

YUFE Minors

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YUFE Partners

-   University of Antwerp
-   Maastricht University
-   University of Bremen
-   NICOLAUS COPERNICUS
UNIVERSITY
IN TORUŃ
-   uc3m | Universidad
Carlos III
de Madrid
-   UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND
-   UNIRI
-   University
of Cyprus
-   Sorbonne
Nouvelle
-   University of Essex
-   ETS | GLOBAL
A Laboratory of Educational Policy Studies
-   THE ADECCO GROUP



YUFE Alliance

Founded on the vision of 10
young, research-intensive
universities and 2 non-
academic partners



YUFE Mission

To bring radical change
by
establishing the leading model of a
student-centred, open and inclusive
European University





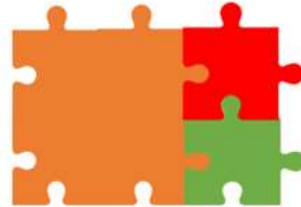
YUFE Student-centred learning

Take up courses across Europe: when, where, how many you wish

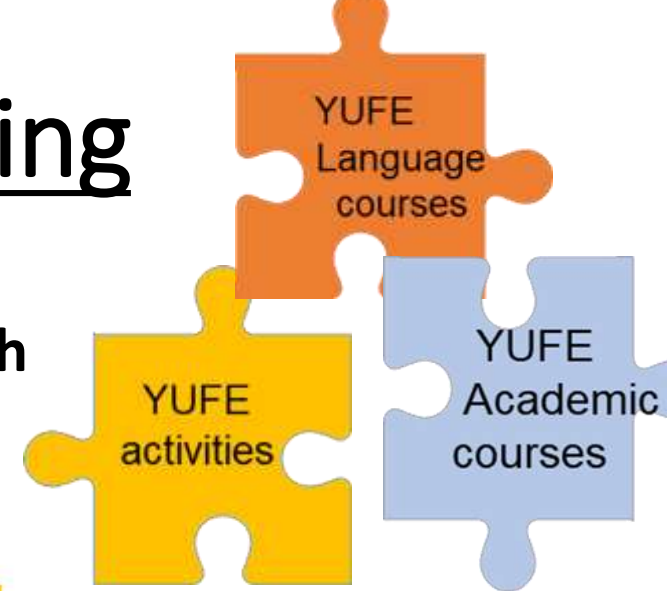
Since 2020
Single courses / activities



Since 2023
Minors / Educational units



Planned for 2025
Bachelor programmes



Key characteristics:

- Student-centred
- Challenge based learning across Europe
- Personalised learning paths
- Multilateral mobility (online/onsite/blended)



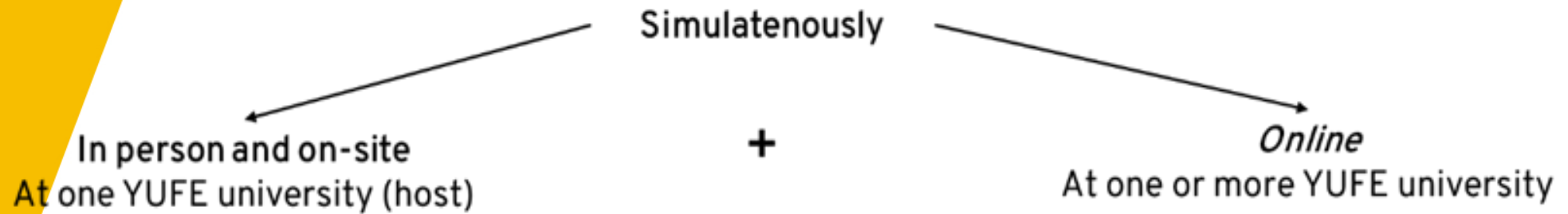
YUFE Minors / YUFE Bachelor

- ❑ Context of minor
- ❑ Building block of a program
- ❑ Intermediate or advanced stage of their program





Basic structure of a YUFE Minor



Academic courses
~5 ECTS



YUFE Challenge
~10 ECTS



Total
=
30 ECTS

Academic courses, language learning, civic
and professional activities
~15 ECTS





YUFE Minor set up

- ❑ Organized around theme or issue: *interdisciplinary*
- ❑ Co-created by selecting courses from a collection: *open curriculum*
- ❑ Tailored to student preference and needs: *freedom to choose*
- ❑ Challenge presented by client from local community: *civic engagement and intercultural experience*



