



Universidade do Minho
Escola de Arquitetura

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Draft 4
25 June 2018

Summer School

REBUILDING SYRIA FROM WITHIN

Guimarães, Portugal

18 JULY – 28 JULY 2018

Co-organised by the Global Platform for Syrian Students, the University of Minho (Portugal) and IUAV University (Italy), with the support of ESCWA-NAFS

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1.

The 2018 Summer School: Overview

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In a World Bank Report on “Syria: Reconstruction for Peace” (2016), it is clearly pointed out that immediate action can be taken to help preserve development achievements and foster peace in Syria. Furthermore, it is advocated that “a more audacious development agenda can help bring about relief and appeasement in the short-term, and stability in the long-term. While full-scale reconstruction may have to wait for peace before it can start, a credible reconstruction strategy can foster a return to peace”. As a main recommendation, the Report “calls for the international community to be the guarantor of an inclusive reconstruction strategy that not only makes peace sustainable tomorrow, but makes it happen today: peace and reconstruction are two sides of the same coin”.

Against this backdrop, the Global Platform for Syrian Students, a multi-stakeholders initiative consisting of an emergency scholarship programme for Syrian students, chaired by Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal, decided to add a new leg to its programme and opened up a new avenue for collaborations. These collaborations are aimed at contributing to the development in this challenging field of an inclusive reconstruction strategy for peace in Syria. It goes without saying that any upcoming new activities promoted by the Global Platform in this area will be underpinned by the four humanitarian principles - humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence – that frame its mission.

To kick-off these activities, a Summer School on “Rebuilding Syria from Within” will be hosted by the University of Minho, in Guimarães, Portugal. It will take place from 18 to 28 July 2018 in cooperation with the IUAV University (Venice, Italy), and with the support of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia – National Agenda for Syria (ESCWA-NAFS).

THE SUMMER SCHOOL

Aims and Objectives

The 2018 Summer School on “Rebuilding Syria from Within” builds upon the long pedagogical practice of the School of Architecture of the University of Minho (EAUM), the solid experience of our partners at IUAV University and on ESCWA-NAFS deep knowledge and unique expertise on Syria.

This Summer School aims at bringing together up to 100 participants who are overwhelmingly Syrian or from a Syrian background - preferably students or junior professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering, urban planning, landscaping architecture, or those with a keen interest in and knowledge of Syria and the region.

Specific objectives of the Summer School include:

- sharing and reflecting on the broad challenge of rebuilding war-torn Syria;

- strengthening participants' understanding of and practical knowledge in the key areas of rebuilding Syria;
- enhancing participants' motivation and abilities for playing an active role in rebuilding Syria within their area of expertise;
- engaging participants in specific reconstruction issues and encourage them to involve further in these projects notably in the context of their theses (Master's or PhD degrees).
- kick off a mentoring partnership among academic institutions, experts, and professionals that will go beyond the Summer School to support young participants in their engagement to rebuild Syria.

Expected results

By the end of this Summer School, participants will be able to:

- better understand the wide range of social, technical, economic and cultural challenges that are connected to rebuilding war-torn Syria and that require an interdisciplinary approach grounded in evidence;
- display greater practical and technical skills related to their specific academic or professional background notably through a holistic approach;
- engage in various projects that might have a follow up beyond the Summer School; - integrate a network and a mentoring partnership that will support them in the future; - present their design outputs in a final exhibition by the end of the programme.

Methodology

The programme will be prepared and conducted taking into account the following principles:

- the experience and area of knowledge of the participants are valued and placed at the centre of the process;
- intercultural learning and non-formal education approaches (learner-centeredness, practical learning, dialogical learning and involvement of the learners in the process) are as important as formal learning situations;
- mentoring will play a key role in enhancing technical and practical skills of participants;
- addressing all issues that are of relevance, also taking into account what participants can do about them;
- provide an optimum balance between plenary inputs and small group learning and practical workshops;
- provide field-visits opportunities, namely in Braga and Porto;
- provide intercultural opportunities for participants to meet and mingle as well as to interact and connect with local communities in Guimarães

Resource persons, experts and guest speakers from diverse scientific areas will be invited for specific functions, themes or inputs in order to enrich the programme and provide participants with an opportunity to consolidate and enlarge their academic background, meet inspiring

leaders, exchange ideas, participate in dynamic conversations and be involved in concrete projects to be developed in specific practical workshops.

Profile of participants

The 10 day-long Summer School will gather up to 100 participants, of which some are currently students within the Global Platform for Syrian Students residing in Portugal.

