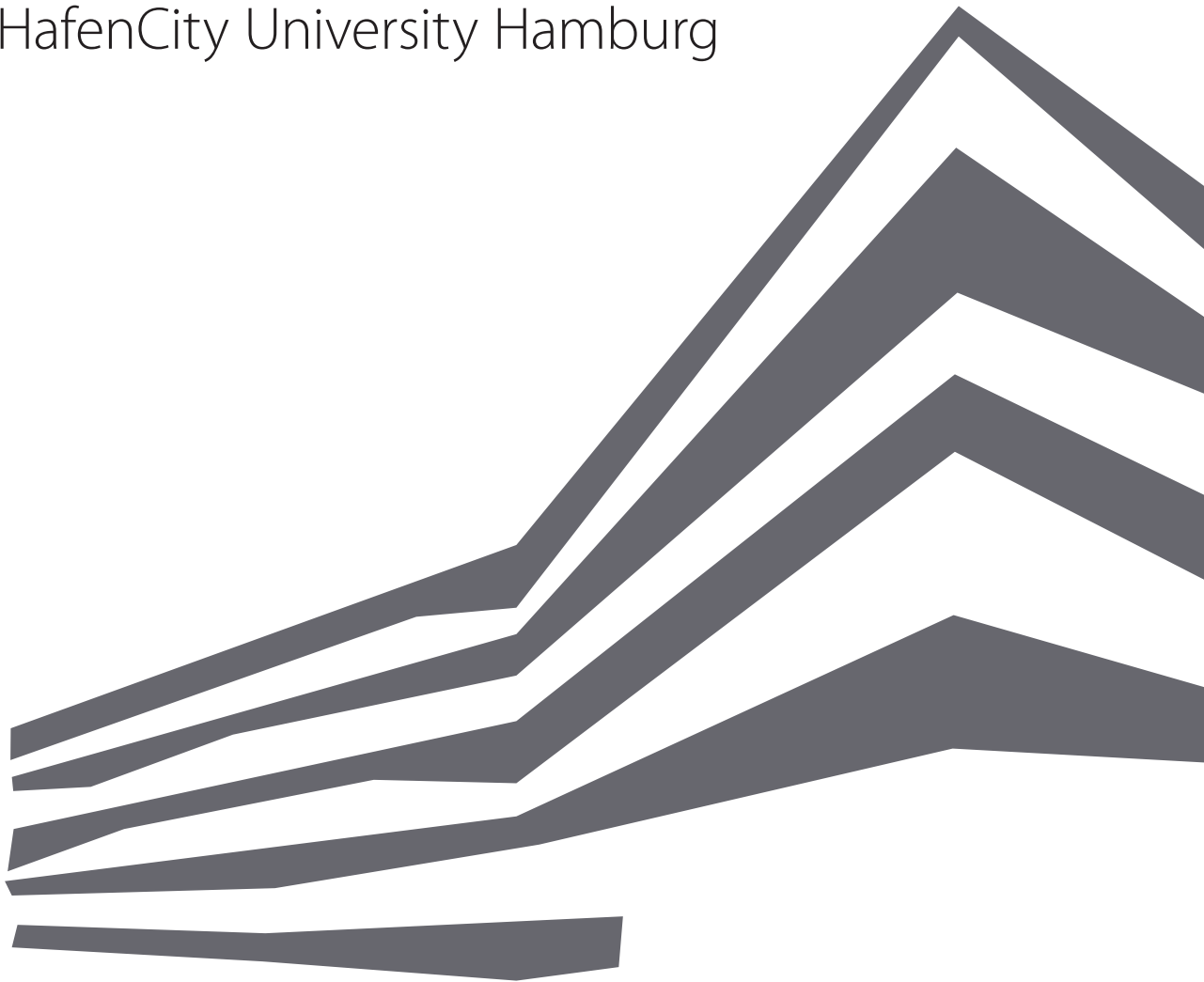


The future is metropolitan
HafenCity University Hamburg



The architectural and societal challenges of the 21st century coalesce in cities and regions – which must be the starting point for the sustainable development of our built environment. The HCU is located in one of the most dynamic metropolitan regions of Europe. The complex challenges facing cities are its focus.

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HafenCity University Hamburg – University of the Built Environment and Metropolitan Development

As the President of HafenCity University Hamburg – the University of the Built Environment and Metropolitan Development (HCU) – I warmly welcome you. We would like to give you an initial impression of our university and its unique concept.

