

Do you want to graduate and contribute to happy cities?

The Happy City, a knowledge- and innovationlab of the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Centre for Sustainability, is looking for graduates! In the lab we focus on contemporary urban issues - such as housing, health care, social inclusiveness, mobility, biodiversity and sustainable energy - prepared by the municipality of Rotterdam and various companies and non-profit organizations. How can we approach those topics while working on a happy city? Within the lab, you work on a multidisciplinary challenge within three universities and operate independently in a versatile network. If you wish so, your solutions can be the starting point for usage in practice.

Why?

Cities are the melting pots and pressure cookers of our society; an enormous intensity of people with diverse backgrounds and a wide variation of needs and actions all lives together. Often, things like health care, safety, mobility, shelter and sustainable solutions work better when streamlined at an urban scale. The more abstract human needs, however, have a surprisingly individual character; it is ones own responsibility to live a meaningful and happy life. A city defines to a large extent what we do, who we know and where we have access to. Is its influence on a happy life not broader then we have always seen it?

Additionally existing (individual) energy, can catalyze large-scale movements. Intrinsic motivation and a positive and humane approach help to generate involvement in urban issues and societal transitions. Collective places and facilities, new organizational forms and activities can trigger transitions at a much larger scale then merely individual resolutions.

In the lab we work on new ideas and approaches that contribute to the collective happiness of the city. They originate where the different disciplines of our universities cross, such as positive design, urbanism, philosophy, sociology, philanthropy and (industrial) ecology.

What and where?

As a student in the lab, you have access to a broad network of professors, PhD's, non-profit organizations, governmental institutions and companies. Based on the collection of urban issues, you choose your own research topic with the supervisor of your own faculty. Next, you start searching for methodologies and solutions for a happier city together with those partners. You can use their data and expertise, support from all three universities, meetings with graduates from other faculties that work within the same framework and our facilities in the Kleinhandel in the Groot Handelsgebouw in Rotterdam. Our focus for projects is on the metropole region Rotterdam/The Hague (MRDH).

If you are curious to know more, we hereby invite you to the kick-off event in the afternoon of November 30 in the Kleinhandel in the Groot Handelsgebouw. Interested students can attend the event (naturally free of obligation) for orientation and more information.

Interested? Send an e-mail to info@gelukkigestad.nl

More information? Go to www.gelukkigestad.nl and www.centre-for-sustainability.nl

