

Climate, Health and Architecture



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How should we balance buildings so that they support the health of the planet and health of people? How well do we realize and understand health effects of climate change?

Changing climate is causing increased stress to both buildings and their users. Today, the built environment is responsible for about 40% of global greenhouse emissions. Climate change is also the underlying driver behind many threats to physical and mental health. This applies not only to humans, but to most life on our planet.

Meeting the goals of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius as stated in the Paris Agreement is not possible without strong action in construction.

Take action on climate change

This course offers a future-oriented, clear, factual and optimistic introduction to climate change, its relationship to human health and the built environment. You will gain the tools you need to take action on climate change and learn how our joint efforts can reduce negative climate impacts and support well-being of all life on this planet.





In this future-oriented intensive each student gets to create a climate action plan specific to their chosen context.



Photo: Unto Rautio / Aalto University

Responsible Teachers



Laura Arpiainen is Professor of Health and Wellbeing Architecture at Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture and has an international track record in all areas of design and planning for healthcare. Laura holds dual Finnish / Canadian citizenship and is particularly interested in the relationship of built environments to health. Other interests include mental health, diversity, as well as the role of optimism in success. Laura leads the SOTERA research group at Aalto University, and is also a popular mentor, keynote speaker and visiting critic.

Matti Kuittinen is professor of resource-efficient construction at Aalto University's Department of Architecture and Senior Specialist at the Ministry of the Environment of Finland. He researches and develops policies for mitigation of climate change in the built environment. Matti coordinates Nordic policy development efforts in the field of circular economy and low carbon construction. As an architect, he has designed experimental sustainable buildings and participated in humanitarian operations.



Basic information



Application period
01 Feb – 10 May 2022
summer.aalto.fi

Course	Climate, Health and Architecture
Credits	3 ECTS / 6 ECTS
Format	Online
Teaching period	30 May - 1 July 2022
Duration	4 weeks of asynchronous lectures + 1 intensive week
Application period	1 February 2022 – 10 May 2022
Eligibility	Bachelor's degree
Course fees	600€ 3 ECTS / 1200€ 6 ECTS (incl VAT 24%)
Website	Climate, Health and Architecture

Learning outcomes



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Understand the basics of climate change, including its causes and planetary boundaries



Identify climate change factors affecting health, causing e.g. vector borne illnesses and zoonosis



Understand the role of construction as a driver and solution of climate change



Realise the impacts of climate change on the built environment and human health



Understanding the co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation strategies



Learning to design and build for a better future and contribute to positive change



The connections between carbon-neutral construction and wellbeing architecture



This future-oriented introduction to climate change and its relationship to human activities, built environment and health will give you the tools you need to take action on climate change in your own surroundings.



Photo: Unsplash

Practical Arrangements

This course is offered in two different versions: **3 ECTS** and **6 ECTS**. The 3 ECTS version is well-suited for anyone who is interested in learning more about the relations between health, construction and climate change and benefits from a flexible and partly asynchronous course that can be completed on a busy schedule or while working. The 6 ECTS version allows you to deep-dive into a personal project based on your own interests and includes mentoring in one-on-one sessions and small groups

3 ECTS

The total course workload of 81h is divided as follows:

- 14h Contact hours
- 8h Asynchronous lectures
- 31h Individual assignments
- 28h Reading and class preparation

6 ECTS

The total course workload of 160h is divided as follows:

- 19h Contact hours
- 8h Asynchronous lectures
- 100h Individual assignments
- 33h Reading and class preparation

The course is graded as **pass/fail**.

3 ECTS

Phase	Dates	Content
Pre-class	by 22 May	Pre-class reflection assignment: instructions and pre-readings will be available by the start of May
Self-study	30 May - 24 June	Weekly pre-recorded lectures, reading materials and 1h weekly live online class meeting
Intensive	27 June - 1 July	Daily lectures
Post-class	by 8 July	Self-paced reflection assignment

6 ECTS

Phase	Dates	Content
Pre-class	by 22 May	Preparatory assignment: instructions and pre-readings will be available by the start of May
Self-study	30 May - 24 June	Weekly pre-recorded lectures, reading materials, 1h weekly live online class meeting and assignments
Intensive	27 June - 1 July	Daily lectures, mentoring meetings and assignments
Post-class	by 8 July	Portfolio assignment and course reflection



Photo: Unto Rautio / Aalto University

Student Testimonial

'I was expecting to have more knowledge on the topics and be inspired by that, but I have gained even more: an inner inspiration by questioning the things we do and thinking about actions. The combination between lectures, group assignments and individual work was really good.'

Annemarleen Kersbergen
Project leader
Climate, Health and Architecture (6 ECTS)
Alumna 2021



Application instructions



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Find a course on summer.aalto.fi



Fill in your application online



**Confirm your participation after
being accepted**

Contact Us

summer@aalto.fi

Aalto University Summer School

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