Experience leading Dutch GeoDesign principles in Amsterdam, Utrecht, and Rotterdam.
Conduct research with international GeoDesign experts in the Netherlands and Los Angeles, and apply Dutch urban planning, geospatial technologies, and environmental design principles to address an LA-area societal challenge of your choice. Experience GeoDesign in practice as you visit Amsterdam, rich in diverse people, commerce, and land uses; the historic town of Utrecht with a long tradition of integrated housing densities, greenbelts, and bicycle paths; and Rotterdam, home to Europe’s largest port with cutting-edge architecture. Participate in a GeoDesign case study with faculty from Vrije University and USC. This field experience will provide you critical insights into addressing societal challenges, such as population growth, increasing urbanization and globalization, resource and land management, social inequities, and the likely impacts of climate change.


June 5 — June 9, self-directed research to develop and propose a GeoDesign strategy in Los Angeles County.

June 10 — June 24, field experience based in Amsterdam at The Student Hotel and Vrije University. Meet industry experts, scientists, practitioners, and participate in a GeoDesign case study to develop a water management plan in the Arnhem-Nijmegen region.

June 26 — June 30, USC campus: present capstone research projects.

GeoDesign is a forward-thinking, interdisciplinary framework that combines planning, design, and environmental systems with geospatial technologies to explore ways to build a better world. Europe is a region of the world that is particularly advanced in the integration of land management, transportation systems, ecological conservation, and high quality of life. The practice of GeoDesign in the Netherlands is centuries old, and the Dutch, in particular, have long been leaders in designing land uses to maximum efficiency while minimizing adverse environmental impacts. Land reclamation, alternative energy sources, and advanced transportation systems are hallmarks of Dutch ingenuity.

Dates: May 30 — June 30, 2017

Program Costs:
Tuition: $6,664
Airfare: $1,500
Additional expenses: $1200*
Total: $9,364

*Additional expenses include estimated costs for accommodations and personal expenses

Credit: This 4-unit credit course can be applied towards the GeoDesign major or the Spatial Studies minor

Funding: GeoDesign majors and other students with at least one Dornsife major may apply for Dornsife Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF). http://dornsife.usc.edu/surf

Contact: Dr. Darren Ruddell
Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
(druddell@usc.edu) for information or to request an application form

Apply: Applications are due no later than Friday, February 10, 2017