

# SYRIAN URBAN RESEARCH NETWORK

**Application  
Deadline :  
22.08.2016**

## **TRAVEL BURSARIES**

Interdisciplinary workshop at TU Berlin  
September 12 - 13, 2016

### **Background**

Since 2011, Syrian cities and urban areas are witnessing mass destruction due to the militarized conflict. Urbicide, which resonates to the shifting boundaries of territorial sovereignties, has not only damaged buildings and infrastructures, but has also changed the demographic structure of the population, introduced new local and external actors, affected tangible and intangible heritage, and produced a whole new set of spatial practices ranging from informality and encampment, to resistance, resilience and adaptive reuse. Amidst these turbulent processes and challenging situations, research stands as a key for understanding, reflecting and learning from this and other experiences. Foremost, it becomes a backdrop on which post-war narratives could be constructed.

In response, the Habitat Unit (Chair of International Urbanism and Design) at the School of Architecture in the Technische Universität Berlin, with the support of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)\* & the German Ministry of Exterior, is organizing a workshop to initiate the Syrian Urban Research Network (SURN) which will take place on September, 12-13, 2016 at the TU Berlin, Germany. The workshop is a first step towards creating a collaborative platform amongst Syrian students in the diaspora, academics and experts working on topics regarding urban issues in and about Syria. Our approach builds on interdisciplinary discourses on topics related to: resources (water-, land-, heritage management), urban informality, coping mechanisms, resilience, adaptive reuse, civil society empowerment, post-war scenarios and reconstruction strategies.

\*gefördert vom DAAD aus Mitteln des Auswärtigen Amtes



**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

**Habitat Unit**





## **Objectives and Expected Outcomes**

The SURN workshop will explore the academic research related to current spatial dynamics and the urban future of Syria, and will discuss initiatives of civil society aiming to reconstruct damaged areas and to support the affected communities. Through understanding the current situation, we are aiming at arriving to common values regarding Syria's urban future.

Knowing that a key challenge currently faced by researchers is how to conduct research on Syria from abroad, the main objective of the workshop is to connect students with researchers, experts and practitioners working on the field. The structure will combine presentations, panel discussions, interdisciplinary roundtables and thematic group work. Different lectures will be given by experts to draw on other positive and negative experiences of post-war reconstruction from cities like Berlin and Beirut. For that, visits to selected sites in Berlin will also take place.

The expected outcomes of the workshop are the creation of a network of academics working

on post-war reconstruction, encouragement of academic collaboration, establishment of a platform of exchange for ideas related to the topic and forging a common ground for further initiatives.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

Participants should:

- Be students or graduates at masters, phd and post-doc levels.

- Come from disciplines of Architecture, Urban Planning, Sociology, Engineering, History, Political Science, Law, Economics, or relevant fields.

- Have previous or current research related to topics targeting the urban situation in Syria such as resource management, urban informality, coping mechanisms, resilience, adaptive reuse, civil society empowerment, post-war scenarios and reconstruction strategies, are welcome to apply.

- Can be affiliated with NGOs focusing on civil society empowerment or resilience projects inside of Syria, or be individuals who have access to knowledge or data related to current projects / efforts in reconstruction in Syria.





We will be selecting up to 20 participants coming from these different disciplines. DAAD scholarship holders are highly encouraged to apply.

### **Costs**

The workshop covers accommodation costs from September 11-13, 2016 (3 nights). Transportation costs to and from Berlin will be reimbursed during the workshop upon presentation of tickets and invoices.

### **Application Requirements**

Eligible candidates must submit an application (in English) containing the following information:

- A Filled Application Form
- A concise CV (A4, max.2 pages)

Note that incomplete applications or those not meeting the submission criteria will not be reviewed.

Please send your applications as one single PDF document to the Habitat Unit at the following email address:  
[surn.team@gmail.com](mailto:surn.team@gmail.com)

Deadline for applications is August 22, 2016.

Results will be announced by August 26, 2016.

### **Contact:**

For more details and the results of the selection please contact:

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