

International Exchanges and Programs

University of Groningen – Netherlands

Autumn Quarter Year 2

The Department of Urban Design and Planning offers an ongoing exchange program with the University of Groningen, the second-oldest university in the Netherlands, located in the historic city of Groningen in the country's northeast.

This Autumn Quarter Year 2 exchange allows MUP students to take courses in Dutch planning, a field study course (or other elective), and a qualitative methods course, all taught in English. Several field trips are typically included. Upon return, the majority of coursework will apply as elective credits, with the exception of the qualitative course, which will satisfy the MUP qualitative methods core requirement.

Professor Keith Harris is the faculty liaison and typically hosts an information session each November.

Considerations:

Students must carefully plan their coursework around the exchange, and should consider financial and professional implications:

- Academic:
 - URBAN 518: Qualitative Methods (MUP Core, Autumn Year 2)
 - Enroll in a comparable qualitative methods course at the University of Groningen.
 - Enroll in URBAN 518 in Autumn of Year 1.
 - URBAN 566: Infrastructure Planning (required for several specializations, Autumn Year 2)
 - Enroll in Autumn Year 1, and postpone 504 Intro to GIS
 - Enroll in URBAN 571 Infrastructure Finance online course in summer, offered through the Master of Infrastructure Planning and Management program (note: summer tuition applies; NRD tuition waivers associated with fellowship offers will not apply; WRGP tuition waiver will apply)
 - Urban Design Specialization or Certificate
 - This exchange is generally not recommended for students in the Urban Design specialization or certificate due to required advanced studio courses held in Autumn Quarter Year 2 at UW. These studios cannot be replicated in Groningen.
 - Urban Design students should consult with faculty and staff to develop an alternative plan if interested in studying abroad.
 - Capstone
 - Students enter their second year with a capstone plan, so consider how spending the autumn quarter abroad might affect your capstone progress. If you're planning to do the capstone studio (Winter/Spring of your second year), there will be no impact.
- Professional:
 - Consider how participating in an exchange program may affect your internship opportunities (e.g., if you plan to continue a Seattle-based summer internship into the fall or if studying abroad in autumn may limit opportunities for longer-term internships).
- Financial:
 - For this exchange, students pay a [program fee](#) equivalent to 1.5 quarters of their tuition (either resident or non-resident rate), along with the study abroad fee and insurance. It is not possible to use tuition waivers towards the program fee. For example, non-resident students who receive a tuition waiver through a Fellowship or WRGP/WICHE will still need to pay 1.5 quarters of non-resident tuition towards this exchange.

The Valle Program at the University of Washington is a fully funded exchange scholarship for graduate students in engineering and built environments, including Urban Design and Planning, supporting exchange between UW and Nordic and Baltic countries. The program was established in 1980 by Norwegian immigrant and construction leader Henrik Valle to promote international exchange in his fields.

Participating countries: Exchange partners are in the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) and the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania).

Application process: Student applications are typically accepted annually from October 15 through February 1 of the following year. The application includes a resume, a plan of study, and references.

Funding details: The Valle Program is known for providing generous funding to its participants, including a monthly stipend living stipend, tuition, and round-trip travel to and from the destination.

[Valle Scholarship & Scandinavian Exchange Program](#)

Scan Design Fellowship Program

typically Summer Year 2 or Autumn Year 3

The Scan Design Foundation provides generous, need-based fellowships to undergraduate and graduate students from all academic fields of study who have been accepted to study abroad in Denmark through any program approved by UW Study Abroad, including exchanges with the University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen Business School, Aarhus University, Aarhus School of Architecture, and the affiliated partner program with the Danish Institute of Study Abroad (DIS). Funding is available through all quarters throughout the year, including direct enrollment through Danish institutions and UW's Fieldwork, Research, and Independent Learning Abroad (FRILA).

Most MUPs who utilize Scan Design pursue research on their thesis through Fieldwork, Research & Independent Learning Abroad (FRILA), which allows students to engage globally while maintaining student status and receiving international travel security coverage:

[Fieldwork, Research & Independent Learning Abroad \(FRILA\)](#)

Less common is to participate in the Scan Design Studio through the Landscape Architecture Program: [Scan Design Interdisciplinary Study Tour & Studio](#)

Coursework & Field Studies

Mega-City Planning: Seoul, South Korea

Autumn Year 2, when available

Students travel to Seoul with Professor Christine Bae for one week in October for lectures and site visits related to mega city planning in Seoul, South Korea. Students must also enroll in a related 3-credit course in autumn quarter where they complete a paper related to their experience. The credits apply towards elective credit requirements in the MUP program. The course is offered intermittently as funding from the South Korean government allows. Prof. Bae will typically hold an information session mid-year during the years the program runs.

University of Washington Study Abroad Faculty-Led Options

UW Faculty routinely lead study abroad experiences. Graduate students are eligible to participate in any of the study abroad opportunities available through the University of Washington. However, some options are better suited for undergraduate students and vice versa. Students can explore options at the UW Study Abroad website: [UW Study Abroad](#)

Students typically pay a program fee, insurance fee, study abroad fee, and travel expenses, depending on the program.

Within the Department of Urban Design and Planning, the following faculty-led experiences are routinely offered:

“Paris 2030: The Future is Green” – Prof. Keith Harris, Summer A Quarter

This interdisciplinary program examines Paris’s ecological sustainability efforts, how the city is transforming for environmental goals by 2030, and considers who benefits or is left out in those transformations. 10 UW credits

“The Living Landscape: History, Culture & Agriculture” — Prof Rachel Berney, early fall start (usually mid-August to mid-September)

Focuses on food systems, sustainability, farm-to-table practices, climate change, and the ways agriculture, culture, and landscape intersect in Tuscany.

Open to both undergraduate and graduate students; Typically 5 UW credits.