Urban Sustainability Strategy

→ Drive impactful change in urban development as you explore sustainable practices. Designed to equip professionals with the skills and insights needed to shape future cities.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS:

eit Urban Mobility

Co-funded by the European Union

ARUP

RMIT Online

Who this course is for?

Urban Sustainability Strategy is a future-focused program co-designed with Arup—one of the world's leading voices in sustainable development. It's built for those who are ready to reimagine the cities of tomorrow: more liveable, inclusive, and resilient. For people who want to challenge the status quo and help shape how we plan, move, design, and connect in a changing world.

Whether you're an urban planner, architect, transport engineer, policymaker, health expert or environmental designer—this program will help you to elevate your impact. It's for those already driving change in sustainability, and for those looking to pivot into purpose-driven roles that align with their values and the planet's future.

KEY DETAILS

TIME COMMITMENT:
100% online, 8 weeks, approximately 6 – 8 hours per week.

COURSE PRICE:
AUD $2240 inc GST ($2036.36 ex GST)

PREREQUISITES / LEVEL OF STUDY:
There are no prerequisites.

METHOD OF STUDY:
Online study, including interactive videos, assignments, prescheduled webinars, and a 1:1 online session with mentors and industry experts.

ENROLMENT:
You can enrol at any time, the whole process only takes a few minutes.

Why study Urban Sustainability Strategy

Developed in collaboration with EIT Urban Mobility and Arup, this course equips professionals and organisations with the latest tools, strategies and insights to design urban environments that go beyond sustainable—and become truly regenerative.

Over eight weeks, participants will complete six weeks of core learning in Urban Sustainability Strategy, plus a two-week specialisation in either Air Quality, Urban Mobility or Green Cities. The curriculum is designed to upskill teams with immediately applicable knowledge, real-world case studies and hands-on projects, ensuring learnings translate directly into impact on the ground. Whether you're building internal capability, advancing sustainability initiatives or looking to embed strategic change, this course provides a practical, future-focused foundation for delivering meaningful outcomes in the built environment.

By the end of this course, you'll be able to:

- Identify opportunities to address urban sustainability challenges
- Propose urban sustainability strategic initiatives, considering their mid- and long-term environmental, social and economic impacts
- Develop appropriate goals to measure urban sustainability improvements
- Select frameworks to measure the success of proposed goals
- Incorporate stakeholder management within an Urban Sustainability Strategy Action Plan
- Explain how you would implement your Urban Sustainability Strategy Action Plan

Cities occupy just 3% of the Earth's land, but account for **60-80% of energy consumption** and 75% of carbon emissions.

(UNITED NATIONS, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2023)

Urban congestion **costs Australia $17 billion annually**, projected to rise to $30 billion by 2030.

(BUREAU OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT RESEARCH ECONOMICS, 2016)

Private vehicles contribute to about half of Australia's transport emissions, with many cars underutilised, remaining idle 95% of the time.

(TRANSURBAN, 2023)

Why study with RMIT Online?

RMIT Online is for those who want real world training from industry professionals. We call this the RMIT Online edge. Get ready to sharpen those skills.

Digital credential

The cutting-edge skills you'll learn are rigorously assessed and recognised by both a leading university and key employers in the field of study through a digital credential.

Connect with industry

Our courses are designed with high profile partners to ensure you're job ready, learning practical skills that align with industry best practice.

Real world skills

Our project-based assessments mean you'll roll up your sleeves and create a project for a real world business scenario, allowing you to see the immediate impact of your learning within your organisation.

100% flexible skills

The freedom of online learning means you can study whenever you want, wherever you want, in a manner that suits your work and lifestyle.

Collaborative online experience

Never feel like you're studying alone and feel supported with our Learner Success team.

What you'll learn

This eight-week program will incorporate a two-week Sustainable Cities specialisation, and six weeks focusing on Urban Sustainability Strategy. You can choose **one** of three specialisation options: Air Quality, Green Cities or Urban Mobility.

