

Project Overview

Proposed Title: Imagining Urban Futures in a Post-COVID World

The WC2 Network is inviting undergraduate students from participating universities to join an interdisciplinary, collaborative and virtual project. Students will have the opportunity to expand their networks, gain skills in online intercultural collaboration and explore the topic of a post-COVID future from multiple thematic lenses.

Cross-university teams will be formed, those of which will then select a theme to dig deeper into imagining urban futures. A future that accounts for the global and local effects of not only the pandemic, but also the multiple global changes and social movements that are shifting the public imagination as to what is considered possible (including, for example, movements for action on climate change, Black liberation, Indigenous sovereignty and others). All participants will be enrolled in a microcredential from RMIT and will also have the opportunity to present at next year's WC2 conference (virtually or in person).

Participating universities:

- RMIT University - Australia, Vietnam and Singapore
- Technische Universitaet Berlin - Germany
- City, University of London - United Kingdom
- City University of New York (CUNY) - United States
- Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytecnic University - Russia
- Ryerson University - Canada
- University of Sao Paulo (USP) - Brazil
- Universidad Autónoma Metropolitan (UAM) - Mexico

WC2 Project Themes:

- **Business:** the economics of placemaking, how will people and organisations operate post-COVID?

- **Eco-Campus:** what will be the legacy of COVID on our campus design and use, how can we embed concerns about sustainability and equitability?
- **Knowledge, Culture and Urban Affairs:** exploring how urban futures are re-imagined and propagated, now more than ever as the value and purpose of the cities comes into question
- **Global Health:** how can we design healthier cities for the long term, how can we address the health inequalities exposed by COVID?
- **Transport:** how will our urban transport systems emerge post COVID, given falling use and suburban flight?
- **Cybersecurity:** rethinking security and insecurity in smart cities.

Application process and deadline: Students are asked to submit an expression of interest to participate in the project by October 23rd, 2020. The Expression of interest asks students to rank their interest in the WC2 themes above and includes a brief written statement on their initial reflections of the changes that will take shape in a post-COVID world.

Timeline of projects: The cross-university student teams will be formed in November. Students will have until March 26th, 2021 to work on and finalize their project submissions.

Team project: Each student team will be able to determine the best method to complete and communicate their vision. A panel of experts from the WC2 network will judge the final project submission. Teams are invited to be creative and should check in with the thematic expert of the theme they have chosen to confirm the submission style they would like to use. Examples include presentations (from traditional PowerPoints to platforms like presi, pecha kucha, etc) to multimedia projects (such as videos or websites) to design-based solutions (mixed media art pieces, creative writing, architectural designs and plans). We ask that all student teams consider how to ensure their projects are accessible, you can find some guidance and resources to do this [here](#).

Student reflection: An important part of collaborating across cultures and differences is the reflective process that accompanies the experience. As part of the final project submission each student is asked to complete a brief written reflection

about their experience working in cross-university, interdisciplinary teams. Some questions to consider include:

- What did I learn about myself? My home and local context?
- What did I learn from my teammates that challenged my own assumptions and perceptions?
- What were the challenges of working across cultures, differences, time zones, etc?
- What was the benefit of working with others from different universities and regions globally?

Participation includes:

- All participating students will have the opportunity to enrol in RMIT's [Working with Global Clients Online](#) microcredential.
- The top ranked project submissions will be provided with the opportunity to present virtually at next year's WC2 conference.

General timeline:

- Begin promotion: **5th October** (this gives students 3 weeks to apply. I think it's important to not promote any longer than 3 weeks, as it will quickly leave their minds and we don't want to drag it out longer)
- Expression of Interest deadline: **23rd October**
- Project beings: **2nd November** (this gives us a week to sort out groups, etc)
- End of project: **16th March**

Detailed Timelines and Calendars:

Student Project and Participation Timeline:	
Oct. 23, 2020	Expression of Interest Deadline
Nov. 2nd, 2020	Notified of group members
Nov. 14th to Nov. 30th, 2020	1st Workshop offered by Common Purpose (2 options)
Before Dec. 1st, 2020	Schedule your major group check points <i>(recommended 1 per month for a minimum of 5 - Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, and March)</i>
November, 2020	Group Meeting 1 (intros and icebreakers)
Week of Nov. 30th, 2020	Attend session with WC2 theme lead <i>(either pre-recorded webinar or live Q&A?)</i>
December, 2020	Group Meeting 2 (project plan)
January, 2021	Group Meeting 3 (project update)
Week of Jan. 11th	Submit project proposal to WC2 theme lead
February, 2021	Group Meeting 4 (project check-in)
March, 2021	Group Meeting 5 (final revisions)
March 15th, 2021	Project Submission Deadline
March 16 to 26, 2021	2nd Workshop offered by Common Purpose (2 options)