

**Green.
Building.
Solutions.**

A **UNESCO-awarded** summer university in the capital of energy-efficient building, Vienna, dedicated to sustainable architecture and urban development.



**Summer
University
in Vienna**

July 13 - August 1 2026



First-hand **ecological knowledge** and **engineering expertise** bundled in a **three-week programme**, taking place at the capital of energy-efficient building, Vienna



What is GBS

Green. Building. Solutions. (GBS) is a UNESCO-awarded summer university organized by OeAD student housing in cooperation with TU Wien, BOKU University and over 80 scientific and network partners.

Taking place in Vienna and taught in English, the three-week programme combines theoretical insight with hands-on design work to tackle today's urban challenges.

Founded in 2011, the course is dedicated to pass on Austrian expertise on circular building and climate-responsive design strategies to the next generation of green builders.

GBS addresses students and professionals in architecture and the built environment, including engineering, urban studies, energy, and construction management.

This year's summer university takes place from Monday 13 July to Saturday 1 August 2026.

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"In 2026, the topics of GBS are more relevant than ever and we're delighted to be welcoming students in Vienna, Austria, for the 16th edition of the GBS Summer University. We are bringing together the expertise we've gained over the years, with fresh ideas, concepts and possible solutions to prepare for the future."



Günther Jedliczka,
CEO OeAD student housing

10 reasons to attend GBS

01

Collaborate with students and professionals from all across the world!

02

Study in Vienna for three weeks, with an additional week of accommodation for FREE

03

Experience living in one of the most liveable cities in the world

04

Learn from a network of academic experts in their field

05

Immerse yourself in new ideas and concepts

06

Learn about the latest developments in green housing/construction

07

Mentored design work in a studio environment

08

Be part of an international alumni network

09

Bike tour excursion to Vienna's lighthouse projects

10

Students receive a certificate of BOKU University, Vienna for 7 ECTS

Don't just take our word for it...

“

The experience was very valuable because it was an opportunity to learn about other fields relating to sustainable architecture that I don't currently work in. This course isn't just for students, it's for professionals too – and I've really enjoyed getting to understand a variety of different perspectives.



“

I really enjoyed meeting all different people from different countries – and experiencing Vienna with them. Hearing all the different inputs and the struggles from a variety of countries has been really eye-opening for my future career.



“

Before attending GBS, I was feeling stagnant in my career, but since learning so many new things during this course, I now feel rejuvenated and motivated to design and build something amazing.



“

This programme is really good for professionals because the field of sustainability develops really fast and there's a lot of changes happening all the time.



The modules you'll take during GBS

8
MODULES

175
HOURS

7
ECTS

GBS is a modular university course with an academic workload of **seven ECTS credits**, equalling **175 lecture hours**.

The programme has **eight modules** offering a blend of expert lectures, simulation workshops, panel discussions and field visits.

Module 1



Urban Energy & Planning

Focusing on **sustainable urban and territorial planning** at city scale, with emphasis on energy systems, communities and practical applications in Vienna.

Module 2



Social Urban Sustainability

Exploring design approaches and planning methods that promote **inclusive and equitable urban living**, considering socio-cultural perspectives and urban sites through a social lens.

Module 3



Climate-Responsive Urban Design

Promoting **smart, climate-sensitive solutions** for a balanced built environment through integrated planning and simulation of indoor and outdoor comfort, as well as urban heat islands.

Module 4



Energy-Efficient Building Design

Designing **energy-efficient buildings** with a strong focus on positive energy buildings and Passive House standards, exploring **green architecture, building physics** and energy simulation.

Module 5



Low-Carbon Materials & Assessment

Exploring carbon-conscious design and nature-based solutions through low-CO₂ materials and technologies, alongside methods for **assessing and reducing the carbon footprint** of building projects.

Module 6



Circular Economy

Implementing a **circular economy** at building and urban scale, focusing on construction materials and strategies for reuse, recycling and waste reduction in the building sector.

Module 7



Building Systems for Renewable Energy Production

Studying innovative techniques for the integration of **renewable energy** systems in urban contexts, including **heat pumps, solar thermal, photovoltaics** and geothermal energy.