Participants are either Syrian, from a Syrian background or with a keen interest in and knowledge of Syria and the region. They are all preferably students or junior professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering, urban planning and landscape architecture.

The composition of the group aims at safeguarding gender balance as well as a mix of countries of residence and communities of origin.

However, they all have the following features in common:

- they are Syrian, from a Syrian background or with a keen interest in and knowledge of Syria and the region;
- they are within the 18-32 age range; - they are able to work in English;
- they will attend the full Summer School.

The tutorial team includes members with dynamic professional backgrounds, coming from various areas of knowledge. The whole team will comprise more than 30 people.

Registration

The registration for the Summer School 2018 is now open. Anyone interested in taking part in the Summer School should fill in the [online pre-registration form \(https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C8RP3K5\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C8RP3K5), shared also at www.globalplatformforsyrianstudents.org by **27 JUNE 2018**.

Fees

This Summer School is not held as a for profit activity. Therefore “Tuition Costs” are free as most speakers, tutors and mentors are participating on a voluntary basis. However regular participants will be requested to cover the costs of their accommodation, meals, materials, social programme and field visits. Two fee packages are available for this Summer School depending on the accommodation option:

Package A – It includes meals, materials, social programme and field visits as well as accommodation at the University residence on the basis of a shared room: Total –340 euros.

Package B – It includes meals, materials, social programme and field visits only. Participants who will choose this package will not require accommodation from the organizers preferring to make their own bookings: Total – 280 euros.

None of these packages include personal expenses; meals during the week-end; personal health insurance.



(Photos from previous UNAOC Summer Schools chaired by President Sampaio)

2. Summer School Format

Note: The programme sessions will be held at the University Campus unless otherwise indicate:

Address: **Universidade do Minho - Campus of Azurém**
Building: School of Architecture
4800-058 Guimarães – Portugal

The Summer School will run from 18 to 28 July for up to 8 hours per day throughout 10 days' duration either in studio or in filed work. Guest lectures, seminar sessions and tutorials will take place on a daily basis. **Participants are expected to arrive on 18 July morning and leave on 29 July morning.**

Courses and activities

Participants on the Summer School will be expected to demonstrate immediate and ongoing concrete outputs that will conclude with an exhibition and a public presentation. Soon after a booklet with the results will be published.

The ten-day Summer School is designed using a process of mutual learning, integrating the participants' experiences as the starting point of the training-learning process. Active participation and in-depth reflection are key methodologies used in the course. Participants will compare their experiences, views and opinions as well as their approaches.

During the Summer School, participants will acquire knowledge and tools to strengthen their ability to get an informed vision of the challenges ahead to rebuild Syria, understand the complexity of the problems at stake as well as to communicate across differences, manage diversity in a harmonious way and look at diversity as an asset for cross-fertilization and intercultural exchange from which mutual trust, better understanding and an innovative mindset can emerge and proliferate.

Furthermore, the course will also provide a unique space for taking part in concrete projects to be developed during the Summer School and engage with future initiatives that will follow up on the outcomes of the Summer School, identifying strategic networking and finding partners - this dimension will be most strongly encouraged.

As a concrete outcome of this Summer School, participants will be encouraged to make a commitment to action that contributes to achieving the objectives of this Summer School and will engage in future projects.

2018 Summer School sessions

Designed as studio-based experience, this Summer School will combine theoretical and methodological study, delivered through lectures, seminars, practical sessions and study visits.

Lectures/debates

Participants will hear from prominent experts and special guests on a variety of subjects. These conversations are designed to highlight innovative action and broad approaches to global challenges that are interconnected with rebuilding a sustainable Syria.

Seminars

These opportunities are designed to make participants gain additional knowledge on a number of issues related to the toll of war, i.e. the economic and social consequences of the conflict in Syria as well as urban and territorial challenges to rebuild the society.

Workshops

There will be 10 workshops in studio. Each will include a “mentoring team” - made up of one professor and two tutors, one of them Syrian - and up to 10 participants.

Highlights of 2018 workshops:

- each studio will focus on a specific city area or neighbourhood in Syria, namely Homs, Hama, Daraa, Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor;
- each studio will be organized in two groups, focusing different although related scales, from the territorial/urban scale till the building design.
- it will be assigned special relevance to issues such as: public spaces and collective infrastructures; integration of vegetation into the built environment; rebuilding health and education facilities; recycling rubble and reusing it; energy; water and sanitation; public transportation.

