

DESIGN YOUR FUTURE & CHANGE THE WORLD

JOINT BACHELOR PROGRAMME IN
URBAN SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES

UNIFI |



INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME
AT A GLANCE
Duration: 3 years
Study load:
180 ECTS
Language: English

Upon completion,
you will receive
a joint degree
awarded by
seven European
universities.



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 and challenge-based 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 will 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 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. You finish the Bachelor with a joint degree awarded by seven 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 ten European universities, each YUFE partner (seven degree-awarding partners and three mobility partners), the programme offers a diverse and applied curriculum that explores sustainability issues in urban and rural settings.

Shape the world you want to live in!

MEET YUFE UNIVERSITIES

7 Degree awarding
partners

University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia

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

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 of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

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

University Carlos III of Madrid, Madrid, Spain

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

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.

3 Mobility
partners

University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany

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

Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris, France

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

University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

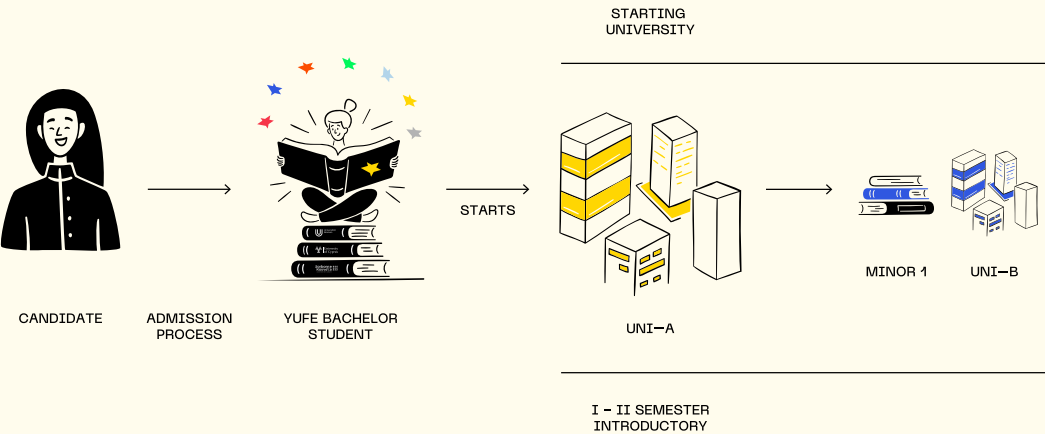
A historical city blending diverse cultures, where ancient ruins meet modern life.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Y 1	SEM 1	COMMON FOUNDATION	Courses related to subject-specific, research and transferable skills	60 ECTS
	SEM 2			
Y 2	SEM 3	PERSONALISED CURRICULUM	YUFE Minor choice 1	30 ECTS
	SEM 4		YUFE Minor choice 2	30 ECTS
Y 3	SEM 5		YUFE Minor choice 3	30 ECTS
	SEM 6	ROUNDING OFF ACADEMIC PROFILE	Elective choice	10 ECTS
			Thesis research	20 ECTS

This programme features an open curriculum concept, giving you the flexibility to personalise your studies as you progress.

