

## MURCS students 2018



### Fariha Aasam

I am Fariha, a Bachelor of Environmental Science graduate with and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Environmental Laws. For over 9 years, I have been working as an Operations Manager for Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Developmental projects spanning over six cities, with a multinational company in Pakistan. Through MURCS,

I am determined to strengthen my capacities in the domain of Urban Climate and Sustainability. I am hopeful that the international and interdisciplinary nature of MURCS will not just play a crucial role in shaping my perception on various urban issues but will also enable me to contribute significantly towards the sustainable development of my country.



### Kiran Apsunde

I am Kiran, a Civil Engineer with Master's in Climate Change and Sustainable Development. For over 4 years, I have been working as an Environmental Planner and Consultant with National and International Organisations in India. I have also been a visiting faculty of GIS and have been briefly associated with the UNFCCC as a UN Volunteer.

I am profoundly interested in working towards the climate resilient and sustainable development of urban systems in the Global South. Owing to the international and interdisciplinary nature of MURCS, I perceive it as an unique platform to gain a specialised understanding on addressing complex urban issues in the purview of changing climate.



### Oliver Carlo

After working for 4 years in the green building sector, I realized how crucial the governmental policies and urban infrastructure were to enabling sustainability amongst the private real estate agencies.

I wished to learn more about the association between the frameworks that guided this industry, so that I could help implement effective sustainable practices at its roots – the policy development and planning stages. The MURCS program appeared to be the perfect fit in moving me one step closer to my career goals.



## **Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury**

I am Mahmud from Bangladesh. After been trained to be an architect in Dhaka, I worked at the Bengal Institute, a leading architectural research institute in Bangladesh for the past three years. Currently, I am designing a product that helps researchers get live data on sound pollution occurring all over the mega city of Dhaka. There are several emerging cities in Bangladesh which require strategic designs to accommodate future demands.

I believe my experience through the MURCS programme will guide me to prepare climate sensitive city designs which also become models for sustainable cities. I am equally thrilled to be exposed to the enriching European and global cultures which accompanies this unique Masters programme.



## **Phaskar De**

I have graduated in 2010 with B. Arch and completed M. Arch degree in 2012. I have completed doctoral research on Optimization of Orientation and Canyon Aspect Ratio for a City in Warm Humid Climate from Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India in 2018. I have worked as a Lecturer at NIT Hamirpur, and as Project Fellow in the Center of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation and Management at IIT Roorkee. My research interest lies in the fields of Urban Climate, Resilient Urban Design, Urban Blue-Green Infrastructure, Building Energy Studies and Energy Efficient Retrofitting.

As this course focuses on the implementation part of urban planning and design aspects with proper management skill development, I expect that it will help me for efficient and successful real life application of urban amelioration strategies. I believe that the interdisciplinary nature of the course will enable me to optimally plan, manage and coordinate between different contesting social, economic and environmental issues for developing urban areas in a climate resilient way.



## **Paula Presser**

holds a bachelor in Architecture and Urbanism from UFRGS - Brazil, and a specialization course from Bauhaus Universität - Germany in Urban resilience. She also has a large experience in her 9 years of practice in her field including not only firms from Brazil but also from Ireland, where she lived during 2014.

Paula was the project manager of an urbanism company from south Brazil working as the main designer of new allotments, parks and the responsible to coordinating the environmental licensing process. Her main research objects are the green public spaces and how their shape can be used to create a more resilient city. At MURCS her target is to continue exploring the green urban areas and have a better understanding of the capacity of those as a tool to generate innovation and efficiency to our cities.



## Alaa Dwairi

I am Civil Engineer and translator, and have worked for four years in consultation companies. My experience is mainly in roads and storm water networks design. I'm interested in environmentally friendly design techniques, sustainability and climate change. I love reading books and hiking.

I hope through MURCS I'd get the chance to discover more about the impact of urbanization on climate and surrounding environment and to specialize in sustainable resource management.



## Thais Glowacki

was born in Curitiba, south of Brazil. Anthropology, Museology and Architecture are intertwined in her academic background, a period stitched by a common line: preservation. In the last two years she was living in Angola-Africa working for the United Nations on sustainable urban development.

