

UUtopia

Co-creation and co-learning in Utrecht

Department: Human Geography and Spatial Planning

Research group: Urban Geography

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Project description

Creating knowledge and learning with society, for instance through citizen science initiatives and community-engaged learning (CEL), are core features of Utrecht's human geography and spatial planning tradition. So-called "wicked problems" cannot be solved by a single discipline or a single organization but call for a transdisciplinary approach. Through co-creation and co-learning, we look beyond the boundaries of our own discipline and build bridges between the university and society.

Shared learning and working spaces in the city serve as anchor points for our education and research program. In these spaces, residents, organizations, and knowledge institutions work together on social issues and engage in place-based learning. As a university in Utrecht, it is only natural to work with the city on local and regional wicked problems. By developing a city lab called UUtopia, we aim to secure long-term and reciprocal cooperation with residents and partner organizations on research, teaching and impact. You will participate in a diverse team that consists of six members: Irina van Aalst (PI), Spijker Mans, Marielle Zill, Daan Bossuyt, Sarah Anschütz, and Damion Bunders.

To support the development of UUtopia, we are looking for a Bright Mind Assistant. Depending on the candidate's interests and skills, the following activities can be undertaken within the project:

- Help create an analytical framework for co-creation and co-learning in a CityLab context;
- Studying the learning experiences and societal impact of CEL courses and thesis;
- Assisting with interviews of best practices at other faculties and universities;
- Making text and visual content for the city lab's website, such as mapping of local partner organizations.

Job requirements

We are looking for a Bright Mind Assistant who is passionate about co-creation and co-learning with local communities in Utrecht. Due to the local context of this project, Dutch language skills are essential and speaking more languages is appreciated. Experience with qualitative methods (interviews and/or ethnography) and content creation (text, visuals) are preferred, but tasks can be customized to the prospective candidate.