Founded in 2006 by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, the HCU is the only university in Europe that solely focuses in architecture and metropolitan development. By merging four built environment and planning oriented departments from three Hamburg universities and the systematic extension and development of the academic areas of engineering, the sciences, the humanities and the social sciences as well as design and planning, the HCU brings together under one roof all the areas of study and research needed for “the built environment”. The new university has been named “HafenCity University” because it is located in a new, innovative building at the waterfront, right in the centre of the new, emerging HafenCity of Hamburg.

We offer our students courses of study in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Geomatics, Metropolitan Culture, Resource Efficiency in Architecture and Planning, Urban Planning and Urban Design, thereby spanning the entire range of methodologies and fields relevant to understanding and to designing the built environment. The HCU thus pursues one of the most innovative concepts for a university in Europe with an open, flexible and modular structure,

organised in three schools (Bachelor, Master and Research). HCU is the place of intense interdisciplinary courses of studies.

We offer our academic members a space to conduct innovative, interdisciplinary and international research. At the interface between teaching and research, the HCU will also foster vivid, innovative discussions on existing and future issues of the built environment and metropolitan development and will develop creative approaches and solutions.

Moreover, the HCU is a forum for public discourse between science, industries, politics and all interested citizens. The HCU offers a place for broad public discussions on future questions of architecture and metropolitan development.

And this all takes place in the urban context of “HafenCity,” currently one of the world’s largest inner-city urban development projects.

At this new location, HCU’s staff and roughly 2,400 students will help transform 157 hectares of new inner-city space in “HafenCity” into a lively district – for the citizens of Hamburg and for guests from Germany and abroad.

Dr. Walter Pelka, Ph.D. in engineering
President of HafenCity University Hamburg

The aim is to encourage new solutions to future challenges in metropolitan development.

Profile of the HCU

A university in dialogue

Questions on the future of the built environment and our cities must be answered in dialogue between experts and the public. The HCU sees itself as a laboratory for building and urban development. It invites a broad exchange of ideas on questions of the metropolitan future – a place of research and debate on architecture, building, urban culture and urban development.

Transdisciplinary thinking for new perspectives

The complex challenges posed by the metropolitan environment demand new approaches. The HCU works in a transdisciplinary way on the problems of urban living and its spatial, social, cultural, economic and ecological consequences. It confronts traditional disciplines with radically different approaches and ways of thinking.

Specialisation and breadth: the disciplines at the HCU

New solutions for metropolitan problems demand disciplinary excellence as well as an openness to neighbouring disciplines. This disciplinary and professional excellence is based on the five undergraduate programmes, which cover the spectrum from “house to city”: Architecture, Civil Engineering, Geomatics, Metropolitan Cultures and Urban Planning.

Learn how to continue learning – and to question established ways

Our reality is changing more rapidly than ever. The goal at the HCU is to foster lifelong learning and the continual search for new solutions. The Studium Fundamentale and the Study Projects at the HCU encourage students in their ability to reflect and to use their power of judgement – essential skills in the complex and changing challenges of the future.

Interfaces of knowledge

Questions on the future of building and metropolitan development occur at the interface of professions. The Masters courses at the HCU are exactly at this interface – where existing professions are challenged and new ones born: Resource Efficiency in Architecture and Planning (REAP) and Urban Design. The HCU is currently home to roughly 2,400 students learning from around 50 professors.



