



Join us at Malmö University for the UNIC International Sustainability Leadership Autumn School

September - October 2026

Applications now open!



Delivery Mode: Online and in person Autumn School

Length: 4 x 2 hour online sessions (starting Sept 9th) plus one week in-person Autumn School (5th-9th October, 2026)

Accreditation: 5 ECTS

Location: Malmö University, Malmö, Sweden

Target audience: The target audience for the Autumn School are postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers

Language: The Autumn School will be delivered in English

Course Description:

Urgent transformative action is needed to address the sustainability crises we are collectively facing such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion. Beyond the requirement for radical technological and business innovations we need new forms of individual and collective leadership. Sustainability leaders are those who inspire and drive us towards a more sustainable world and have the competences to understand and tackle sustainability challenges under conditions of extreme urgency, rapid change, and uncertainty.

The focus of the UNIC International Sustainability Leadership Autumn School is on leadership skills and sustainability competences which complement the deep domain-specific knowledge acquired within academic disciplines e.g. systems thinking, futures thinking, sustainability values, societal impact, and interdisciplinarity. Within this Autumn School we will develop a “sustainability mindset” to think, plan and act with empathy, responsibility, and care for our planet. The Autumn School will also draw upon living laboratory methodologies for co-creation, critical reflection, and experiential learning developed and refined within the UNIC Centre for City Futures.

Competences and skills learned within the programme will be applied to a city-based challenge within the city of Malmö. The theme of the 2026 Autumn School will be: “Leadership competencies for a just transition to climate neutrality”.

A course certificate (5 ECTS) will be awarded from Malmö University based on successful completion of a group project and individual assessment. The Autumn School for Sustainability Leadership has been developed by University College Cork for delivery across multiple UNIC universities.

Learning outcomes of the Autumn School:

- Explain futures thinking approaches and methodologies to envision and craft 'rich pictures' for preferred sustainable futures.
- Explain the role of trust and empathy when working across diverse stakeholder groups as a part of successful change processes.
- Map and reconcile values and principles for planetary boundaries and societal development and, as a part of this, be able to reflect on their own values.
- Understand and critically evaluate individual leadership styles as well as their role in active change management.



How to apply:

Please follow this link to submit an expression of interest: [link to form](#)

Deadline for Expression of Interest: **5pm Monday 11th May, 2026**
Applicants will be notified of the outcome by **Thursday 4th June, 2026**

Please note that funding to support attendance may be available from your UNIC Office or through Erasmus. For queries on funding, please liaise directly with your International Office or UNIC TL2 contact within your university.

If you have any queries about the school please contact UNIC Autumn School facilitator Anna Bruun Månsson, Malmö University (anna.bruun-mansson@mau.se)



School Convener
Dr Per Hillbur,
Malmö University



School Convener
Dr Paul Bolger,
University College Cork



Dr Anders Melin,
Malmö University



Prof Diego Lopez de Ipiña
Gonzalez de Artaza,
University of Deusto



Prof Lasse Gerrits,
Erasmus University
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Dr Sofia Pagliarin,
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Prof Andreas Löschel,
Ruhr-Universität Bochum



Dr Gonca Ongan,
Koç University



Prof Caroline Wigren-
Kristoferson, Pro-Vice
Chancellor Malmö University

***Additional speakers to be added before commencement of School**