As fieldwork, this Summer School will include a visit to Matosinhos and Porto, during which participants will visit Casa de Chá (arch. Álvaro Siza) and Casa da Arquitectura (arch. Guilherme Vaz). Participants will also have the opportunity to meet and mingle with their colleagues from the ongoing Porto Academy, a Summer School for Architects which is held every year in Porto. The Programme includes as well a one-day visit to Braga during which participants will visit the most iconic high spots such as the football stadium (Estádio Municipal) by arch. Eduardo Souto de Moura), the Capela Árvore da Vida (by arch.s Fontes), and a Syrian poetry reading session at Nogueira da Silva Museum.

Venue of the Summer School

The Summer School activities take place at:

School of Architecture

[Universidade do Minho](https://www.univ-minho.pt/)

Campus de Azurém

4800-058 Guimarães

Portugal

Telephone: +351 253 510 500 | Fax: +351 253 510 509

URL: <https://www.arquitectura.uminho.pt/pt>

The School of Architecture



The School of Architecture at the University of Minho (EAUM) is housed in a building (2004) designed by Fernando Távora, one of the most prominent Portuguese architects of the 20th century. Founded in 1996, EAUM develops research and education in Architecture, Design and, forthcoming, Visual Arts.



The specificity of its education promotes an articulated and complementary knowledge focused on the development of a design methodology, essential to ease the integration of the graduates into the professional life.



EAUM is located in both *Campi* of Azurém and Couros, enjoying a privileged location and accesses to the city, contributing to its geographic and social approach to Guimarães. In addition to the curricular component, the development of pedagogical, cultural or recreational extracurricular activities are encouraged, since they contribute to the valuation of human development, in its ethical, cultural, scientific, artistic, technical and professional dimension.

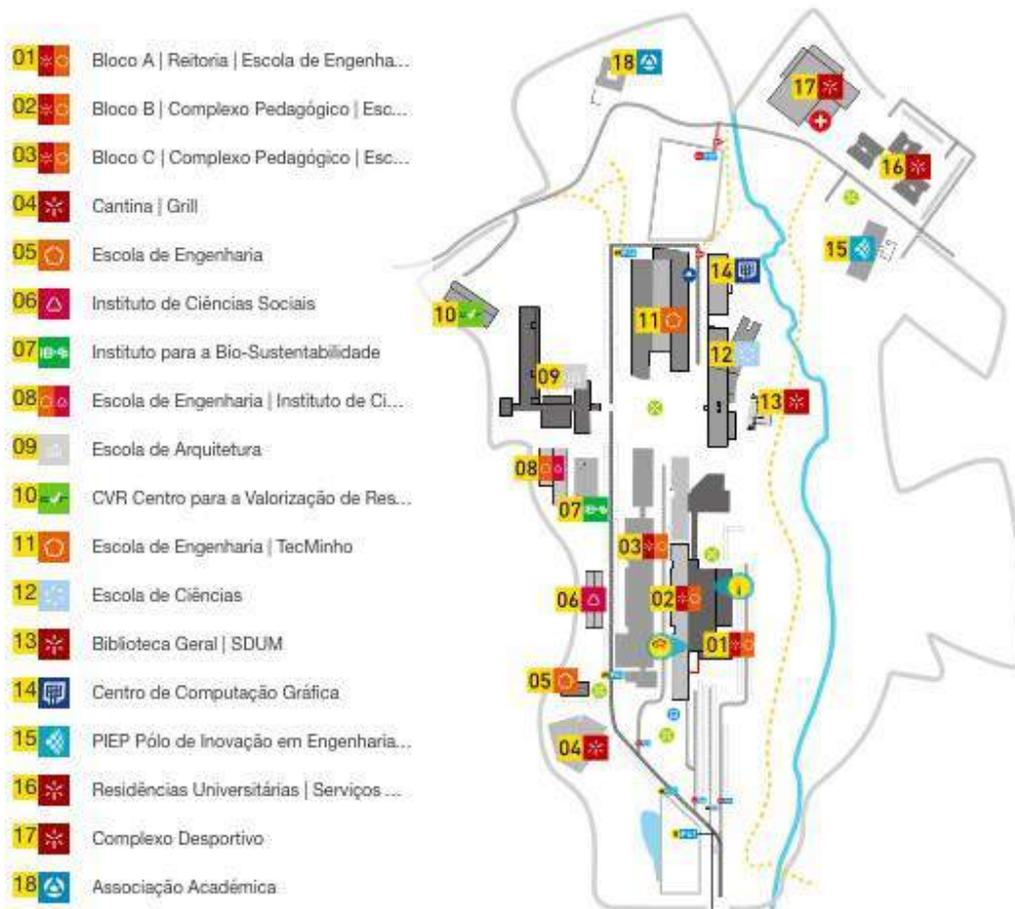
It also contributes to the personal, social, intellectual and professional education of students, instigating lifelong learning and the exercise of an active and responsible citizenship.

