

Abstract

of Competition for HSE University Student Research Papers on

Urban Studies, Urban and Transport Planning

The field of Contemporary Urban Studies is an interdisciplinary academic subject, which concerns the quality of the human habitat in the broad sense of the word, i.e., in terms of its architectural, socio-economic, IT, environmental, and cultural aspects. Thus, Urban Studies as an academic discipline concerns the creation and development of a collection of practices aimed at arranging living spaces in cities and urban areas, thereby establishing a universal system of coordinates for a variety of conceptual interpretations, which builds upon an anthropocentric and environment-focused approach.

However, in addition to specific project solutions for urban planning, research may be carried out in order to assess the effects of planning, real estate development, land use, economic and social effects, the influence of changes in transportation and engineering networks on the quality of the environment and accessibility of spaces, ecological consequences, etc. A key feature of such works is the consideration of cities not as a point on the map but the individual's own living space, which can be transformed under the influence of the policies that affect citizens, their behaviour and choices.

Papers by students majoring in various specialties can be submitted to take part in the competition and should focus on one of the following topics:

- spatial analysis and modelling;
- effective land use and improving urban regulation;
- new approaches to strategic and territorial planning;
- housing policies and development of built-up territories;
- preservation and development of cultural heritage;
- urban sociology;
- urban economics;
- urban ecology;
- urban infrastructure and utilities systems;
- developing communities;
- conflict mediation for real estate projects.

When assessing papers submitted for the competition, the subject committee will consider the following:

- relevance and novelty of research topics;
- outlook of authors and their knowledge of academic literature on the topic at hand;
- rationale and relevance of theoretical and methodological framework of the research;
- original methods and empirical components in the analysis and their correspondence with the research objectives and tasks;
- cohesion in writing and justification of conclusions; language and writing style; formatting of textual and graphic fragments (if any).