

BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMME (BIP) — University of Gdańsk

## Sustainable City – a Physical Place or an Abstract Phenomenon?

*The aim of the programme is to deepen students' interdisciplinary understanding of contemporary urban challenges by analysing the city as a complex, dynamic social, economic, cultural, and environmental system.*

- Benefits for participants:
- Gaining interdisciplinary knowledge of contemporary urban problems and trends.
- Developing competences in sustainable development, spatial planning, and urban design.
- Learning key concepts such as Happy City, Liveable City, Resilient Cities, and Smart Cities.
- Engaging in project-based work in international teams — fostering intercultural and language competences.
- Experiencing an innovative form of education combining online learning with short-term physical mobility.
- Strengthening communication, analytical, and teamwork skills.

Physical Mobility - University of Gdańsk, Poland : 18–22 May 2026

Virtual Mobility: 19–24 April 2026

Number of ECTS credits assigned: 3

Partner Universities

1. Cadiz University, Spain
2. Universidad de Vigo, Spain
3. Lietuvos Inžinerijos Kolegija, Lithuania

## Preliminary Course Schedule

The course examines the city as a multidimensional and dynamic organism — both in its physical sense and as an abstract social, economic, and cultural phenomenon. Referring to key concepts such as sustainable development, resilient cities, and smart cities, the course focuses on three main thematic areas shaping contemporary urban thought:

### 1. Investment in Economic and Social Infrastructure

Economic infrastructure includes tangible resources such as transport networks, communication systems, and production facilities that enable urban economies to function and grow. Social infrastructure — including education, healthcare, culture, and public spaces — creates valuable places that support community well-being and social equality.

The course also addresses major urban challenges such as housing accessibility, social inequalities, and spatial segregation. Concepts such as the Happy City and Liveable City are introduced, emphasizing human-centred planning, mental health, social integration, and the design of spaces that enhance quality of life rather than merely efficiency.

### 2. Sustainable Urban Mobility

Sustainable mobility is not only about transportation — it is also about access to services, opportunities, and participation in urban life. This section analyses the role of public and active transport, promotion of low-emission mobility, and the contribution of green transport to shaping sustainable urban futures.

It also discusses spatial conflicts — between car traffic and pedestrians, infrastructure and nature, or commercialization and the social character of space — reflecting deeper power dynamics.

Tools such as urban systems mapping are presented to analyse mobility flows, accessibility, and interdependencies within urban ecosystems.

### 3. The Role of Urban Greenery

Urban greenery plays a key role in creating liveable and climate-resilient cities. Parks, green corridors, street trees, and urban forests contribute to climate regulation, rainwater management, air quality improvement, and biodiversity.

Equally important are their social functions — supporting integration, mental and physical health, and creating shared public spaces that foster community building. Greenery is understood not as decoration but as an essential component of a resilient and sustainable urban structure.

Information regarding the organization of the program is provided by:

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