<https://www.arquitectura.uminho.pt>

Azurém Campus

The Azurém Campus is located in Guimarães, next to the city's historical centre. The School of Architecture is located on this campus, as well as the School of Engineering and the course of Geography (Institute of Social Sciences).

The campus is settled on a large green space and includes a set of facilities such as a general library, a specialised library on Architecture, a canteen, a grill, three bars, residences, a sports complex and a copy centre.



<https://www.icampi.uminho.pt/pt/Paginas/Where-is-on-campus.aspx>

Dates

18 July morning (arrival) to 29 July morning (departure).

Working language: English

Accommodation

Participants who choose Package A will be accommodated at the Halls Residence in Guimarães, which are located in the Campus Azurém. They are 5 minutes walking distance from the University and 20 minutes from the historical city centre of Guimarães.

Rooms are equipped with bathroom, telephone for internal calls and a small refrigerator.



The complex also has a snack bar and a self-service laundry (block G2), study rooms and computer room. The Sports Complex of Azurém is located only 50 meters from the University Residence.

MEALS AND FOOD

Portuguese Cooking

Like many aspects of Portuguese society and culture, Portuguese cooking is heavily influenced by the travels of the Portuguese people throughout the world, from India to Newfoundland. While the Mediterranean ingredients like olive oil, garlic, onions, lemons and bay leaves have an essential role in seasoning the main dishes, oriental spices and north sea cod are equally characteristic of the meals served in every home and restaurant.



The meat is seasoned with spices and often infused with wine, accompanied by potatoes, rice and vegetables, and there are some curious meat and shell-fish combinations. The soups of Portugal can be light and nutritious with vegetables and pulses, or made in a heavier country style with broad beans, kidney beans, chick peas or rice.

Meals

From Monday until Friday, all lunches will take place at the University Canteen. Participants may choose one of two available options (either meat/fish or vegetarian). Participants can also have soup, dessert and a glass of juice.

HEALTHCARE

In case of emergency, if you need to call an ambulance, the police or the fire department, you should dial the emergency number 112.

Pharmacies

In addition to the 24-Hour pharmacy service, most pharmacies in Guimarães are open during the week from 09h00 to 13h00 and from 15h00 to 19h00. On Saturday the opening hours are from 09h00 to 13h00. They are closed on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday.

Pharmacy located nearby Hall Residencies Azurém:

Farmácia Azurém

R. Pousada de Dentro 40, 4800-056 Guimarães farmaciaazurem.pai.pt

+351 253 518 576

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

-Bus Lines

Linha Cidade from the Train Station to the University. Buses circulate from 8h00 to 19h00 every 30 minutes during the week. Saturday, Sundays and Holidays from 08h00 to 18h30 every 30 min. Bus tickets cost 1,78 Euros/trip. For frequent users, further information on more economic prepaid cards can be provided upon arrival.

- Taxi

Guimarães is a small city and taxi fares for trips inside the city rarely exceed 5 Euros. There is a taxi stop at the entrance of the University campus. Taxis Guimarães - + 351 253 52 52 52
Permanent Service

- Walking

The city centre is about 15-20 minutes walking distance from the Campus of Azurém. Although Guimarães is a small and relatively safe city we advise you not to walk alone at night.

GET IN TO CAMPUS OF AZUREM

- GPS coordinates

Latitude: 41° 27' 6.85" N

Longitude: 8° 17' 33.19" W

- By car

Campus de Azurém

Alameda da Universidade

4800 - 058 Guimarães, Portugal

- By plane

The closest airport to the city of Guimarães is the Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport in Oporto, about 50 km away.

Should you wish to take a taxi from the airport to Guimarães, the journey takes approximately 40 minutes and the price ranges from 50 to 75 Euros.

You can also choose to take the subway line E (Violet line) to the train station. The stop-off is Campanhã, which gives direct access to the Railway Station, with the same name.

- By train

At the Station of São Bento (city centre) or Station of Campanhã (subway connection), located in the city of Porto, it is possible to catch a train to Guimarães. Visit the www.cp.pt portal where you can check the train schedules and available lines to Guimarães.

