

The research training group (RTG) “**Urban future-making: Professional agency across time and scale**” is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and jointly organized by the HafenCity Universität Hamburg (HCU) in cooperation with the Technische Universität Hamburg (TUHH) and the Universität Hamburg (UHH). The RTG investigates the scope of agency that built environment professionals have in the face of urgent challenges. The project joins scholars and doctoral researchers from the social sciences and from academic disciplines related to the built environment.

The three cooperating universities invite applications for 12 doctoral positions starting **April 1st, 2025** as

Doctoral researchers (m/f/d) – Research training group

Salary Level 13 TV-L

with 39 standard working hours per week. The contracts are limited to **March 31st, 2028**.

In the face of urban growth, climate change and increasing resource scarcity, urban areas have become crucial sites where aspired pathways towards desirable futures are imagined, forecasted, and negotiated. Through the lens of “urban future-making”, the research training group investigates the practices of built environment professionals in administration, planning and civil society responding to the expected threats and risks to urban societies. The central question is how responsible professional action can be possible under present conditions of intensified uncertainty and multiple crises. The research training group investigates strategies and interventions related to the urban built environment in fields of action where claims for transformative changes are currently most articulated, for example mobility systems, energy provision and material use.

The team of scholars has backgrounds in sociology, political science, geography, urban studies as well as architecture, urban and transport planning and civil engineering. The interdisciplinary programme of the training group is organised into three tracks. Each track mobilises specific conceptual lenses and methodological approaches to investigate the agency of built environment professionals. Track 1 “Framings” examines the narratives of urgency around emerging problems in contemporary cities. Track 2 “Strategies” investigates how professionals act in the face of heightened uncertainty to engender transformative change. Track 3 “Interventions” examines the methodologies which allow professionals to take decisions and navigate evident urgencies in reflexive and responsible ways. Detailed information on the scientific programme and the team of supervisors is found on the following website:

<https://urban-future-making.hcu-hamburg.de/>

Tasks

- Completion of a doctoral thesis in your respective discipline within three years and in correspondence to one or more of the above research areas.
- Contributions to academic research especially through conference participations and presentations.
- Active participation in the joint activities of the training group and assumption of duties within the self-administration and self-organization of the training group.

Requirements

- An above-average master’s degree or equivalent in one of the involved disciplines.
- The activities of the training group are conducted mostly in English. A very good command of English is required.
- Demonstrated interest in interdisciplinary exchange and willingness to collaborate with others, combined with high-level communication skills.

Depending on your discipline, the following skills and qualifications are desirable:

- Experience in the fields of interdisciplinary urban and spatial research.
- Professional experience related to the built environment.
- Experience in empirical social science research.

Offer

- A structured and interdisciplinary qualification programme with colloquia and workshops.
- An inspiring institutional setting with international guest researchers.
- Financial support for international research stays.
- Excellent research infrastructure with project office, joint working spaces and an attractive working environment.
- Various support offers as to individual doctoral research projects as well as additional qualification measures in national and international contexts.
- Participation in cultural and scientific events of the three cooperating universities.

HafenCity Universität Hamburg, Technische Universität Hamburg and Universität Hamburg are family friendly institutions and support the compatibility of family and career.

As equal opportunity employers, the universities follow an equal opportunities and diversity strategy. They strive to increase the number of women in academia and strongly encourage applications from suitably qualified female candidates.

Qualified disabled candidates or applicants with equivalent status receive preference in the application process.

Presence in Hamburg is required for these positions.

Within the framework of the E 13 salary level the actual salary will be calculated according to different stages of professional experience. Binding statements about the definite salary can only be given by the HR departments of the three universities.

Please consider the information regarding application and selection procedures and data privacy.

Application

The joint selection interviews are scheduled for **November 25th-27th, 2024** and will take place in Hamburg.

The 12 doctoral positions will be placed at the three cooperating universities, eight at HCU, three at UHH and one at TUHH. Applicants are invited to apply for the doctoral positions without specifying the host institution. However, please indicate your preference(s) for supervision within the group of supervisors of the RTG.

Applications should include a detailed proposal for a PhD project that you would like to pursue and that is related to the research programme of the research training group (5 pages, excluding references, plus a half-page abstract). Furthermore, the following documents are requested:

- letter of motivation,
- curriculum vitae in tabular form,
- if applicable, portfolio with documentation of projects,
- copies of degree certificate(s) and transcripts of records from previous studies,
- if applicable, reference from current employer,
- relevant certificates from further education and training,
- for applicants currently employed in public administration: a current staff assessment report, as well as a declaration of consent that your personnel records may be inspected. Please include the name and details of the responsible contact person.

For further information regarding the positions please contact Prof. Dr. Monika Grubbauer, monika.grubbauer@hcu-hamburg.de, or the other supervisors of the training group (see website).

To apply, please send your documents digitally as one single PDF file (max. 10 MB, no ZIP file) by **October 22nd, 2024** to:

HafenCity Universität
Personalverwaltung
Stellen-Nr.: 2024-59
Henning-Voscherau-Platz 1
20457 Hamburg
Email: HCU-bewerbung@vw.hcu-hamburg.de

Please use the following reference in the email subject line: 2024-59

Travel and accommodation costs for job interviews cannot be reimbursed by the HafenCity Universität Hamburg.

Please do not submit original documents as we are not able to return them. Any documents submitted will be destroyed after the application process has concluded.