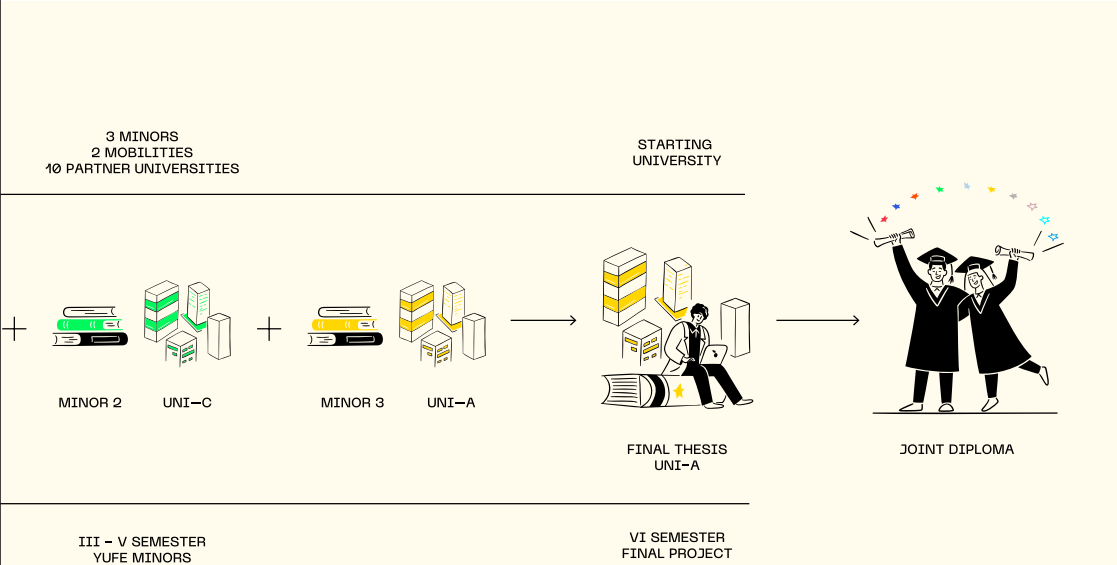
In your first year with YUFE, you will begin your bachelor's studies at the chosen degree-awarding university, following a jointly designed common curriculum to build a foundation in urban sustainability through a combination of on-site and online courses. The YUFE's Bachelor programme features an open curriculum concept, giving you



the flexibility to personalise your studies as you progress. **In your second year**, you will start taking up YUFE minors. You can select from 20 different minors, choosing three in total, with at least two pursued at universities other than your starting university. This structure enables you to study at multiple three universities, offering a uniquely rich and diverse academic experience.

Your international mobility is supported by Erasmus funding, which helps cover travel and living costs and can support up to two mobilities, allowing you to spend two semesters at universities abroad, making this exceptional global learning opportunity accessible and achievable.

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



PERSONALIZE YOUR LEARNING PATH / CHOOSE YOUR STARTING UNIVERSITY



Explore the unique opportunities at the University of Rijeka.

You can begin your Urban Sustainability Studies programme at one of the seven degree-awarding "starting universities" within the YUFE Alliance.

At each of these universities, you will receive a comparable learning experience, allowing you to progress through the programme in alignment with your personalized curriculum choices. However, there are specificities at each of the starting universities.

Below you can find details about the academic path you can start at the **University of Rijeka (UNIRI)**, while for a full overview of the programme at all YUFE universities visit: www.yufe.eu/students/yufe-bach/.

SEMESTERS 1 AND 2

60 ECTS

First-year courses may vary depending on the selected starting university. The curriculum outlined below represents the academic path for students at UNIRI.

COMPULSORY COURSES

COURSES	ECTS
Contemporary Urban Developments	6
Cities and Citizens in Urban History	6
Principles of Economics	6
Introduction to Sociology	5
Statistics for Business and Economics	5
Sustainable Development	6
Economy and Environment	3
Health Ecology	4
Urban Economics	4

ELECTIVE COURSES (a list to be expanded)

COURSES	ECTS
AI and Digital Literacy	3
Urban Challenges in Film	3
Introduction to Sustainability Transitions	3
Croatian Language as a Second and Foreign Language 1	4
Croatian Language as a Second and Foreign Language 2	4
Intercultural Communication and International Higher Education	3
Climate Fiction and Urban Space	3
Croatian as a Foreign and Green Language	3

SEMESTERS 3, 4 AND 5

90 ECTS

After the first year of study, you have the opportunity to personalise your curriculum by selecting three YUFE minors – interdisciplinary, challenge-based modules of 30 ECTS, jointly designed and delivered by YUFE universities.

This flexible structure empowers you to tailor your academic journey to align with your interests and career aspirations. To support you throughout this process, you will be assigned an academic advisor at the start of your studies, ensuring you make informed choice and maximise your learning experience.

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

SPRING SEMESTER MINORS	UNIVERSITY
Cities of Dreams and Nightmares	University of Essex, Essex, United Kingdom
Sustainable Tourism	Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland
Heritage and Perspectives on Design	University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium
Cities & Urbanisation: Interdisciplinary Perspectives	University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium
Urban Ecology: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change	University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia
Urban Sustainable Development	Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands

SEMESTER 6

30 ECTS

The final semester of the programme is reserved for writing your thesis and selecting elective courses of your choice. You will complete the final semester at UNIRI:

FINAL SEMESTER COURSES	ECTS
Elective courses	10
Bachelor Thesis Project	20

EARNING YOUR JOINT DEGREE

Earn a single diploma issued by seven European universities.

