

For the location in Velp, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences is looking for a:

Lecturer in Designing of Future Green Cities (0.8 - 1.0 FTE)

Background of the new applied research group

The future lies with the *Green City*. Today, more than half of the world's population lives in cities, mostly in low-lying coastal areas and deltas. This number will further increase in the decades to come. Furthermore, the impending climate catastrophe is forcing humanity to face the fact that we will have to change our relationship with the planet. After all, cities face major challenges to provide their growing number of inhabitants with a healthy and future-proof living environment. Cities will therefore have to be designed in a smarter and more sustainable way and become "greener". *Green cities* accommodate functions such as living, working, mobility, recreation, energy supply, and food production in a future-proof and nature-inclusive way.

The development of a future-proof and healthy living environment requires a multitude of drastic, long-term changes. The transition to future-proof cities also requires space. However, space in cities is limited and often highly fragmented. Yet space is also being created, such as when less space is needed for infrastructure and parking facilities when new urban transport systems are implemented. Rethinking the use and layout of urban space is inevitable.

Many parties are involved in the programming, design, management, and transition of urban space. To create the necessary spatial, physical, and social impact, actors and interests from various disciplines and social sectors will have to connect with each other.

This raises the question of what the green cities of the future will look like and how all parties involved will shape them together. Adapting cities to the changed circumstances is a necessity and a matter of urgency.

The focus of the applied research group

With this in mind, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences is launching a new applied research group aimed at researching and shaping the transition to a future-proof city with good quality of life: a city that is green, healthy, nature inclusive, and climate adaptive. The required transition calls for integrated solutions, both for the existing cities and urban areas yet to be developed. Uncharted waters will be explored in search of innovative and perhaps unorthodox solutions. Design is an excellent research method for this.

The applied research group focuses primarily on urban space. Physical-spatial and socially engaging approaches are combined. A different perspective on urban space may also have consequences for the organisation of existing cities. Furthermore, urban space cannot be regarded as separate from the landscape surrounding the city; and within the applied research group, we pay attention to the relationship with the environment of the city, based on the urban problems and challenges.

The applied research group distinguishes itself by focusing on urban space from an integral approach, implemented and supported by the fields of expertise present at the university: strategic and spatial design, engineering, construction and management, nature, water, and participatory planning. Fields of expertise, such as nature-inclusive and sustainable building, will also be developed.

Applied research group and education

The issues that are the focus of the applied research group require an integral approach. As a discipline that integrates space, garden and landscape architecture provides an excellent opportunity to explore the future of urban space from an integral perspective. That is why the applied research group is primarily affiliated with the Garden and Landscape study programme of Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences. There is also a connection with other study programmes at Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences (Management of the Living Environment, Forestry and Nature Management, Land and Water Management, International Development Management). Simultaneously, the lecturer will make an active contribution to the education of the study programmes involved (e.g. by taking part in curriculum renewal, giving lectures, and supervising study groups and graduates), so that the research and knowledge acquired are incorporated into the education. The lecturer will also be involved in the Omgevingslab, a platform in which these study programmes work with the field on interdisciplinary and participatory projects in the spirit of the Dutch environment act.

In line with ambitions and research questions in the region and beyond

The applied research group aligns with the tasks and challenges in the region. 18 municipalities in the Arnhem-Nijmegen region recently began a collaboration under the name *Groene Metropool regio* (green metropolitan region). In the *Groene Metropool regio* vision, municipalities opt for the preservation of typically scenic and cultural values and for qualitative growth: urban development in balance with green and peaceful quality of life. The Arnhem-Nijmegen region therefore forms a testing ground for the applied research group on which it initially focuses. After that, the applied research group will also focus on issues in other Dutch cities, and possibly, in a later phase, on cities in Europe and perhaps beyond. In any case, learning from “best practices” in the Netherlands and abroad is part of the applied research group.