



Governing Climate Risk: Research, Methods, and Action

Summer School for PhD Students

3 - 7 August 2026

Online sessions on 6, 8, 10, 13 and 15 July 2026

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
BERLIN • GERMANY

PROGRAMME

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Circle U.
European University Alliance

Course Information

The Summer School “Governing Climate Risk: Research, Methods, and Action” is organized as a blended format, with online sessions running on 6, 8, 10, 13 and 15 July 2026 and in situ classes in Berlin from 3 - 7 August 2026.

Governing Climate Risk is an intensive Circle U. doctoral summer school bringing together PhD researchers from across Europe to explore how climate risks are understood, assessed, researched, and acted upon in different disciplines and national contexts.

Grounded in the European Climate Risk Assessment – which identifies cascading risks across ecosystems, food, health, infrastructure and finance – the programme equips participants with the analytical tools and pedagogical skills needed to communicate climate risk clearly and to support decision-making in complex settings. Through workshops and methods training, participants learn to work with diverse forms of climate data, examine governance challenges, advance their own research projects, and translate technical thinking into accessible teaching for undergraduate learners.

A distinctive feature of the programme is the opportunity for doctoral researchers to work collaboratively across countries and disciplines, developing shared responses to the cross-border risks highlighted in European climate assessments.

Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme, participants will be able to:

- **Analyse climate-change risks using interdisciplinary frameworks**, deepening their understanding of both scientific and socio-political dimensions of risk.
- **Evaluate approaches to climate-risk mitigation, adaptation, and risk management**, comparing their effectiveness across different geographic and governance contexts.
- **Apply core principles of effective university teaching** by designing and delivering short learning activities suited to BA-level students.
- **Communicate complex research clearly and persuasively** through strengthened presentation, facilitation, and science-communication skills.
- **Select and employ appropriate research methods** for assessing climate risk, such as scenario analysis or qualitative risk appraisal.
- **Assess trade-offs and strategic options for decision-makers** by integrating scientific evidence, uncertainty, and ethical considerations.
- **Collaborate effectively across disciplines and countries**, working with peers from different academic backgrounds and Circle U. universities to co-produce knowledge and shared outputs.

Workload, Assessment and ECTS

The summer school corresponds to 49 face-to-face hours of academic classes (contact hours) and comprises 125 study hours in total (including reading, research, lesson planning etc.).

The portfolio is formative (assessed on a pass/fail basis). Successful participants will receive a Circle U. Certificate of Completion, Certificate Supplement and Transcript of Records (5 ECTS) issued by Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.



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ONLINE PHASE					
Day 1: MON 6 July 2026	Time	Room	Format	Topic	Lecturer(s)
	10:00 - 10:15	ZOOM		Check-In & Introductions This session will serve as the technical and social check-in for the online part of the Summer School. Students will be introduced to the main teaching tools as well as the core teaching team.	
	10:15 - 11:15	ZOOM		Breakout-Sessions: Meet your Fellow Students	
	11:15 - 12:30			BREAK	
	12:30 - 13:30	ZOOM	Lecture	Introduction: "What's at Risk?"	Dr. Hans Sanderson, AU
	13:30 - 14:30	ZOOM	Presentation	Introduction to EU Climate Risk Assessment report (https://www.eea.europa.eu/en)	EEA and PEER presentation (Jaromir Mysiak, CMCC), tbc
	14:30 - 16:30		offline	Set reading on "EU Climate Risk Assessment"	
Day 2: WED 8 July 2026	Time		Format	Topic	Lecturer(s)
	10:00 - 11:00	ZOOM	Lecture	Risk Cascade: Ecosystems	Prof. Marcel Robischon, HU
	11:00 - 11:15			BREAK	
	11:15 - 12:15	ZOOM	Lecture	Risk Cascade: Agriculture & Food Production	Prof. Marnik Vanclooster, UCL
	12:15 - 13:15			LUNCH BREAK	
	13:15 - 14:15	ZOOM	Lecture	Risk Cascade: Infrastructure & Heat	Prof. Xiaofeng Guo, UPC
	14:15-15:15	ZOOM	Lecture	Risk Cascade: Health	tba
	15:15 - 16:15		Independent Research	Review your risk area in the EUCRA report	
Day 3: FRI 10 July 2026	Time		Format	Topic	Lecturer(s)
	10:00 - 11:00	ZOOM	Lecture	Risk Cascade: Economy	tba from AU
	11:00 - 11:15			BREAK	
	11:15 - 12:15	ZOOM	Lecture	Risk Cascade: Geopolitical Conflict	Dr. Hillary Briffa, KCL
	12:15 - 13:15			LUNCH BREAK	
	13:15 - 16:15	ZOOM	Lecture	Introduction to Teaching In this session we will discuss i.a. learning goals, good leading questions as well as pedagogical and teaching methods.	Laura Schilow, HU
Day 4: MON 13 July 2026	Time		Format	Topic	Lecturer(s)
	10:00 - 11:00	ZOOM	Lecture	Introduction of the group presentation task Students will receive instructions for the group task.	Dr. Hans Sanderson, AU



