

Professional Diploma in Urban Development

Information Packet 2025





The AUL is a research center at the African School of Economics-Zanzibar focused on rapid urbanization across Africa.

OUR WORK

RESEARCH

We conduct frontier research on African urbanization, currently focusing on four research clusters: Urban Expansion & the Periphery; Innovative Urban Governance; Urbanization & Industrialization; and Cities, Culture, & Technology.

TRAINING

We provide short trainings and capacity building programs to the current generation of city officials, urban planners, and municipal leaders.

EDUCATION

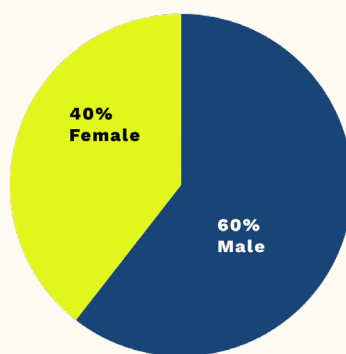
We provide longer-term educational programs to the next generation of city builders, planners, and urban leaders.

Professional Diploma in Urban Development

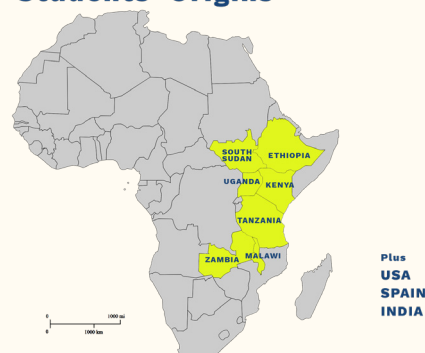
Cohort 2024-2025



Diploma Statistics

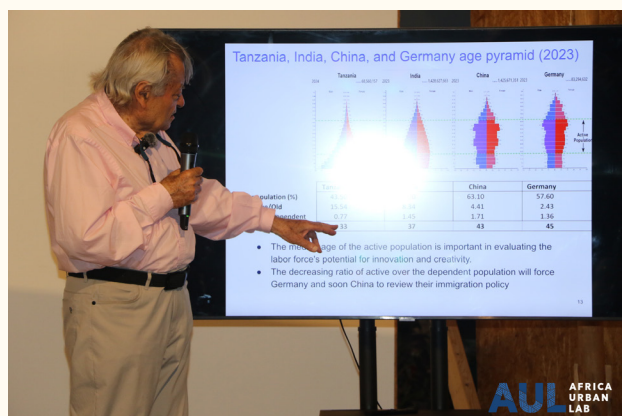


Students' Origins



Alain Bertaud at the Africa Urban Lab

World-renowned urbanist Alain Bertaud gave the inaugural Public Talk at the Africa Urban Lab on Nov. 22nd, 2024 Following the first week of instruction for the Professional Diploma.



Professional Diploma in Urban Development

Cohort 2025-2026

Applications are now open

www.aul.city/admissions

November 2025 Block One In person in Zanzibar	Module 1: Urban Economics Module 2: Urban Planning	Capstone Project Placement in a real-world organization. As part of the Capstone Project, participants will take part in short monthly online workshops to ensure core technical skills needed to complete the Capstone.
April 2026 Block Two In person in Zanzibar	Module 3: Urban Finance Module 4: Urban Governance	

Who can apply?

The diploma is oriented towards early- and mid-career professionals (2-4 years of professional experience). However, we encourage all applicants passionate about urban development and African cities apply.

Applications are open for the 2025 - 2026 Cohort.
Begin your application process [here](#).

Program Fees

Price for the full professional diploma: \$4,500 USD

Price for an individual course: \$1,500 USD

Scholarships are awarded based on merit and need. Scholarships will only be available for those applying for the full Professional Diploma.

Admission to this program is based on merit. The application process requires submission of an updated CV, a persuasive cover letter or essay, and an academic or professional reference. Upon reviewing the application, the admissions team will reach out to all applicants with the final results. Participants receive a certificate for each completed module within the diploma and a full diploma degree upon completion of all the modules.

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Cohort 2025-2026

Capstone

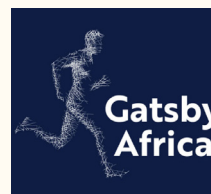
The AUL is focused on equipping students with applicable skills by challenging them with real-world problems. The Capstone Project is a professional immersion program that allows participants to put the knowledge they've learned in the classroom into practice.

