of Rijeka, Croatia		Minor Urban Ecology
Maastricht University, The Netherlands		Minor Urban Sustainable Development

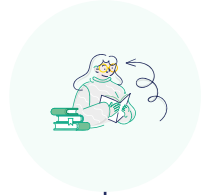
Last (6th) semester

The last semester will be taken at the starting university, where you will work on your thesis.

Want an example?

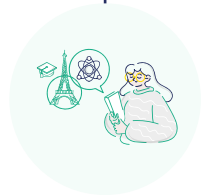
1.

Imagine a student starting Urban Sustainability Studies in Toruń, Poland.



2.

Interested in ecological aspect of the studies, after the 1st year she goes to Paris to do the set of courses on Minor Urban Ecology in Europe: Public Policies, Cultural Narratives.



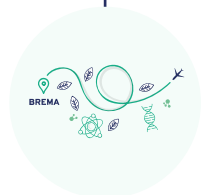
3.

For spring term, during the 2nd year, she returns to Poland to do the module on Sustainable Tourism.



4.

When the 3rd year starts she goes to Bremen to study Natural Sciences for Sustainability.



5.

Afterwards she travels back to Poland where, together with supervisors from NCU and Bremen, they focus on thesis on urban greenery and climate resilience of her hometown.



What after you get the diploma?

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. geography, economics, business, and sociology), natural sciences (e.g. environmental sciences, biology, and ecology), technical sciences (e.g. urbanism, civil 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 NCU, YUFE partners, and other universities worldwide.



Master programmes at NCU:

Gospodarka przestrzenna i geozarządzanie (studies in Polish)



Geoinformacja środowiskowa (studies in Polish)



Global Change Biology



Master programmes at partner universities:

Sustainable Development and Global Governance
University Carlos III of Madrid, Madrid, Spain



Sustainability Science, Policy and Society
Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherland



Environmental Policy and Law
University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland



Job opportunities



YUFE's Joint Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies is a brand new programme, starting in the 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. The programme integrates various disciplines and teaches to solve complex local problems considering a global perspective.

With skills of critical thinking, adaptability and lifelong learning you will be 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 English and other languages, 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.



Students about YUFE

The USS bachelor programme is brand new, but students from NCU and other universities have already participated in various exchange programmes under YUFE:

As a participant in the YUFE initiative, I had the incredible opportunity to travel around Europe and discuss student, community and academic engagement projects. Thanks to YUFE, I was able to develop my interests by attending workshops and training sessions. YUFE also allowed me to help others by working in and for the local community. I am grateful for the opportunity to grow with YUFE and look forward to the next steps in our journey together towards a better future.



Aleksandra Śnieć
Nicolaus Copernicus University Student
YUFE Student Forum Member



YUFE is all about the European identity and the integration of education. The YUFE spirit is one of collaboration, innovation, and resilience. We've learned to work together, support each other, and celebrate our differences. This spirit sets us apart and will guide us as we step into the next chapter of our lives.

Baudouin de Meulemeester
Maastricht University Student -
Bachelor of Laws
YUFE Class of 2024

Why choose NCU?

Choosing NCU as your starting university means:

Free of charge education!

These studies are for free, also for international students.

Affordable accommodation options.

There are many dormitories on our campus where you can find a place to live, study and socialize.

Rich students' life at the campus with many amenities.

There are sport facilities, places for rest, students clubs, concert halls, social gardens and many others!

Support during your whole studies.

Besides the advisory services helping you tailor your studies, you can count on psychological support if needed.

Exploring Toruń – a UNESCO-listed Gothic gem, where cultural life is vibrant and the cost of living is affordable.



Admission criteria

Admission Requirements for non-Polish citizens

If you choose NCU as your starting university, registration is done via the YUFE Virtual Campus, followed by the NCU Internet Registration System (IRK) website.

Candidates eligible for admission must hold a secondary school certificate or an equivalent qualification that grants access to higher education institutions of any type, in accordance with the regulations applicable in the country where the certificate was obtained.

Candidates must also provide a document confirming their proficiency in English at a level no lower than B2, as specified in the university's legal regulations (visit ncu.eu/yufe-uss for details)



YUFE Virtual
Campus



NCU Internet
Registration System
(IRK)

Qualification rules for non-Polish citizens

Candidates are selected based on an online admission interview (video conference) that assesses their knowledge and aptitude necessary for undertaking studies in the chosen field. The interview is conducted in English.

The final assessment is scored on a 0-100 point scale. A score below 30 points in the qualification process means the candidate does not meet the admission requirements.

Admission requirements for Polish citizens are available at ncu.eu/yufe-uss

Go to the website
to check application
dates and requirements



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 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.

How to apply?

Start admission at Virtual Campus

You start your application procedure by applying at YUFE Virtual Campus where you can specify your preferred starting university, e.g. Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. 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.

Contact

admission_yufe@umk.pl



NCU website

ncu.eu/yufe-uss



YUFE website

yufe.eu/yufe-bachelor



Enrolment

virtualcampus.yufe.eu