New building on the Elbe for the HafenCity University Hamburg

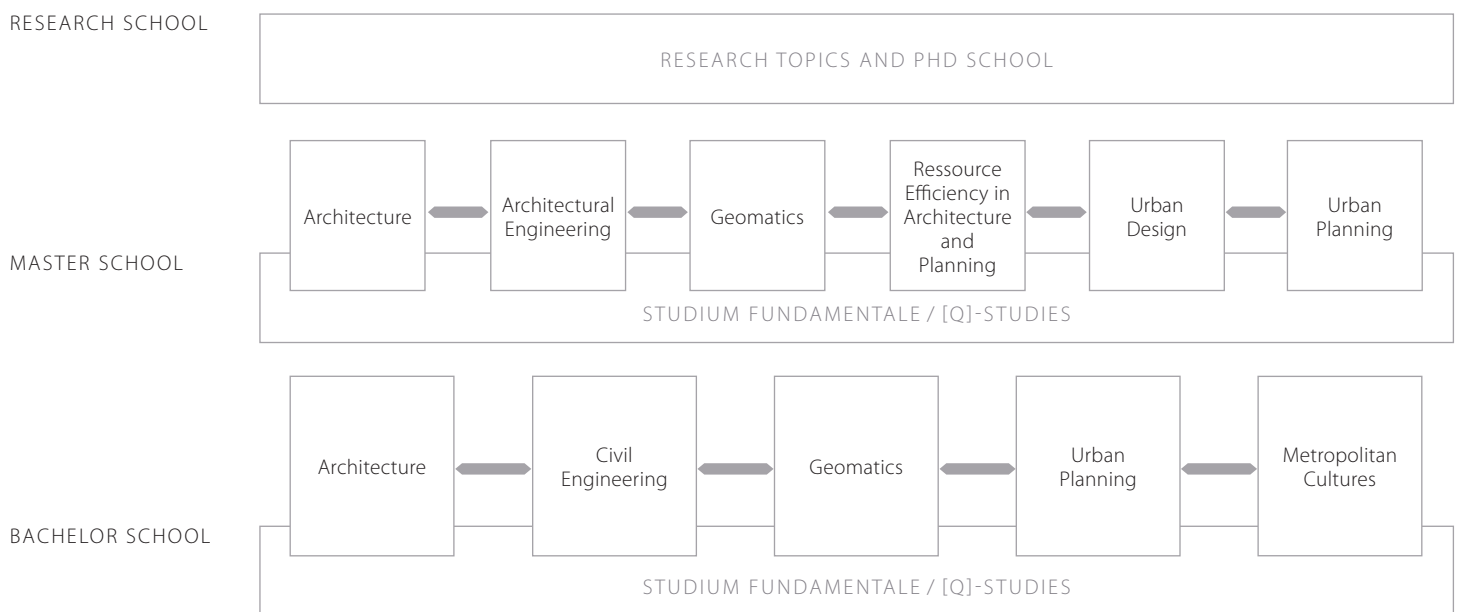


Studying at the HCU

At the HCU we offer more than professional excellence. We want to promote an understanding and appreciation of neighbouring disciplines as well as to provide our students with the ability to solve complex construction, design and urban development problems by being open to new ways of seeing and thinking. After all, the future of the built environment can only be realised through the systematic interaction of multiple disciplines. The ability to solve problems in a reflexive, interdisciplinary and creative manner is extremely important and represents the focus of our work.

Our mission statement embodies the following:

- Disciplinarity as a basis for excellence in one's own specialist area.
- Interdisciplinarity through an unified modular structure for all HCU courses, and project work as a central element of each curriculum at the HCU.
- Transdisciplinarity through an ability to adopt new ways of seeing, behaving and thinking, supported and facilitated by a Studium fundamentale, which forms a core element of all Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes and helps increase creativity and one's ability to act.



Structure of courses and schools at the HCU

At the interface between building, design and metropolitan development: HCU Bachelor courses

The Bachelor's degree programmes offered by the HCU Hamburg are oriented primarily towards the current demands of professional education and provide the key groundwork in the various fields of study. However, the increasing specialisation of professions associated with the built environment as well as its economic, social and ecological aspects means that graduates need to be able to understand a broader spectrum of issues, problems and players in the field and work with them. This is why students need to have a solid grounding in their own disciplines. In addition to this, however, they also need to be able to understand the different ways and means of perceiving, comprehending and dealing with the world from the perspective of other branches of study. Thanks to our disciplinary breadth, the HCU Hamburg helps to promote this special understanding of neighbouring disciplines involved in planning, design and construction.

Architecture

Learn how to design in an urban context. Design studios act as laboratories for finding long-term solutions, be they conversions, new build or more conceptual proposals.

Civil Engineering

Learn about building construction, structural design and building management from an engineering perspective.

Geomatics

Learn how to acquire, manage, analyse and present spatial data in the context of design, construction and metropolitan development using state-of-the-art equipment and software.

Metropolitan Cultures

Gain an understanding of urbanity from the perspective of the social sciences, humanities, culture industries and the arts.

Urban planning

Learn about the complex interdependencies in planning and managing urban and metropolitan development.

To learn how to learn, in order to question accepted ways of working and thinking in a continuously and fast changing world.

Transcending boundaries: the HCU Master programs

The Master programs offer students – ideally those who have already gained initial practical experience – the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of their chosen field of study to enable them to work independently in their discipline. They also prepare students for a career in research as they give them an opportunity to participate in research conducted in their chosen disciplines as well as in the HCU as a whole. Our aim is to offer a broad range of Master programs that also transcend the existing boundaries between the disciplines, thereby enabling students to develop for themselves new professional fields associated with the built environment at both the urban and regional level.

