

NIT URBAN HERITAGE LAB

Historic Ports, Future Cities: Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Urban Development

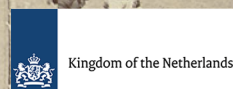
A graduate course organized by the Netherlands Institute in Turkey (NIT), in collaboration with Middle East Technical University (METU), and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

with the support of the Netherlands Consulate-General in Istanbul, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Konak Municipality, The Historical Port City of Izmir Site Management Office, The Chamber of Architects - Izmir Branch, and TARKEM.

Online Lectures & Classes on Fridays from mid-September to mid-December 2024

Izmir 3-days Field Trip on 17, 18, 19 October 2024

**APPLY BY
30 AUGUST 2024**



The Netherlands Institute in Turkey is pleased to offer in the autumn of 2024 a course that addresses past experiences and current and future challenges of historic port cities. With a focus on Izmir's port city heritage the course explores how heritage of port cities can act as a driver for sustainable development and raise awareness of contemporary heritage issues worldwide. The course is open to 20 graduate students and recent graduates (any discipline) from higher education institutions in the Netherlands and Turkey. Junior professionals and policy makers are also encouraged to apply. Students and recent graduates not affiliated with Dutch or Turkish institutions can apply but will only be admitted if there are places available. The course is planned to take place partly online, partly on-site in Izmir. The language of instruction is English.

APPLY BY 30 AUGUST 2024, FRIDAY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,

<http://www.nit-istanbul.org>

FOR APPLICATION FORM,

<https://forms.gle/9JWoDMCqkifJSjyZ8>

FOLLOW NIT ON SOCIAL MEDIA,

<http://www.facebook.com/NIT-Netherlands-Institute-in-Turkey-181073578608070>

http://www.instagram.com/nit_istanbul

http://www.twitter.com/nit_istanbul

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/netherlands-institute-in-turkey/>

If you have any inquiries, please contact Dr. Aysel Arslan,

aysel.arslan@nit-istanbul.org

Location

Online [lectures and discussions],
Selected heritage place(s) in Izmir [field survey]

Course Description and Background

In 2021, 2022, and 2023 the UHL Autumn Course looked at industrial heritage, water heritage, and archaeological heritage. During these courses, the possibilities and challenges were investigated to refunction, adapt, and reuse the remains of former industrial complexes, water structures such as aqueducts, and archaeological complexes in urban contexts to address contemporary urban challenges. In 2024, the fourth edition of the Urban Heritage Lab Autumn Course will focus on the cultural heritage of port cities.

Ports have played a key role in settlement development and cultural exchange throughout history. Linking sea and land, these coastal settlements served as hubs of trade, facilitating the exchange of goods, materials, ideas, and cultures across vast distances. The historic urban landscape of port cities often reflects traces of multiple influences, each bearing testimony to the numerous cultures that have left their mark on these urban centres with many structures such as warehouses, workshops, marketplaces, customs buildings, accommodation facilities and public buildings.

The Urban Heritage Lab 2024 will take as a case study the port areas of Izmir, a pivotal city in the Eastern Mediterranean, a crossroad of cultures and civilizations. Although many port cities are still dynamic places today, they face various challenges. Historical port areas within the city have become idle areas due to changing needs and technologies for trade and transportation; as they become idle, they have become potential intervention areas due to their disuse; the ports that are still in use cannot easily be integrated with the city for strict custom regulations. However, integrating and revitalising the cultural heritage of port cities, and enabling them to present narratives of past urban life poses significant challenges to archaeologists, heritage managers, architects, urban planners, designers, as well as sociologists, and social scientists.

During the course, 20 selected graduate students and junior professionals from universities and institutions in the Netherlands and Turkey will learn from international experts and will conduct a research-by-design assignment on The Historical Port City of Izmir. The course has a hybrid format, with a one-day online symposium, weekly online meetings, lectures by leading experts, and three days of in-person site visits in October. Applications are welcomed from any discipline, including archaeology, urban history and geography, architecture, city planning, landscape design, governance, conservation of cultural heritage, sociology, etc.