- By bus

GETBus is an express bus service that can bring you directly from the airport to the bus station in Guimarães. Information on timetable and prices is available at:

<http://getbus.eu/index.php?seccao=2&lang=en>

4. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1– ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINHO

Founded in 1973, the University of Minho (UMinho) started its academic activity in the academic year 1975/76 and it is nowadays one of the most important and prestigious Higher Education Institutions in Portugal.

Located in the North of Portugal, UMinho has a campus in the city of Braga and another in the city of Guimarães, covering a student population of around 19000, 40% of which are master or PhD students. The university has 1200 teaching and research staff and around 900 technical and administrative staff. An average of 500 research grant holders are involved in ongoing research projects at the university.

Today UMinho is renowned for the competence and quality of its faculty, for the level of excellence in research as well as the wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses offered and the remarkable degree of interaction with other institutions and the society in general. For these reasons, UMinho is a central actor in the region, an important reference for the country and a recognised partner at European and global level.



Rectorate of the University of Minho, Largo do Paço, Braga.

UMinho education and research projects have gained strong international recognition and are supported by a close interaction with many other research centres worldwide. The university is also focused on its environment, as it is involved in successful partnerships in the cultural and socio-economic fields.

Currently, UMinho offers 55 undergraduate and Integrated Master degrees, 130 Master Courses and 45 Doctoral programmes. More than 20 inter-institutional programmes at Master and Doctoral level are being developed including programmes with MIT, CMU and Harvard Universities and the collaboration with several universities in Europe, North America, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde and East-Timor.

The European Universities Association's External Evaluation Committee considered in a recent evaluation that "The University of Minho is a reference point in high-quality teaching and learning, not only for Portuguese universities, but also in Europe and, indeed, the whole world." Research is organized at UMinho in 31 Research Centres; 80% of its researchers are integrated in units ranked as Very Good or Excellent by international evaluation panels. UMinho research centres participate in State Associated Laboratories, in the fields of health sciences, nanomaterials, biomaterials and bioengineering. The European Institute of Excellence in Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine is a research unit of UMinho.

ANNEX 2 – ABOUT GUIMARÃES



Square St. James. Source: [Municipality of Guimarães](#)

Guimarães is a city with an outstanding historical past, associated to the foundation and identity of the Portuguese nationality, being proudly recognised as "Portugal's cradle". Its historical centre was classified by UNESCO, in 2001, as a World Heritage Site.

It is headquarters of a municipality with about 158 thousand inhabitants.

Museums, monuments, popular festivities, all contribute for the intense cultural dynamism of modern Guimarães attested by the title of European Capital of Culture in 2012.

Places to Visit

Guimarães' historical centre was considered World Heritage by UNESCO in 2001. The Castle, Paço dos Duques and the Toural square are among the most emblematic landmarks of the city.

Culture is also one of the strong points of Guimarães. Numerous infrastructures and cultural groups and activities were born in the city during the European Capital of Culture 2012. Among these the most visible are Centro Cultural de Vila Flor and Plataforma das Artes e Criatividade.

Guimarães also has its fair share of religious architecture and green spaces such as the Penha sanctuary that watches the city from above.

More information about Guimarães: <https://www.uminho.pt/EN/student-life/guimaraes/Pages/default.aspx>



Streets of Guimarães. Source: [Guimarães Turismo](#)

Climate

The climate of Guimarães is characterized by cool winters and moderate summers hot; the average minimum temperature of the coldest month varies between 2 and 5 ° C for verifying 10/15 to 30 days per year freezing temperatures. The average maximum temperature of the hottest months is from 23 to 32 ° C, verifying for 20 to 120 days per year maximum temperatures exceeding 25 ° C.

Hours trade and services

Time Trade: Monday to Friday: 9.00 am-13.00h / 15.00h-19.00h | Saturday: 9.00h-13.00h

Bank hours: Monday to Friday: 8.30 am-15.00

Post Office Time: Monday to Friday: 8.30 am-18.00

Time of Pharmacies: 24 hours

WIFI

To have internet access participants should connect the “Eduroam” network. Credentials will be provided upon arrival. ***Photos and Social Media***

School of Architecture:

<https://www.arquitectura.uminho.pt/pt/Escola/Conhecer/Paginas/galeria-imagens.aspx>

Municipality of Guimarães: <https://www.facebook.com/Municipio.Guimaraes/> Guimarães

Turismo: <https://www.facebook.com/GuimaraesTurismo/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vitor107/sets/1419542/>