She believes that this previous job experience allied with MURCS will give her the opportunity to consolidate a career in international cooperation and development, working towards a better urban future for vulnerable communities and preserving society on a bigger scale. She has a particular interest in photography, autochthonic culture, architecture history, botanic and music.



## Henry Adeniyi Ibitolu

Growing up as a kid in Nigeria, Henry has always been fascinated about the environment and space technology. Hence, he earned a Bachelors degree in Meteorology and Climate Science (focus on Remote Sensing and GIS). However, Henry is excited to embark on the MURCS programme, during which he hopes to improve his understanding about environmental management, especially leveraging on space and satellite data for sustainability and climate research.

He looks forward to interacting and networking with fellow Erasmus Mundus scholars and he's keen on learning about new cultures and languages, aimed at becoming a global citizen.





## Marina Khan

I am an architect from Pakistan, having three years of valuable work experience in architecture and urban design, focusing on the sustainable interventions to optimize the process of densification in Pakistan. As an aspiring urban practitioner, I therefore look up to MURCS to learn more about the dynamic urban transformation in Europe and how the process and policies are modifying with continuous demand for growth.

Urbanization in Pakistan and in several developing countries is unplanned and is being negatively affected by increasing climatic change. Hence, along with the infrastructural need, there's a necessity for an integrated approach to climate threats to improve the quality of life of urban dwellers by adapting sustainable solutions.



## Samira Nazir

Hi, my name is Samira Nazir. I did my graduation in Environmental Sciences from Kinnaird College for Women, Pakistan. I am currently working as an environmentalist on various development projects.

I feel really lucky to have been chosen for MURCS program. This will provide me opportunity to enhance my skills and expertise by learning from highly qualified faculty on multiple platforms through mobility scheme. I am sure this course will help me hone my career as a good environmentalist in future.

In free time I like listening music, spending time with friends and doing outdoor activities.



## Carlos Soto

I'm an Urban Planner with studies in urban design. I was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela. During the last 5 years I have been working on different kind of urban projects, as part of a consultancy team that serves to both public and private stakeholders. My latest experiences in 2017-2018 were focused on public spaces and I have also gained some teaching experience in university workshops.

I am willing to learn a lot about sustainability, resilience and environmental technologies in the next two years. I am very excited for the international perspective that this programme will bring to my life.



## Hanna Meiria Naomi Stepani

I work in the Planning Division for Jakarta Government, Department of Human Settlement, Spatial Planning, and Land Management. I support several plans through research and drafting regulations, policy, and guidelines for land use, building, and development in Jakarta. I studied Architecture Engineering and Landscape Architecture.

Getting involved in regulation drafting made me realize that regulation is so much about people, implementation, and control, so it should be feasible and easy to be implemented. As a candidate for Master of Urban Climate and Sustainability, I expect to learn about scientific knowledge about urban climate and the implications of climate change, planning and managing a climate resilient city, developing strategies to increase community awareness, knowledge, and access to the sustainable environment, and to learn about incentives and disincentives mechanism relating to urban sustainable land use, buildings, and development.



## Carol Stephanie Torres Limache

I am a Peruvian architect, graduated from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru. In 2012 I worked as a consultant in LEED Certification and green building in Lima, Peru. Since 2013, I am established in Stuttgart, Germany as a member of the Chamber of German Architects and have worked in building design and as researcher in projects related to climate-responsive design, green infrastructure, social architecture and sustainability.

From studying MURCS I hope to build on my technical knowledge, learn planning tools and gain expertise in management, that would allow me to lead projects with profound social and climate consciousness to ensure sustainable development.



## Megi Zala

I'm Megi Zala from Albania. I'm an architect. I have been working for 3 years in the Municipality of Tirane in the position of urban planner. For the last 3 years I have been working in the position of Interior design Architect, part of the Technical Solution Department at Porcelanosa. After having both experience in the public and private sectors, now I have a clear vision of what I hope to reach in my future career trajectory, and where I want to contribute within this field.

Thanks to this professional experience, I have gained the practical skills necessary in designing, work scope framing, project planning, and time management. Thus, I am looking to be part of a new generation of professionals, who can take a holistic approach to these critical issues, and increase awareness in both the public and private sectors, in order to work towards solutions the climate resilient and sustainable development of urban systems that can be implemented for both immediate and long-term relief.