Key Issues

A historic port city refers to an urban area with a significant maritime heritage and a long-standing history of serving as a hub for maritime trade and commerce. These cities have played pivotal roles in shaping regional and global economies, cultures, and societies over centuries in their wider networks. Historic port cities typically have architectural, cultural, and archaeological heritage, reflecting the influence of various civilizations, trade routes, and historical events. They often feature waterfronts,



old port areas, and other structures that witness to their maritime past. However, port cities are confronted by many challenges such as decay and deterioration due to disuse, overdevelopment, and gentrification resulting from their high economic potential, environmental and economic challenges not only because of the high carbon footprint of maritime trade but also fluctuations in economic trends.

The 2024 NIT Urban Heritage Lab Autumn Course will focus on port cities and aim to answer a series of questions, including: How can port city structures and old port areas contribute to presenting the stories of a city and its inhabitants? Given the nature of port cities, what are the specific challenges that port city structures and port areas face in this respect? What are the best strategies for the preservation, reuse, valorisation, display, and interpretation of port city structures? Can historic port city structures and old port areas be a driver for sustainable urban development in a time of multiple crises such as climate change, natural disasters, and urban development?

Focusing on current experiences, practices, and debates in the Netherlands and Turkey, the course will investigate governance frameworks, urban planning, landscape design, and tools for documentation, visualization, and public engagement. The course includes lectures and presentations by an international and interdisciplinary group of scholars and professionals, representing academia, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and practitioners. Through a research-by-design team assignment on an actual case study, participants in the course develop their skills to combine theory with practice.

Case study: The Historical Port City of Izmir



Aerial View: Izmir Historical Port City. Source: Izmir Metropolitan Municipality Archive

Izmir, situated at the edge of a sheltered gulf and surrounded by mountains, has long served as a hub connecting diverse regions with its transportation network. Its history dates back to the Hellenistic period, with continuous settlement since the late 4th century BCE. Archaeological excavations revealed its significance as a trading nexus, evidenced by the Smyrna Agora's archaeological remains and graffiti detailing daily life. Especially during its heyday as part of the Euro-Asian Silk

Road, Izmir was an important agent in international trade as the port city. Izmir is currently on UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites for its cultural heritage, which has emerged from its important role in maritime and land trade throughout history, and efforts are underway to have it inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Throughout history, Izmir was impacted by earthquakes, fires, invasions, and shifting trade routes. Under Ottoman rule, it was a multicultural centre, welcoming diverse ethnic and religious groups, each leaving their own architectural and cultural imprints, and creating new dialectics based on cultural interactions. Izmir was also home to a thriving Dutch-Levantine community of merchant families. With the rise of industrialization and modernization in the 19th century, Izmir's port transformed, integrating railways and steamboats, and witnessing urban expansion. Despite its diminishing commercial significance, Izmir continues to be an international commercial hub as a port city. However, physical evidence of the historical port city of Izmir and narratives related to Izmir's port city past are almost totally lost. For this reason, the course participants are expected to develop proposals for the preservation, interpretation, presentation, and integration of Izmir's historic port city features in today's urban fabric.

Course Organizers *in alphabetical order*

Aysel Arslan (NIT)

Bilge Bektaş (The Historical Port City of Izmir Site Management Office)

Alvise Cecchetti (NIT/VU)

Fokke Gerritsen (NIT)

Gülşah Günata (NIT)

Özgün Özçakır (METU)

Charlie Smid (VU)

Ahu Sönmez (The Historical Port City of Izmir Site Management Office)

Course Format and Tentative Schedule

The course runs from mid-October through mid-December 2024 and is set up in four parts:

PART A | Defining the Issues: Port Cities Online Symposium

11 October 2024 [10.00-17.00 / Istanbul time]

PART B | Field Survey in İzmir

17-18-19 October 2024

PART C & D | Developing a Proposal for an area or a structure in The Historical Port City of Izmir with Online Discussions & Online Public Presentations by Researchers and Professionals from the Netherlands and Turkey