SPECIALISATION 1:

Air Quality

Investigate the factors influencing urban air quality and its impact on city liveability. Develop strategies to address air quality challenges and create healthier, more sustainable urban environments through evidence-based approaches.

By the end of this sprint, you'll be able to:

- Analyse the casual relationship between mobility and health
- Analyse how air quality data provides information about human health
- Implement strategies to enhance air quality that consider urban mobility

WEEK 1:

- Explore the imperative for urban transformation amidst the complexities of air pollution, urban vulnerability, health, climate, environment, and liveability
- Investigate pollution sources, especially transportation, and their effects on city air quality, mobility, and health, with a focus on EU strategies and urban transport efficiency
- Evaluate the importance of low-cost air quality monitoring, citizen science and community engagement approaches

WEEK 2:

- Review approaches to altering human behaviour and promoting sustainable transportation choices
- Explore innovative solutions for urban logistics and city transport, including policy, planning and infrastructure interventions
- Examine various policy interventions and the impact of electrification on both air quality and mobility

What you'll learn (cont.)

SPECIALISATION 2:

Green Cities

Explore the fundamental biological processes behind green corridors and considerations for implementing nature-based solutions to lead transformative change in the development of sustainable urban environments.

By the end of this sprint, you'll be able to:

- Evaluate the principles of green urban planning and design
- Identify green and grey infrastructure elements within urban development projects
- Develop strategies for urban improvement through green spaces and sustainable design

WEEK 1:

- Explore approaches to designing and delivering nature-based solutions to address urban challenges
- Analyse the environmental and social impact of nature-positive initiatives

WEEK 2:

- Explain how the 'green' and 'blue' and 'grey' infrastructure elements affect thermal comfort, pollution and airflow
- Identify key considerations associated with green infrastructure at an urban scale
- Explore the connectivity of different types of urban green spaces

SPECIALISATION 3:

Urban Mobility

Explore evidence-based approaches to positively influence urban mobility. Gain skills to shape inclusive and sustainable cities by exploring the relationship between human behaviour, climate change, and transport choices.

By the end of this sprint, you'll be able to:

- Interpret the key determinants of urban travel behaviour and the role of policy in shaping travel choices
- Explain how urban mobility aides in creating economically, socially and environmentally sustainable cities
- Assess the principles of low emission technologies and electric vehicle infrastructure with the context of urban mobility

WEEK 1:

- Engage with the concept of mobility in cities including opportunities and challenges
- Identify the need for policies and adequate governance through the lens of case studies
- Review environmental externalities and initiatives to mitigate their impact – Emissions, Electronic Vehicles, and Electronic Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- Evaluate the role of micromobility and shared mobility in reducing congestion
- Explore the relationship between liveability, active mobility and human health

WEEK 2:

- Identify the practical, values based and gendered influences of travel behaviour
- Explore challenges, solutions and innovations in city-wide urban logistics
- Reflect on considerations in adopting private and public infrastructure toward carbon neutrality
- Review the role of policy tools and frameworks in shaping urban mobility

What you'll learn (cont.)

CORE SUBJECT:

Urban Sustainability Strategy

Delve into the rise of sustainability, social impact, and ESG, exploring contemporary priorities. Tackle problems, analyse risks, and develop initiatives, culminating in the creation of an Urban Sustainability Strategy Action Plan tailored to your chosen specialisation, be it Air Quality, Green Cities or Urban Mobility.

WEEK 1

The rise of sustainability, social impact and ESG

- Explore the rise of sustainability, social impact & ESG.
- Consider contemporary ESG priorities and reflect on UN Sustainable Development goals
- Examine the key components of an Urban Sustainability Strategy Action Plan

Milestone: Define your project focus area and share with your peers.

WEEK 2

Understanding your challenges

- Assess challenges faced by cities and learn about 'wicked problems'
- Examine materiality and conduct a materiality assessment for your initiative
- Review tactics for identifying and engaging with your stakeholders

Milestone: Develop your stakeholder engagement plan.

WEEK 3

Finding opportunities and developing your initiatives

- Consider ways to avoid misleading claims and disinformation such as 'greenwashing'
- Conduct a PESTLE (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal and Environmental) analysis for your opportunity

Milestone: Define your potential initiatives and link them to the high level goals of your strategy.