Upon successful completion of the programme, graduates are awarded a joint Bachelor's degree in Urban Sustainability Studies, conferred jointly by all seven degree-awarding partners.

CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION

Designed for navigating the complexities of a globalizing world.

The YUFE's 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. Opportunities will be available at all YUFE partner universities, as well as at institutions worldwide. At UNIRI, you will have the option to pursue a master's programme across different faculties, some of which may require enrolment through a bridging programme or entrance exam.



Visit the University of Rijeka website and partner university websites for a comprehensive list of available master programmes.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



Boost your employability and become a leader in urban sustainability!

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

Our programme equips 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.

In addition to providing international perspectives and strengthening your English language proficiency, the programme also offers opportunities to enhance your communication skills in additional languages, such as local or national languages during your minor mobility. As a leader in international joint education, the programme prepares you to excel in global collaboration. Upon graduating from the Bachelor programme in Urban Sustainability Studies, you will have already built a strong international network of peers, educators, and industry professionals across Europe.

These competencies will give you a significant advantage in the job market, making you a more competitive and attractive choice for employers in an increasingly globalized professional landscape.

It was the perfect "specialisation" within our broader international relations and diplomacy programme!

The minor on Borders, Finland 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.

Thanks to the flexible structure of YUFE, there was a good balance between compulsory and elective courses. 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.

—Emma Caals & Sara De Bruyn, Flemish alumni of the YUFE MINOR BEAR in Joensuu, Finland

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To enrol in the YUFE's joint Bachelor programme in Urban Sustainability Studies you need to have

- 1) a secondary education diploma equivalent to the EQF level 4
- 2) sufficient command of English

To enrol in the YUFE's joint Bachelor programme in Urban Sustainability Studies you need to have

1—(at least) a **secondary education diploma** equivalent to the European Qualification Framework (EQF) level 4, granting access to one of the YUFE universities

2—**sufficient command of English** that can be met through one of the following:

- A**—evidence of English language competence at level B2 or higher on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), as documented in educational policy records from the relevant country or educational authority, or,
- B**—a valid language certificate, not older than two years at the time of application, with the following minimum scores:
 - TOEFL iBT (test centre only): 80
 - IELTS2 Academic: 6.5 overall, 6.0 per component
 - ITACE3: B2
 - Cambridge English: B2 First (score 176 or above)
 - PTE 4 Academic: 59
- C**—alternative qualifications and tests with equivalent scores may also be considered.

Exemption from providing language proficiency proof is granted to applicants who have:

- A**—obtained a diploma from an English-taught programme in Australia, English-speaking Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States; or
- B**—completed an English-taught programme elsewhere, provided the language of instruction is clearly stated on the educational documents.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applying to the joint YUFE's Bachelor programme is streamlined through the Virtual Campus. Below is an overview of the application procedure. For detailed information on the admission process at the University of Rijeka, please visit our website.

1

Submitting your application:

A—apply via the Virtual Campus, where you will specify University of Rijeka as your preferred starting university and demonstrate that you meet the entry requirements (secondary education qualification and sufficient English proficiency).

B—you can also express interest in alternative starting universities.

C—application deadlines may vary according to the starting university. Please check the YUFE Virtual Campus: <https://virtualcampus.yufe.eu>.

Application deadlines for the University of Rijeka:

Non-EEA Candidates: 1 May 2026

EEA candidates with a qualification obtained outside the EEA: 1 June 2026

EEA Candidates with a qualification obtained within the EEA:

→ For enrolment in the summer Term: 15 June 2026

→ For enrolment in the autumn Term: 26 August 2026

***only if there are places still available**



For any questions
about the admission
procedure at UNIRI,
please contact
[admission.yufe@
uniri.hr](mailto:admission.yufe@uniri.hr)

2

Eligibility assessment:

A—once submitted, your application will be reviewed by your preferred starting university to ensure you meet the eligibility criteria.

