

Innovative Responses to Climate Change in the Netherlands and Germany



JMU  Labs
International

Immerse yourself in some of Europe's most famous cities. Collaborate with designers, scientists, students, and government officials to address sustainability and climate change challenges. Learn and apply systems thinking, creative design, and problem-solving skills sought after by public, private, and nonprofit sector employers. Be the change you know you can be.

On this 4-week, six-credit study abroad experience, you will learn deeply about the topic of "circular economy," which refers to the redesign of economic, technological, policy, and cultural systems to create a sustainable future for all. With local experts in the cities we visit, you will learn and use marketable innovation methods to develop circular economy projects that mitigate climate impacts and reduce waste. No prior experience is needed: just your creativity and willingness to think and make outside the box.



The Specifics

May 15 - June 11

Locations: Amsterdam, Rotterdam, University of Twente, Hamburg

Credits: 6

Professors:

Dr. Seán McCarthy: WRTC and JMU X-Labs

Dr. Rob Alexander: Political Science

Courses:

PPA 483: *Special Topics in Public Management* (Alexander)

WRTC 328: *Practicum: Innovation Methods for Designing Responsible Futures* (McCarthy)

Cross-listed courses: IDLS, UNST, BUS, ISAT

Cost: \$3600 (approx), including weekly stipend while abroad, excluding flights and tuition.

Timeline

Week 1

Starting on Monday, May 15, we will gather online from home to learn about the circular economy and our many collaborators. Leave the US for Amsterdam on Sunday, May 21.

Week 2

Amsterdam & Rotterdam | Get to know these world-famous cities and collaborate with scholars and designers from prestigious universities who specialize in circular economy projects.

Week 3

University of Twente and Hamburg | Working in the U of Twente's world-famous Design Lab, where you will learn how to design for responsible and sustainable futures. Then we will travel to Hamburg, Germany via train to visit our partners there and learn about their circular economy work.

Week 4

Design sprint at the Design Lab at U of Twente | Use the research, knowledge, and skills you have built over the previous three weeks to design compelling circular economy projects. Present your work to our partners from all the cities we visited. Return to Amsterdam for our homeward journey on June 11.

About JMU X-Labs

JMU X-Labs is an innovation space on campus that has been profiled by the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, amongst other media outlets. Students who take JMU X-Labs classes work on interdisciplinary teams on real issues for clients and collaborators from industry, government, the nonprofit sector, and the arts.

Visit us at www.jmuxlabs.org