In this week, you'll also have a mentor check in.

WEEK 4

Applying frameworks and standards

- Identify relevant sustainability frameworks or standards to apply to your sustainability strategy
- Learn from industry experts about how frameworks and standards are applied in real-world projects

Milestone: Define standards and align metrics with goals for your project.

WEEK 5

Influencing stakeholders

- Identify the roles and responsibilities required to resource your initiative
- Develop key messages to promote and progress your strategy

Milestone: Refine your proposed action plan and gather feedback from your mentor.

In this week, you'll also have a mentor check in.

WEEK 6

What's next?

- Finalise your strategic action plan and presentation
- Reflect on how sustainability values might shape your future career
- Gain insights from industry experts about the future of work for sustainability in the built environment

Final project: Present your completed sustainability strategy action plan in a five-minute video, focusing on initiatives from your chosen specialisation (Green Cities, Urban Mobility, Air Quality)

Subject matter experts

Meet some of our subject matter experts, who will feature throughout the course.

Susana Saiz

A director with more than 25 years of experience, Susana has a PhD in Architecture, MASc in Civil Engineering, and is LEED AP, WELL AP& Faculty. Susana specialises in sustainability metrics and assessments, combining advisory work with academia, teaching at post-graduate level. Susana brings a systemic approach to problem solving to help clients to transform their sustainability goals into positive outcomes for environment, people and society.

José Luis López-Oliete

José Luis is an Associate in the Business & Investor Advisory team at Arup's Madrid office, with over 11 years of experience in infrastructure and transportation advisory across Europe and the Americas. As a civil engineer, he specialises in Transport Economics, Infrastructure Advisory, Transport Modelling, and Business Data Analysis. José also lectures on Transport Planning & Management and Advanced Modelling at Universidad Europea.

Olatz Pombo

Olatz is an experienced Sustainability Consultant at Arup in Madrid, specialising in sustainability certifications (LEED, BREEAM, WELL), ESG strategy, and decarbonisation. Her work encompasses sustainable design, lifecycle assessment (LCA), and circular economy strategies, as well as managing the Europe Network for the Human Health and Wellbeing Skills Network. Olatz has a PhD in Architecture, and has authored over 12 publications and reviews for respected industry journals.

Arturo Fernández

A landscape architect, Arturo leads Arup's landscape team in Madrid and the Landscape Europe Skills Network. He is focused on integrating human, technical, and botanical elements into his designs, and has extensive experience on projects across Europe, East Asia, the Middle East, and South America. His designs respond to local, cultural, and environmental conditions, leveraging his expertise to create sustainable and adaptive landscapes.

James Bellinger

James is a Chartered Environmentalist with 15 years' experience in the environmental sector, focusing on Air Quality Impact Assessments. As an Associate Air Quality Consultant at Arup, he manages project delivery and planning applications, with a keen interest in air quality mitigation. Collaborating with clients and stakeholders, he identifies solutions for local air quality issues. His expertise spans air quality modelling, monitoring, carbon assessments, and ecosystem impacts.

How online learning works

This is a basic breakdown of how your course works. You can always find more information at rmit.eu/programs/urban-sustainability-strategy

Before the course starts

Before we get cracking, you'll need access to a computer with broadband connection. Any 64-bit operating system with at least 8GB of RAM should work. We'll help you install any software you might need, but in the meantime, download Slack and Zoom, and make sure your webcam and speakers are working.