	11:00 - 12:00	offline	Independent Research	What key frameworks and concepts have been published in the wider scholarly literature on your sub-chapter?	
	12:00 - 13:00			LUNCH BREAK	
	13:00 - 13:55	ZOOM	online	Cluster Discussion - Break-out Session on Sub-chapters	
	13:55 - 14:10			BREAK	
	14:10 - 15:00	ZOOM	online	Cluster Discussion - Break-out Session on Sub-chapters	
	15:00 - 15:15			BREAK	
	15:15 - 16:15			Lesson Planning: Designing a Session	Laura Schilow, HU
Day 5: WED 15 July 2026	Time		Format	Topic	Lecturer(s)
	10:00 - 10:30	ZOOM	Lecture	Introduction to the Presentation Task and Q&A	Dr. Hans Sanderson, AU
	10:30 - 11:30	ZOOM	Break-outs	Groupwork analysing sub-section	All
	11:30 - 11:45			BREAK	
	11:45 - 12:45	ZOOM	Break-outs	Groupwork analysing sub-section	All
	12:45 - 13:45			LUNCH BREAK	
	13:45 - 15:15	ZOOM	Lecture & discussion	Teaching an interdisciplinary, heterogeneous group	Laura Schilow, HU
	15:15 - 16:00	ZOOM	Discussion	Feedback & Preparation for <i>in-situ</i> phase Q&A for Berlin	Everyone
BERLIN SUMMER SCHOOL WEEK 3 - 7 August 2026					
Day 6: MON 03. Aug	Time	Room	Format	Topic	Lecturer(s)
	10:00 - 10:45	Senate Hall		Registration & Reception Student registration, Meet & Greet, Programs will be handed out, Coffee	HU Circle U. Team
	11:00 - 12:00	Senate Hall		Introduction to the Programme	HU Circle U. Team
	12:00 - 13:30			LUNCH BREAK	
	13:30 - 14:30	Senate Hall	Group Work	Clusters Prep Presentations	All
	14:30 - 15:00			BREAK	
	15:00 - 16:00	Senate Hall	Group Work	Clusters Prep Presentations	All
	18:00	Senate Hall	Welcome Event	Reception with Roundtable Discussion	tba
Day 7: TUE 04. Aug	Time	Room	Format	Topic	Lecturer(s)
	09:00 - 09:45	1066e	Debrief	Cluster risks - feedback	All
	09:45 - 10:00			BREAK	
	10:00 - 12:00	1066e	Workshop	Teaching Prep	Laura Schilow, all
	12:00 - 13:00			LUNCH BREAK	
	13:00 - 15:00	1066e		Teaching Practice	
	15:00 - 16:00	1066e		Teaching Feedback/ Debrief	All
Day 8: WED 05. Aug	Time	Room	Format	Topic	Lecturer(s)
	09:00 - 10:00	1066e	Workshop	Student Presentations	All
	10:00 - 11:00	1066e	Workshop	Student Presentations	All
	11:00 - 11:30			BREAK	
	11:30 - 12:30	1066e	Workshop	Student Presentations	All



	12:30 - 13:30		LUNCH		
	13:30 - 14:30	1066e	Workshop	Student Presentations	All
	14:30 - 15:30	1066e	Workshop	Student Presentations	All
	15:30 - 16:00	BREAK			
	16:00 - 17:00	1066e	Workshop	Student Presentations	All
	18.00		OPTIONAL	Social activities	
Day 9: THU	Time	Room	Format	Topic	Lecturer(s)
06. Aug	09:00 – 16:30		Excursion	tba	Prof. Marcel Robischon
Day 10: FRI	Time	Room	Format	Topic	Lecturer(s)
07. Aug	08:30 - 09:00		Briefing	PhD students set-up and prep for teaching	
	09:00 - 11:00	tba	Workshop	Teaching your cluster to the BAs	All
	11:00 - 11:30	BREAK & ROOM CHANGE			
	11:30 - 13:00	1066e	Workshop	Debriefing on teaching BAs	All
	13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK			
	14:00 - 15:00	Auditorium	Debriefing	Evaluation, Handing out of Certificates and Transcripts	Circle U. Team
	15:00		Departure		

Programme may be subject to change.

Students are advised to consult their local examination office and/or study advisor regarding course recognition in their study programme.

Introducing our Lecturers

Hillary Briffa is a Senior lecturer in National Security Studies at King's College London. She is also a founding member of the Centre for Grand Strategy, where she leads the Climate Change and International Order portfolio.

Xiaofeng Guo is Professor at the Faculty of Sciences, Université Paris Cité and an expert on energy engineering. He has worked on waste energy recovery for heating and cooling as well as on energy audit methods hybridizing big data with physics.

Hermann Lotze-Campen is an agricultural economist and Head of Research Department 2 "Climate Resilience" at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. He is also Professor of Sustainable Land Use and Climate Change at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Wendy Morel is based at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. She has worked in formal education in natural sciences in Mexico for more than 20 years and has developed and facilitated programmes and international teachers training in Education for Sustainable Development during the last ten years.

Marcel Robischon is a forest scientist, plant biologist and head of the Division of Agricultural Ecology at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. His scientific focus includes agricultural ecology and in particular developmental biology and ecology of woody plants. He is currently the Academic Director of Circle U's Climate Knowledge Hub.

Lilli Rupprechter is a PhD researcher in the Department of Geography at King's College London. Before joining King's, she spearheaded the development of national climate change communication strategies and researched risk perception of climate change within society at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) in Vienna.

Maeve Ryan is a Reader in History and Foreign Policy at the Department of War Studies at King's College London, where she co-directs the Centre for Grand Strategy.

Hans Sanderson chairs a center for climate services at Aarhus Universitet focusing on climate and transitional risks. His research interests range from sustainability, environmental risk analysis and climate risk assessment to international environmental policies.

Marnik Vanclooster is professor and the head of the Earth and Life Institute at Université catholique de Louvain. He develops research projects in the area of water resources engineering, agricultural water management and vadose zone hydrology.