

# THE LEARNING CITY

**Interdisciplinary Summer Studio  
for Sustainable Urban Development  
in Changzhou (China)  
August 31 - September 18, 2015**

This is a call for participation in an international "Changzhou Summer Studio 2015". The studio will take place in the cities of Changzhou and Nanjing, China, for three weeks.

The studio is part of the project "Learning City: Interdisciplinary Studios for Sustainable Urban Development - A Sino-German Initiative", funded by Stiftung Mercator. Students from Germany and China will work together with academic experts from both countries to design innovative solutions for selected urban development challenges in Changzhou. The best ideas will then be developed with local stakeholders from Changzhou and experts from Germany.

#### WHAT DO WE EXPECT

- Master students of urban planning/design or other urban related disciplines (e.g. Civil Engineering/Mobility, Geography, Cultural Science, Social Science) with strong passion for sustainable urban development, especially China
- Creative team-players within an international working environment
- Read, write, and speak English fluently

#### WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT

- Traveling and accommodation costs will be covered fully
- Gain close insights into real-world urban planning processes in China and understand the challenges and opportunities
- Work with experienced multi-disciplinary experts from one of China's leading urban planning faculty and interact with stakeholders from China
- Your participation in the studio will be awarded with 10 Credits (ECTS) by the JointCenter Urban Systems / University Duisburg-Essen

SEND YOUR CV AND A COVER LETTER INCLUDING MOTIVATION FOR PARTICIPATION  
BY APRIL 30, 2015 TO: [urbandesign@uni-due.de](mailto:urbandesign@uni-due.de)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT APPLICATION AND THE PROJECT, PLEASE CHECK  
QR-CODE OR VISIT US AT: <https://www.uni-due.de/staedtebau/>





The "Learning City" project not only aims to foster the cooperation between the twin cities but also serves as pilot project for other Sino-German partnerships and mutual learning processes pursuing a sustainable path of urbanization. It is implemented by a Sino-German consortium under the leadership of the Wuppertal Institute and the Energy Foundation China in close cooperation with the sponsor, Stiftung Mercator. The Changzhou Studio and associated activities will be developed with University Duisburg-Essen and the South East University in China.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR PARTICIPATION

The interdisciplinary Summer Studio for Sustainable Urban Development in Changzhou (China) from August 31 to September 18, 2015 plans for 36 students – 18 Chinese, 18 German.

The application process encompasses two phases:

### PHASE 1:

SEND US YOUR APPLICATION DOCUMENTS BY APRIL 30, 2015 TO [urbandesign@uni-due.de](mailto:urbandesign@uni-due.de)

#### LETTER OF MOTIVATION:

Describe your motivation to participate in the Sino-German Summer Studio in Changzhou, which will focus on the sustainable redevelopment of industrial areas. Please try to address these questions: What do you wish to learn from the studio? Which qualifications and ideas can you contribute? What are your experiences working/studying in an international and inter-cultural context?

The letter should not exceed 500 words.

#### CV:

Please send us a CV which lays out your experiences and qualifications in the field of urban planning or other urban-related disciplines.

### PHASE 2:

The most interesting and qualified applicants will be selected by the project team in late April and invited to participate in the 2nd application phase. During this phase, applicants will be requested to develop/sketch an innovative idea for a pre-defined urban planning challenge in Essen. The assignment shall encompass 3-4 pages of text comprising ideas for analyses, strategies, scenarios or concepts addressing the pre-defined urban challenge. The most innovative ideas, which, at the same time, include good approaches for implementation, will be selected. The selected applicants will be invited to join the studio. Their ideas will be impulses for discussions with Chinese students and experts during the summer studio.

THE SKETCHES NEED TO BE SUBMITTED BY MAY 30, 2015 TO [urbandesign@uni-due.de](mailto:urbandesign@uni-due.de)

The project team will select the best sketches and inform the winning applications by mid June, 2015.

## WHAT THE PROJECT IS ALL ABOUT

Today more than 50% of the Chinese population live in urban areas. The unprecedented urbanization in the last decades has not only contributed to socio-economic development but also created significant environmental impact. Cities are important economic as well as ecologic hotspots. Meanwhile, in both Germany and China, there are various policies and initiatives to pursue sustainable urban development. Having gathered these experiences in the past, cities in these countries can contribute to highly valuable expertise and know-how into a process of mutual learning. The question is how to effectively facilitate such mutual learning.

Against this background, the Sino-German project "The Learning City - Interdisciplinary Studios for Sustainable Urban Development" aims to create an innovative framework linking political and academic processes to support Sino-German city partnerships to pursue sustainable urban development. Two interdisciplinary studios associated with two city partnerships (Changzhou-Essen and Chongqing-Düsseldorf) are the core of this project. Participants for the workshop in Changzhou can apply now. Changzhou is a Chinese city in the growing urban agglomeration around Shanghai.

In the Changzhou Studio, Chinese and German students will work together to develop creative solutions addressing the needs and challenges of Changzhou, under guidance of German and Chinese experts. The student teams that develop the best solutions for these challenges will be invited to participate in a *good practice tour* in Essen and to design an implementation strategy for their solutions. Afterwards, the solutions will be presented to the decision-makers of both Changzhou and Essen.