Module 8



Group Design Projects

Bringing theory into practice in a final design project, developed in interdisciplinary teams on a **real-world project** in Vienna.

How the application process works

The participation fee, which includes all accommodation and excursions, is €2,390 for students and €2,890 for professionals.

Accommodation in a passive house guesthouse of the OeAD student housing for the entire duration of the summer program is included! The week before the programme, participants have the chance to stay one extra week for free.

STEP 1: PREPARATION

Applications are done online - you will need to create an account to do this.

Scan here, or visit:
bit.ly/GBS-Register



Complete all fields in the form and upload the following information:

- A motivational statement
- A Curriculum Vitae
- A photo of yourself
- A scan or photo of the picture page of your passport
- Grade transcript of home university



STEP 2: CRITERIA AND STEPS

Apart from the necessity of being a registered student, a recent university graduate or a professional in the field of architecture, planning or engineering, the following key elements will be considered:

- Motivation and commitment for participation
- Knowledge of the English language
- Academic standing/work experience International experience
- International experience

AFTER SUBMISSION

After you've accepted our nomination offer and returned the Waiver of Liability, you'll be asked to transfer the tuition fee and to send confirmation of the transaction.

Following payment, your place in the GBS Summer University will be secured.



STEP 3: SUBMISSION

After receiving your application, we screen your documents and will contact you if there is missing information or we need additional data.

We will inform you as soon as possible about the status of your nomination.

BOKU PRE-REGISTRATION

Once you've been accepted, we kindly ask you to pre-register with our partner, the BOKU University.

This is needed in order to receive the BOKU certificate.

You will again be asked to upload some personal information and a passport photo.

Please also send us a confirmation of your registration at BOKU

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Applications are possible until **June 15th 2026**.

bit.ly/BOKU-Pre-Register



More information on scholarships

Outstanding students in need of financial aid can apply for student grants.

With a scholarship, highly qualified students can participate in the **GBS for a reduced fee of €890.**

The requirements are:

- Be enrolled in a relevant Master's programme (or final-stage Bachelor's degree)
- Provide evidence of academic excellence
- Demonstrate financial need
- Show high engagement in sustainability either in practice or in academia
- Present a clear vision for applying the GBS models in your work or community



**Scan here
to find out more**



Examples of previous Project Design Work

Interdisciplinary collaboration in multicultural teams

GBS participants get to put theory into practice in their final project work, dealing with a real-life object in the City of Vienna.

This allows participants to apply relevant knowledge to an integrated planning task in a multidisciplinary team. The final outcome is a design project presented to a jury on the last day of the programme.

In 2025, the groups worked on the project titled **“West Slice Stories: Eco-Social, Carbon-Neutral and Climate-Adaptive Solutions”** for the area between **Felberstraße and Westbahnhof** in Vienna’s 15th district, the city’s most densely populated outer district. The 1 km site between Vienna’s railway tracks sits on a biodiverse green slope in a dense urban district, sparking debate. The GBS Summer University’s challenge examines how to balance redensification with preserving and activating the area’s ecological and social benefits.

After finalising their designs, the groups presented the results on the final day of the GBS Summer University in the TU Kuppelsaal, followed by a festive catered evening and the certification handover.

Here are some examples of previous GBS students’ work



Our Supporters

Green.Building.Solutions. Summer University is an academic non-profit programme.

We try to keep the costs for participation as low as possible. Students, who are highly qualified but need financial assistance to take part can be supported with a scholarship - thanks to our **funding partners and monetary supporters.**

Our academic & network partners



Public supporters



Federal Ministry
Economy, Energy
and Tourism
Republic of Austria

Federal Ministry
Women, Science
and Research
Republic of Austria

klimaaktiv
Partner



We want to reach as many people as possible with an interest in **sustainable architecture and construction.**

If you are interested in supporting us on this mission, do not hesitate to contact us.

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OeAD student housing is a non-profit student residence provider and offers accommodations for around 10,000 students annually throughout Austria. With more than 25 years of experience, the company is renowned in the construction of passive house design student residences.

oeadstudenthousing.at

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