Student groups are embedded within relevant organizations and tasked with leading a substantive urban development project. The AUL team matches students with a Capstone Project that aligns with their capacities and professional aspirations. The duration of the placement is five months. During this time, students also participate in technical workshops led by AUL staff to help them build the skills needed to complete their Capstone Project.

Capstone Goals

1. Build the participant's technical and interpersonal capacity to lead urban development projects on the continent.
2. Build a network of knowledge exchange between participants completing Capstone Projects, government agencies focused on urbanization, private sector actors working on urban development, and urban labs across the continent (including the AUL).
3. Develop real-world urban development expertise.

Capstone Partners



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Cohort 2025–2026

Lecturers



Dr. Patrick Lamson-Hall
Research Lead
Africa Urban Lab



Nuria Forqués Puigcerver
Co-founder and Principal Urban
Designer, Fitted Projects



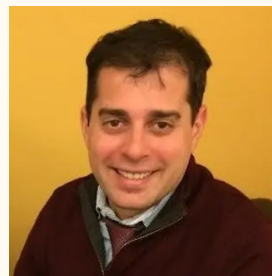
Kurtis Lockhart
Founder & Director
Africa Urban Lab



Heba Elhanafy
Researcher
Africa Urban Lab



Astrid Haas
Urban Economist



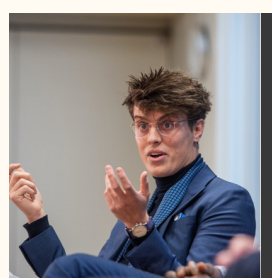
Dr. Jeremy Gorelick
Senior Advisor,
Urban Infrastructure
Finance



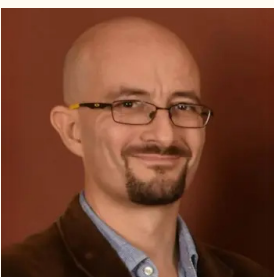
Victoria Delbridge
Head of Cities That Work
Initiative, International
Growth Centre



Juliana Oliveira-Cunha
Policy Economist, International
Growth Centre



Oliver Harman
Cities Economist, International
Growth Centre



Prof. Matthew McCartney
Head of Research,
Africa Urban Lab

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Cohort 2025-2026

Scholarships

The Africa Urban Lab is committed to ensuring our academic programs are accessible to all high-achieving applicants, regardless of income level or socio-economic background. This dedication enriches the learning environment, promotes accessibility, and bolsters academic excellence. All scholarships awarded by the AUL will be based on both merit and need. Scholarships are available exclusively for the full professional diploma program. Individuals enrolling in standalone courses are required to cover the costs themselves.

There is no separate application process for scholarships. Once you submit your diploma application, the AUL staff will assess your eligibility for a scholarship.

MAARIFA SCHOLARSHIP (African scholars)	<p>This scholarship is dedicated to early-career professionals normally residing in Africa who work in both private and public African institutions and demonstrate excellence, leadership, and unique talents.</p> <p>This scholarship will cover tuition fees, airfare, and accommodation.</p>
MASHARIKI SCHOLARSHIPS (East African Scholars)	<p>This scholarship is dedicated to early-career professionals normally residing in East Africa who work in both private and public institutions and demonstrate excellence, leadership, and unique talents.</p> <p>This scholarship will cover tuition fees, airfare, and accommodation.</p>
ZANZIBAR SCHOLARSHIPS	<p>In cooperation with local governmental and non-governmental institutions in Zanzibar, AUL offers scholarships to outstanding early-career professionals who are normally residing in Zanzibar and work in public or private Zanzibari institutions.</p> <p>Candidates must be nominated by their respective institutions to qualify for this scholarship.</p> <p>This scholarship will cover tuition fees.</p>
MAFUNZO SCHOLARSHIPS (Tuition only scholarships)	<p>The Mafunzo scholarship is dedicated to excellent early-career professionals normally residing in Africa and working in African and non-African institutions.</p> <p>This scholarship will cover tuition fees only.</p>
MAISHA SCHOLARSHIPS (Partial living expenses and tuition scholarships)	<p>The Maisha scholarship is dedicated to excellent early-career professionals normally residing in Africa and working in African and non-African institutions.</p> <p>This scholarship will cover 30% to 70% of the total tuition fees and living expenses.</p>

AUL AFRICA URBAN LAB

Empowering the African City Builders of Tomorrow

www.aul.city

   **Africa Urban Lab**

