AURORA

Interdisciplinary Community Service Learning

Maximize your Master's learning experience: an inspiring module for talented students

- Reflection
- Multi-actor dialogue
- Interdisciplinary team-work • Public Communication

Do you want to get more out of your Master program and partcipate in real-life experiences with pioneering communities?

Do you want to cross the boundaries of your discipline and the walls of university?

Do you want to be better prepared for your career after graduation?

Do you want to make a societal impact before you even graduate?

VU | VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

Do you want to get more out of your Master's program and participate in real-life experiences with pioneering communities? Do you want to be better prepared for your career after graduation? Do you want to start building a professional network and do you want to stand out from your peers? But do you also want to start contributing to societal impact before you even graduate? Do you want to cross the boundaries of your discipline and the walls of university? Do you want to do creative and action-oriented research with an international group of students? Are you interested in doing your Masters re-search, thesis or internship on any topic related to digitalization, digital inclusion or climate adaptation in the city? The Interdisciplinary Community Service Learning Course (iCSL) welcomes master students from any disciplinary background and university across the world to engage in interand transdisciplinary knowledge cocreation.

What is ICSL?

Interdisciplinary Community Service Learning (iCSL) is a module that can be followed next to any master program and gives you the opportunity to work on real-life, current challenges. Issues such as sustainability, digitalization, globalization, and inequality are multi-facetted and concern so many different actors that they can't be addressed effectively from a single perspective. Therefore, in iCSL you are challenged to step out of your bubble and collaborate across and beyond the campus: you are part of a cross-disciplinary student team, but also work together closely with communities, companies, organizations, and governments.

As such, you get the chance to start building a professional network. The module consists of two courses. In the first iCSL course (P2: November & December) you define key challenges of a theme theme together with relevant actors. In the second iCSL course (Semester 2) you address those questions through transdisciplinary group research, in addition to your own individual Master research project. *You can find your own specific internship/thesis topic and placement, or you can define your internship/*

thesis topic and placement together with the iCSL team and the partners you meet in iCSL1. Topics/placements can relate to digitalization, digital inclusion or climate adaptation in the city. Although participating in both gives you the opportunity to engage in the entire process, it is also possible to take either one of the two separately.

ICSL COURSE 1: DEFINING CHALLENGES Period 2 (Nov-Dec): Tuesdays 17.30-19.00
The first course prepares you to identify and define complex challenges together with communities, in theory and practice. In order to integrate the perspectives of different actors, you conduct interviews and ultimately bring relevant organizations, people, and businesses together at a big event. The course builds up to this dialogue event at which you facilitate the group discussion with participants and

ICSL COURSE 2: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES Semester 2
In the second iCSL course you address identified challenges, broadly as well as in-depth. Each member of the cross-disciplinary team tackles one aspect of the larger challenge within their own research project. This allows for in-depth application and development of your own disciplinary knowledge and methods. Throughout the process, you meet periodically with your cross-disciplinary team to integrate the insights from all projects, and consider the wider implications for the broad societal issue. By the end of the project you collectively deliver an interdisciplinary report and present the project results during a Dialogue Event.

How to join?

Participating in iCSL awards you credits that can be added to your master diploma or you can get a separate certificate. Completion of the first course awards 3 ECTS, and the second 6 ECTS. For more information and sign-up, visit vu.nl/icsl or contact: Eduardo Urias eduardo.munizpereiraurias@vu.nl