Consecutive Master programs

Architecture

The design project forms the core of the curriculum. The Master program emphasises the students' own architectural aptitudes and inclinations. The focus is not only on complex projects but also on interdisciplinary work in conjunction with the HCU Master's degree programs Architectural Engineering, Urban Planning, Urban Design, Real Estate and Leadership (REAL) and Resource Efficiency in Architecture and Planning (REAP).

Architectural Engineering

Building construction and design are at the centre of this innovative Master course. Students will work on joint projects with those in architecture.

Geomatics

Students can choose from two specialisations: Geodesy or Hydrography. We offer one of the few specialisations in Hydrography in the world.

Urban Planning

Students work independently in all areas of planning. Thanks to its broad research base in design, technical, economic, ecological and conceptual aspects, graduates can work in any number of areas.

Cross-disciplinary Master's programs

Resource Efficiency in Architecture and Planning (REAP)

Resource Efficiency in Architecture and Planning (REAP) was the first interdisciplinary research group formed at the HafenCity University. It includes professors of Architecture, Civil Engineering, Urban Planning, Landscape Planning, Building Physics, Building Materials Technology, Building Construction, Acoustics, Technical Urban Infrastructure Systems, Environmental Planning and Planning Law. The REAP-group specialises in addressing the current and future resource issues facing our towns and cities.

Urban Design

The Master program in Urban Design is based on a broad understanding of contemporary urban interrelationships inherent in our dynamic, ever-changing urban environments. The aim is to find new approaches to solutions that provide a basis for sustained and constructive urban development, be they temporary or more permanent.

The Studium fundamentale at the HCU

Transcending all boundaries – [Q]-STUDIES

[Q]-STUDIES is unique to the HCU. It represents a key didactic component in the university's curriculum. As part through extraordinary collaborative projects, the [Q]-STUDIES develop an HCU-specific concept in which students at all levels are exposed to and reflect upon different ways of thinking, perceiving and acting. The various areas of study at HafenCity University – engineering and natural sciences, humanities and social sciences, and design, are systematically compared and contrasted – to offer other perspectives and encourage new insights.

Research at the HCU

The HCU is driven by research, encompassing basic research, applied research as well as design research. The fusion of the research areas of architecture, civil engineering, urban planning, geomatics, urban design and metropolitan culture aims to overcome departmental boundaries in order to enable the researchers to exchange openly their methods and approaches.

At HCU we base all of our methods and expertise on the proposition that the complexity of the problems associated with design, building and metropolitan development require interdisciplinary thinking and action.

HCU's current key areas of research are as follows:

- Engineering principles of building.
- Climate, energy, and the planned environment.
- Digital cities.
- Economic conditions of urban development.
- Approaches of cultural studies to metropolitan research.
- Resource efficiency in architecture and planning.
- Urban Metamorphoses.

All these core areas of research are characterized by the following criterias:

- Development of solutions to urgent issues in Hamburg at a societal, urban and regional level.
- Novelty of issues to ensure success in publications and third-party funding.
- International perspectives.
- Focus on sustainability to do justice to the social responsibility incumbent on a university engaged with contemporary themes.

The HCU sees part of its mission as the obligation to put the results of research into practice, thereby encouraging new solutions to future tasks in metropolitan development.

The complexity of the problems associated with design, construction and metropolitan development require radical interdisciplinary thinking and action.



The place: HafenCity Hamburg

The HafenCity University Hamburg is a truly metropolitan university, not just because the range of subjects on offer gives an ideal-typical reflection of the complexity inherent in the phenomenon of metropolitan regions, but also because of its location. The HCU is an important element in one of Europe's largest and most ambitious urban development projects, the HafenCity, a development that will see the total area covered by the city centre of Hamburg increase by 40% by 2025.

On around 60 ha of net building land, apartments for between 10,000 and 12,000 people will be built and 40,000 jobs created, primarily in the service and retail industry.

As a public site of cultural significance as well as a seat of learning, research and debate, the HCU will help meet one of the central challenges of the HafenCity: to transform an area that was customs territory and a monofunctional port for 120 years and, as such, off limits to the urban development of Hamburg, into a vibrant urban district.

The new building for the HafenCity University will act as a forum in which the development of this urban district and of the city as a whole can be critically assessed.



Location of the new HCU building



Welcome to the HafenCity University Hamburg.
www.hcu-hamburg.de