

THE NORMAN FOSTER FOUNDATION AND UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE MADRID SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO OFFER A MASTER'S DEGREE IN SUSTAINABLE CITIES



Madrid, 10 November 2023

The Provost of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), **Amaya Mendikoetxea**, and the President of the Norman Foster Foundation (NFF), **Norman Foster**, have signed an agreement for a Master's Degree in Sustainable Cities organised by the Norman Foster Institute (part of the Norman Foster Foundation) in collaboration with the UAM.

The Programme on Sustainable Cities combines practical on-site experience and academic input from professors and practitioners. In this first academic year, scholars will work in three pilot cities—Athens, San Marino and Bilbao—where they will engage directly with their planners and managers. The approach used in these cities will be applicable to cities all over the world, as well as informal settlements and suburbia.

The one-year full time multidisciplinary Master, taught from January to December, offers scholars the most up-to-date digital tools as part of the NFI City Lab, to allow them to explore, test and evaluate their interventions in the quest to improve a sustainable quality of life in cities. Scholars will develop skills in leadership, advocacy, communication, presentation, diagramming, mapping and the understanding and interpretation of data.

The Programme on Sustainable Cities uses objective criteria to evaluate urban performance and promote initiatives that improve the quality of life while reducing carbon footprint. Different indicators have been integrated into its design, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for which Norman Foster holds the position of Advocate of the Forum of Mayors and where the Norman Foster Foundation is a Centre of Excellence.

The collaboration with the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid complements the vision of the Norman Foster Institute, marking a turning point in the response to the challenges required in the quest for sustainable urban living. This agreement opens the door to new paradigms in education to train and foster future generations of civic leaders who will shape and govern cities.

The first academic course of the Master on Sustainable Cities will begin in Madrid next January 2024.

Norman Foster Foundation

The Norman Foster Foundation promotes interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations anticipate the future. The first mission of the Norman Foster Foundation is to make visible the centrality of architecture, infrastructure and urbanism for the betterment of society. To this end, the second mission is to encourage new thinking and research across traditional boundaries in order to help younger generations anticipate the challenges of future change. In particular, the Foundation speaks to those professionals who are concerned with the environment— architects, engineers, designers, urbanists, civic leaders, planners and artists. This is at the heart of the Foundation's holistic approach to design and is ever more relevant as populations shift to cities. With the implications of climate change, robotics and artificial intelligence, sustainable design is not about fashion but about survival.

The Norman Foster Foundation operates from the United Kingdom, the United States and Spain with its headquarters based in Madrid.

Norman Foster Institute

The Norman Foster Institute (NFI) is an initiative of the Norman Foster Foundation (NFF) addressed to those who wish, through practice or education, to improve the quality of life in cities worldwide. The creation of the NFI follows from the success of the NFF's programme of workshops, bringing together experts from academia, practice and consulting to engage with top graduates from around the world. The NFI is aimed at unconventional thinkers seeking a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the most pressing issues affecting our urban landscapes today.

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) is a public university that combines quality teaching, intensive research and high job placement with a firm social commitment, being a benchmark in these areas, as recognized by various global indicators. In the QS World University Rankings 2023, the UAM is consolidated among the 220 best universities in the world, thanks to its high academic and employer reputation, as well as its extensive international research network. It is the third best university in Spain and the first in Madrid, and is among the 100 most prestigious universities in Europe. The UAM also stands out as a leader in the Teaching and Learning category among the 79 institutions analyzed by the Knowledge and Development Foundation (CYD) report.

PRESS ENQUIRIES

Santiago Riveiro
Head of Communications
Norman Foster Foundation
srp@normanfosterfoundation.org
+34 914 542 129

Isabel Esparza Orduña
Head of Communications
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
comunicacion@uam.es