B—as part of your application, you will fill out a questionnaire to help us assess your motivation, understanding of the programme's opportunities, and readiness to shape your academic path. Your answers will also assist the starting university in selecting candidates if applications exceed available spots (20 at UNIRI).

3

Admission decision:

A—eligible applicants will be notified via the Virtual Campus.

B—if selection is necessary, it will be based on standardized criteria to ensure fairness and transparency.

4

Enrolment:

A—continue your admission and enrolment process at your chosen starting university. Detailed information and the necessary documentation can be found on the starting university's website.

B—if you have been granted admission to the University of Rijeka, you will be contacted by the Admission Officer, who will guide you through all the necessary steps related to enrolment.

IMPORTANT! Applicants are strongly advised to carefully review the websites of the respective starting universities for any specific procedural steps that may vary depending on the national regulations of the country. Links to these websites can be found at: www.yufe.eu/students/yufe-bach/.



Link to the admission procedure and relevant deadlines at UNIRI can found at: uniri.hr/en/yufe/yufes-joint-bachelor-in-urban-sustainability-studies/

NAVIGATING YOUR STUDIES

Your academic advisor is here to help you tailor your studies to match your goals and passions, ensuring you make the most of your experience.

Academic Advisors

Upon enrolment, you'll be assigned an academic advisor to help you navigate your academic journey. Your academic advisor will assist you in selecting courses, integrate YUFE minors and electives, and meeting your programme goals. Your advisor will guide you in refining your academic goals, understanding course inter connections, and exploring career paths, and preparing for master's programmes.

Organising your stay in Rijeka

The UNIRI International Office is here to support you as you prepare for your arrival and settle into life in Rijeka. We provide a range of resources to ensure a seamless transition and help you make the most of your experience.

Explore the
UNIRI Guide for
International
Degree Students



Our newsletters deliver essential information on student housing and living costs, general details about the city and its entertainment options. local transport and travel tips for getting to the University of Rijeka, visa application procedures and other practical guidance.

Additionally, we organize Welcome Weeks at the start of the academic year. These events are designed to help you get oriented quickly, connect with fellow students, and feel at home in no time.

Organising your stay abroad

As part of your YUFE Bachelor's journey, you will study at a minimum of two partner universities



across Europe, which requires planning for the costs and logistics of your stays abroad. Erasmus funding is available to support your mobility, helping to cover travel and living expenses for up to two semesters at universities abroad. This financial assistance makes this unique global learning experience accessible and achievable.

Finding student housing and managing living costs during your minor mobility will depend on the mobility partners you choose. Fortunately, all YUFE partner universities are leaders in internationalisation and are well-equipped to help you settle in and stay organised, ensuring a smooth transition at every stage of your studies.

DISCOVER RIJEKA

Rijeka in numbers:

→ 30 minutes on foot from Campus to the nearest beach and to the Platak ski resort by car

→ 3rd largest city in the Republic of Croatia with 110.000 inhabitants

Located in the vibrant coastal city of Rijeka, the University of Rijeka offers an exceptional academic and cultural experience. Nestled on the Adriatic Sea, Rijeka combines rich maritime heritage with a modern, multicultural atmosphere. The city's strategic location allows easy travel to nearby Italy, Slovenia, and other parts of Central Europe, opening doors to diverse cultural and professional opportunities.

Rijeka is not just a place to study; it's a city full of life. You'll quickly embrace local traditions like long coffee breaks on sunny terraces while enjoying the welcoming and dynamic community. Surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty—from islands and national parks to pristine beaches and mountains—Rijeka offers endless opportunities for relaxation and adventure.

The University of Rijeka stands out for its high-quality education, state-of-the-art facilities, and strong ties between academic learning and practical application. As part of the YUFE Alliance, UNIRI provides a truly international experience, fostering collaboration and innovation. With a vibrant campus community and a focus on sustainability, UNIRI is the perfect place to shape your future.

Discover Rijeka —
where academic excellence meets
cultural richness.





The first YUFE Fiumanka, marking the beginning of this year's 25th jubilee of Fiumanka, took place in Rijeka Bay in June 2024. Teams from all universities within the YUFE Alliance participated, including the YUFE Central Office crew.

SHAPE THE WORLD YOU WANT TO LIVE IN