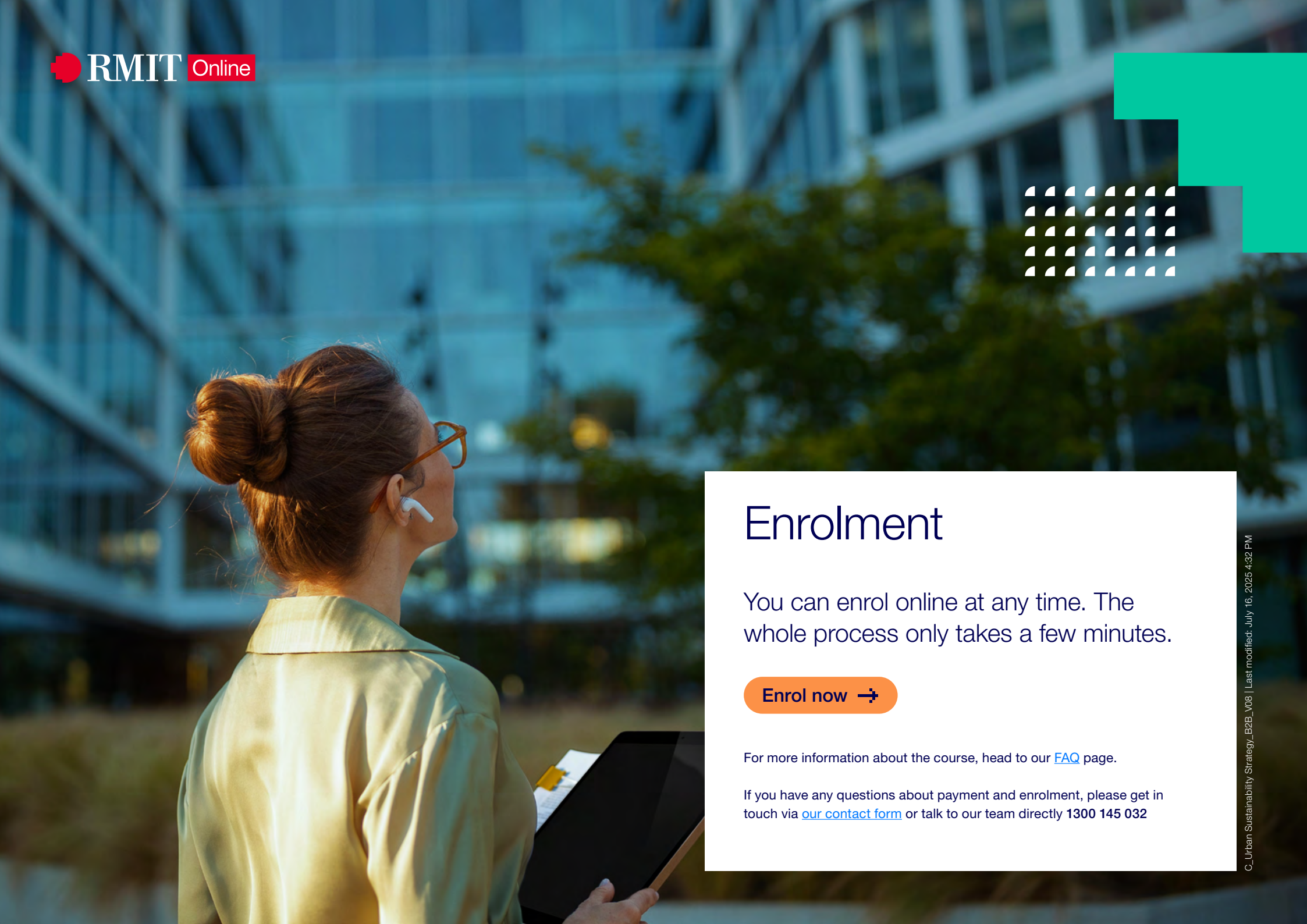
During the course

A lot of your RMIT Online Future Skills course will consist of video snippets. You can watch these whenever you like. There are also regular interactive webinars, online forums to chat with your peers and a scheduled 1:1 session with your industry mentor.

We'll set up Slack channels so you can connect with your classmates and grow your professional network. You can also reach out to your Course Manager if you ever need help.

Tools

- Video lectures
- 1:1 mentor session
- Webinars
- Slack channels and forums



Enrolment

You can enrol online at any time. The whole process only takes a few minutes.

Enrol now

For more information about the course, head to our FAQ page.

If you have any questions about payment and enrolment, please get in touch via our contact form or talk to our team directly **1300 145 032**

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