1 November - 8 November - 15 November - 22 November - 29 November - 6 December - 13 December 2024 [Fridays at 16.00-18.00 / Istanbul time; independent and group work, 4-8 hours per week]

Location

Online [lectures and discussions],

Selected areas and structures in The Historical Port City of Izmir [field trip and survey]



Admission Requirements and Selection

The course is open to graduate students and recent graduates (any discipline) from higher education institutions in the Netherlands and Turkey. Applications from other countries will also be considered for a small number of places. Junior professionals and policy-makers are invited to apply. No prior expertise in the cultural heritage of port cities is needed. The aim is to establish a group of participants that represent the interdisciplinary character of the field, including people with backgrounds in archaeology, urban history, architecture, city planning, landscape design, governance, conservation of cultural heritage, sociology, museology, etc.

Participants will be selected based on their motivation, skills, and expertise. The participants applying from the arts and design fields (architecture, planning, painting, sculpture, dance, etc.) are expected to submit their portfolio consisting of two or three sample works.

The language of instruction is English, and the participants are expected to have good reading, listening, and speaking proficiency in English.

The deadline for application is **30 August 2024**. A maximum of 20 participants will be selected and the results will be announced on **13 September 2024**, at the latest. Those who want to apply should fill out the form [for application form, <https://forms.gle/9JWoDMCqkifJSjyZ8>] and upload the following materials. If you have any inquiries, please contact Dr. Aysel Arslan [aysel.arslan@nit-istanbul.org].

- a letter of motivation [max. 1 page]
- a CV [max. 3 pages]
- a copy of a student certificate or a diploma [from the graduate students or the recent graduates who do not have regular income]
- a dossier consisting of two or three sample works. i.e. project, sketch, writing sample, ... [optional]

Costs

There are no tuition fees. Travel compensations that partially cover travel and accommodation expenses (upon successful completion) will be provided for graduate students and recent graduates who obtained their diplomas after June 2024 and do not have regular income. The amount of the travel grant is 100 Euro for applicants residing outside İzmir in Türkiye and 200 Euro for applicants residing outside Türkiye. Travel compensations are not granted to participants who receive a regular income, and participants from institutions outside the Netherlands and Türkiye. Participants residing in İzmir do not qualify for the travel compensation. Participants whose financial situation does not enable them to join despite the partial compensation are invited to contact Dr. Aysel Arslan, aysel.arslan@nit-istanbul.org.

Reading List

TBD by the lecturers

Course Load

The total course load is 168 hours, which is the equivalent of 6 ECTS. The division of course load is below:

- Preparatory readings [24 hours]
- Field trip [32 hours]
- Lectures and feedback meetings [40 hours]
- Self-study and group work [72 hours]

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive a certificate from the Netherlands Institute in Turkey.

Assessment Methods

This course demands active participation, not only during the lectures and the field survey but also during assignments (both group and individual assignments). Through the assignments, the students will be asked to reflect on/critically review articles and develop a project for the future of the selected heritage place in Izmir based on its values, problems, and potential.

- 20% participation assessed continually through participation during lectures and field survey
- 30% bi-weekly student presentations
- 50% final project presentation and report

Please Note

- The course will be conducted in English.
- Attending the field trip in Izmir is **mandatory** for participants as it significantly impacts the development of the final projects. Participants who do not join the field trip might lose the right to continue the course.
- For the Izmir field trip, participants are expected to make their own arrangements for travel and accommodation.
- For the Izmir field trip, participants are responsible for procuring their own travel and health insurance coverage.
- Students will be provided with a Certificate of Completion for their course if they satisfy attendance and course requirements.
- Full attendance is compulsory. A certificate will only be provided upon successful completion of all course components.
- NIT does not offer official university credit for the course. It is the student's responsibility to validate their course for credit at their home university.
- Under exceptional circumstances, NIT reserves the right to implement some restrictions to, postpone or completely cancel the field survey in Izmir.