

URBAN95
ACADEMY



Urban95 Academy

An executive education programme for designing
and delivering better cities for young children



LSE**Cities**



The **Urban95 Academy** is a leadership programme designed for municipal leaders across the world to learn and develop strategies to make cities better for babies, toddlers and their caregivers.

The Urban95 Academy is a joint collaboration between the Bernard van Leer Foundation and the London School of Economics and Political Science building on their experience in executive education. The programme aims to help city planners, designers, and other urban professionals working for local government understand how their work impacts early childhood development.

The programme features **six weeks of online course content** as well as **weekly live virtual sessions** with LSE faculty, Bernard van Leer Foundation leadership and global knowledge partners. All participants who complete the online course will receive a certificate from the London School of Economics.

Towards the end of the online course, all cities will **prepare a strategic outline** on how they would change an aspect of their city to improve the lives of babies, toddlers, and caregivers. The project should be open-ended and tailored to the local municipality. Proposals can be spatial or policy-oriented or a combination of both. The cities with the most promising ideas for making their cities better for young children will be invited to attend a **sponsored in-person training week** at LSE in London.

Upon completing the programme, cities may also be eligible to receive additional technical support from the Bernard van Leer Foundation and its partners and be invited to join the Urban95 global network of city practitioners and officials.





PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The online programme is divided into three components: Vision & Analysis, Strategy & Delivery, and Leadership. Topics covered will include neighbourhood design, mobility for families, social and environmental challenges, transforming behaviour through design, and principles of creating playful public spaces.

Vision & Analysis

Understand how cities that are designed to support the wellbeing of babies, toddlers and caregivers are better for all. Evaluate what matters for young children and caregivers and gain the tools and skills to build your own baseline assessment to measure long-term impact.

Strategy & Delivery

Develop effective strategies that invest in improving social and spatial infrastructures. Understand how to

implement policy and deliver services that meet the needs of young children and caregivers, and make cities more sustainable and equitable. Learn how to design accessible neighbourhoods, public spaces and transport systems, and develop financially viable projects that provide public value for money for the benefit of all citizens.

Leadership

Learn key skills for public purpose leadership and effective leadership styles for different situations. Build an innovation culture across departments and help support an innovation ecosystem between public, private and third sector organisations. Understand how a systems lens that prioritises babies, toddlers and caregivers, can bring together diverse stakeholders and effect change.



HOW TO APPLY

The Urban95 Academy is open to all local governments. To apply, cities must nominate three members of staff, who can be from the same or different departments. A formal letter of support on official letterhead must be submitted along with the application. One of the three members of staff will need to be a political or elected appointee in the city administration, and one must have at least 10 years of experience.

The more teams reflect the diversity of your city the better and you may also consider one participant from outside your administration coming from other public, private or third sector organisation with a long standing partnership dedicated to urban development in your city. Cities which include the Mayor as part of their team will be prioritised.

The Urban95 Academy will provide training to over 100 cities in three separate cohorts throughout 2022 with rolling applications accepted until July 2022. Cohorts will be structured to have city teams representing a diverse mix of geographical backgrounds. Participation in the Academy is fully funded by the Bernard Van Leer Foundation.

Cohort Start Date	Application Deadline
January 2022	15 November 2021
May 2022	28 March 2022
September 2022	25 July 2022

REGISTER INTEREST

For more information and to receive an application form, please register at:

urban95academy.org