Challenge course within a YUFE Minor

- ❑ Student centered and student driven solutions to real life challenges
- ❑ Vehicle for learning and remembering.
- ❑ Usefulness exceeds challenge team itself in an open curriculum
- ❑ Well structured; Problem analysis, (individual) Research, Writing report, Presentation



YUFE Minors on offer now

1. Urban Sustainable Development - *Maastricht University*
2. Urban Heritage – *University of Antwerp*
3. Cities and Urbanisation: Interdisciplinary Perspectives -
University of Antwerp
4. Economic Development – *Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*
5. Sustainable Tourism – *Nicolaus Copernicus University*
6. Urban Health and Wellbeing – *Nicolaus Copernicus University*
7. Urban Ecology – *University of Rijeka*
8. Societal issues in a contemporary world - *University of Essex*



An example YUFE Minor

Urban Sustainable Development

Description

The goal of the minor lies in fostering a deep understanding of urban sustainability, empowering students to address multifaceted challenges through an integrated lens. While it is impossible to cover all aspects in a single minor, the program emphasizes the interconnectedness of urban sustainability problems, making it imperative to address challenges in an integrated way rather than in isolation.

A distinctive feature is the incorporation of a real-world challenge through a unique collaborative component. Students will be presented with a Challenge that the City of Maastricht is dealing with. This Challenge will demand the application of interdisciplinary thinking, where social foundations intersect with environmental or ecological ceilings. By engaging with authentic challenges presented by the City of Maastricht, students will gain practical experience and contribute meaningfully to the sustainable development of the city.

To complement the Challenge, students will select a set of courses from the YUFE course catalogue. This selection will ensure that students meet the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) of the minor, providing a comprehensive and well-rounded understanding of urban sustainable development.



An example YUFE Minor

Urban Sustainable Development – Maastricht University

University of Eastern Finland	Academic Courses	Intercultural Communication Competence	5
University of Eastern Finland	Academic Courses	Circular Economy as societal change	3
University of Eastern Finland	Academic Courses	Environmental Governance and Policy Instruments: Theory and Practice	5
University of Eastern Finland	Academic Courses	Spiritual and Psychological Approaches to Ecological Crisis: Fear, Care, and Hope (Autumn 2023)	5
Nicolaus Copernicus University	Academic Courses	EU Nature Conservation Law	6
University of Eastern Finland	Academic Courses	Landscape Geography and Collaborative Knowledge Creation (Autumn 2023)	2
University of Antwerp	Academic Courses	Evolutionary Responses to Global Change	4
University of Antwerp	Academic Courses	Debating Development	3
University of Antwerp	Academic Courses	Planning Theory	3
Maastricht University	Academic Courses	Common Foundations of Law in Europe	5
Maastricht University	Academic Courses	Science and Technology Studies 1: Living in a Technological Culture	5
Maastricht University	Academic Courses	Data Analysis and Visualisation for the Humanities and Social Sciences	5
Maastricht University	Academic Courses	Urbanisation, Development and Poverty	5
Maastricht University	Academic Courses	Introduction to Political Science	5
Maastricht University	Academic Courses	Entrepreneurship	5
Maastricht University	Academic Courses	The Social Study of Environmental Problems: Between Nature, Society, and Politics	5
Maastricht University	Academic Courses	Challenge Course	10



Academic advising

Students are not alone

Exercising curriculum construction

Different way of thinking about own program

Intentionally and reflectively integrate their education into a coherent whole



Issues and challenges

- ☐ Coherent and unified learning experience for students
- ☐ Adaptation to local learning styles
- ☐ Train the relevant skill sets
- ☐ Failure can be success and success can be failure
- ☐ Recognition of rewards and integration in program



The way forward

- ❖ We are in it together so lot of talking needed
- ❖ Peer view and review
- ❖ Culture of high expectations and student cannot sit back
- ❖ Student in control and responsible
- ❖ Interdisciplinary in nature



Thank you

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