

What will you learn?

1. Urban Resilience & Adaptation

Develop a conceptual understanding of urban climate change and urbanization and understand the drivers & impacts of climate change on urban areas, including how urbanization contributes to climate change.

2. Sustainable Urban Planning & Design

Exploring the role of sustainable urban planning and design in promoting climate resilience, including green infrastructure and spatial adaptation.

3. Policy & Governance

Understanding the importance of policy and governance in promoting urban resilience and adaptation, including the roles of government, civil society, and the private sector.

4. Case Studies

Examining case studies from different cities and regions around the world to understand how urban resilience and adaptation are being implemented in practice.

General information

- Duration: 27 July -21 August 2026
- Language: English
- Tuition fee: €5.800, including tuition & service cost (subject to change)
- Location: IHS, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- Application deadline: 1 March 2026
- Course Coordinator: Dr Qian Ke (ke@ihs.nl)



We will talk about:



Overview of climate change and the impacts on urban areas



Climate change resilience strategies: Ecosystem-based solutions



Resilience planning and implementation frameworks



Case studies of successful urban resilience initiatives and projects

Teaching methods

- Interactive lectures
- Discussion and debates
- Workshop on serious game
- Educational excursions
- Exercises

The Future of Cities

Building Resilience to Climate Change

Summer School 2026

Burgemeester Oudlaan 50
Mandeville (T) Building, 14th floor
3062 PA Rotterdam
The Netherlands

For inquiries, please contact
admission@ihs.nl

Admission requirements

Education

Students should be enrolled in a bachelor's (3rd/4th year), master's or PhD degree programme from a recognized university in a related field.

Proof of English Language Proficiency

If English is not your mother tongue, an English language test or, in some cases, other proof of English proficiency is required. We accept certificates from TOEFL and IELTS as official language tests.

TOEFL – Test of English as a Foreign Language

Score: 75 (paper-based), (232 computer-based) or 90 (internet-based)

IELTS – International English Language Testing System

Score: 6.5, no sub-test lower than 5.5 (writing sub-test at least 6.0)

*No working experience is required

Course evaluation

Participants will be evaluated through a final group presentation on the final day of the course. Participants who successfully complete the course will be awarded a certificate of completion.

Who should take the course?

Students from different academic and professional backgrounds who wish to better their understanding of climate change resilience and sustainable planning to benefit future generations from all socio-economic groups. We also welcome upcoming master's students who intend to enrol in or are already enrolled in the MSc in Urban Management and Development (UMD) programme for 2026-2027. They can view this as a preparatory course to familiarise themselves with the content and adapt to the learning environment.

Brief schedule

Week 1



Lectures on climate change and its adaptation, urban resilience, urban planning and governance



Week 2

Educational excursions, practical workshops, group assignment based on real-world case study



Week 3 & 4

Group assignment, educational excursion, practical workshops and final presentation



What will I gain?

- An international vision and understanding of climate change resilience and best practices in the Netherlands and other countries worldwide
- The knowledge and skills required to develop integrated strategies for climate resilience and urban development
- A certificate of completion by IHS, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Joining the 10,000 IHS alumni international family of urban professionals from 145 nationality

Skills acquired

After this course, you may acquire a range of skills that can be applied in various contexts:

1. Analysis and problem-solving skills

To analyse complex problems related to urban resilience and climate change adaptation and develop strategies and solutions to address these challenges.

2. Communication skills

To communicate complex concepts and ideas related to urban resilience and adaptation to a range of audiences, including policymakers, practitioners, and community members.

3. Collaboration skills

To work collaboratively and in teams to develop and implement effective adaptation strategies and programs.

4. Critical thinking

To critically evaluate different approaches to urban resilience and adaptation and to identify strengths and weaknesses in different strategies.