

# Master in Design for Resilience



How can we approach the  
world's issues with resilience?

# Master in Design for Resilience

Start date  
September

ECTS credits  
60

Course duration  
400 hours

Language  
English

Degree  
Master's Degree in Design for Resilience, awarded by Universitat de Vic – Universitat Central de Catalunya (UVic –UCC).

Schedule  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday afternoons.

Directors  
Amaia Celaya  
Carmen Malvar

Admission Requirements  
Official university degree or equivalent in design, engineering, architecture or art.

If you have doubts about whether you would be a good fit for this programme, please submit your request for a case-by-case evaluation.

## Welcome to design for resilience

Designers can be natural agents for change and advancement in the current global scenario. We propose to work on a #resilient design, understanding our role as designers as part of a choral process that seeks to transform our world into a better world for everyone.

How can design improve people's lives from a resilience-based approach? How can innovation help our products, services, cities, and environment resist and endure the challenges they need to face healthily and consciously? How can design transform our reality for the better from environmental awareness and activism? How can we ideate long-lasting, enduring designs? How can design contribute to a fairer and more ethical society based on global knowledge and, at the same time, support grassroots initiatives? What is resilient design, then?

### The resilience equation (P + P + P + R)

A resilient design is an equation. People / Planet and Prosperity or, in other words, social, environmental and financial. This derives from the logical framework of the 1987 concept of sustainability. The R stands for Risk, and together they form the resilience equation.

A resilient design is adaptive and flexible and incorporates uncertainty as a source of opportunity. It can change, adapt, and evolve through time and adjust itself, turning crises into opportunities. Nature-based solutions are embedded in these adaptable solutions, learning from nature strategies.

A resilient design is absorptive and robust. It is prepared, anticipating potential future impacts while finding different ways to achieve its goals in the event of a negative situation. The resilient design process implements mechanisms to succeed in the face of changing context and project requirements.

A resilient design is accurate and evidence-based. Gathering the relevant data and ensuring its traceability is essential to building resilience. We cannot measure what we don't know, nor can we improve what we don't measure. Resilience must find a way to be tackled and measured.

A resilient design is iterative and innovative. It fosters innovation through a learning process that generates positive changes and transformations. The concept of circularity must be explored and applied, looking for 0 waste solutions from a holistic feedback process approach.

A resilient design is inclusive, leaving no one behind. It specifically focuses on people in vulnerable situations incorporating traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices with new technologies. Resilient design is feminist and does not perpetuate the status quo: fighting at all times for gender justice and women and youth empowerment. Resilient development brings unusual suspects to the table, creating new and improbable connections.

The skills of a resilient designer are curiosity, empathy, and humility: The curiosity about the environment and the changing reality that surrounds us, the humility to understand ourselves as part of a large-scale systemic process, full of small incremental changes, and the empathy to embrace a pioneering approach that incorporates different needs and sensitivities.

## Programme

### 1. Foundation, approach and scales of resilience

We will identify and understand the main concepts on which resilience is based to develop maximum impact designs. This block offers content on the fundamentals of the resilience concept, its principles, dimensions and characteristics, fostering a debate on the idea itself, its origin and development through different disciplines in recent years.

### 2. Design from a strategy for resilience

We will learn to develop specific capacities for a resilient design, which allows relevant, transformative solutions. We will create strategies that incorporate socio-climatic risks and impacts with cultural and economic components. This block focuses on issues related to eco-design, from a focus on rights for people in vulnerable situations, with adaptive and mitigating strategies, and with climate action. We will study the potential of remediation and eco-systemic recovery strategies, seeking positive impacts beyond neutrality, always counting on the beneficiary and end-user.

### 3. Tools, methodologies and processes

We will develop specific adaptive and agile management capabilities, understanding the need for iterative review and subsequent adjustments, from collaborative and empathic leadership techniques. We will learn about tools, standards and processes associated with designs that generate and develop resilience with different methodologies and practices based on real experiences. This block focuses on learning dynamics that explore adaptive and flexible management and implementation concepts, seeking maximum practicality without giving up the project's key objectives. We will also work on contemporary and disruptive

approaches and empathy methodologies, establishing the bases for developing projects from a real collaboration and co-production with other disciplines, promoters, clients and end-users.

#### 4. Collaborative workshops

We will incorporate the contents learned into real situations at various scales and from the critical approaches in each case. We will participate in a micro design workshop to learn how to impact the minimum possible resources, incorporating content on ongoing proposals from grassroots communities. We will hold another seminar around the intermediate scale of the domestic and living to understand our day-to-day dynamics. And finally, we will learn innovative solutions on an urban and territorial level, focusing on international cooperation and innovation.

#### 5. Final Master Thesis

The final project is the best opportunity to synthesise all the learnings of the Master. We will obtain the right tools and knowledge to define and solve problems innovatively and collaboratively from the perspective of resilience.

## Methodology

The methodology will be based on a learning-by-doing approach, working on projects, studying cases and sharing knowledge with peers and professors. Exercises, class debates and the final project will be the three main pillars on which this Master course will be based.

The Master in Design for Resilience will aim:

- To identify and understand the main concepts on resilience to develop designs with maximum impact on the matter.
- To know the primary contexts and approaches in which resilience is developed.
- To develop specific capacities for a resilient design, which allows relevant and high-impact solutions for positive transformation.
- To develop specific adaptive and agile management skills, understanding the need for iterative review and subsequent adjustments from collaborative and empathic leadership techniques.
- To incorporate the contents learned into real situations on various scales.
- To successfully implement new initiatives that solve relevant problems and needs, focusing on resilience.

## Values

### Learning and understanding

We will aim to understand the transformative capacity of design –incorporating uncertainty and risk in the analysis– and the contexts (geographical, spatial, functional, organisational or governance) in which a project is developed.

### Reformulating design

We want you to imagine a better world thanks to the designer community's work and act as agents of change who turn problems into opportunities; to be able to adopt different adaptive and agile design management methods, techniques, and tools.

### Working together

Working in a team, understanding motivations and roles, and developing innovative initiatives in uncertain environments is essential for this programme. We want you to manage and lead multidisciplinary work teams based on the principles of empathy and collaboration and develop and apply skills for autonomy and entrepreneurship transformative actions.

## The experience

### Mentoring

Active mentoring of the student during the duration of the master, to optimise your evolution and professional interests.

### Hands-on workshops

The workshops are experimental, hands-on and promote the creative development of the projects focusing on the subject matter of the specific module.

### Career opportunities

You will be able to act as an agent of change for transformation and resilience linked to design as:

- Entrepreneur.
- Consultant specialised in innovation and resilience in its climatic and social spheres, working on organisations such as public administrations, large corporations, associations or non-profit entities and SMEs.
- Reviewer and manager of practices and proposals for resilience in City Councils, municipalities or companies, as Head of programmes and projects, including those related to corporate social responsibility.

## Team

### Directors

#### AMAIA CELAYA

Amaia is an architect with experience in design, urban planning and international humanitarian action. Expert in models of resilience and risk management, as well as in sustainability and climate action issues. Before joining as an expert at the United Nations (UN-Habitat), she worked in the private sector for more than 20 years, leading her architecture and urban planning studio. She has also worked in the Emergency Response Unit of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO). Expert/evaluator for the Horizon 2020, CORDIS, UIA (Urban Innovative Actions) programs of the European Commission in resilience, safe societies and nature-based solutions since 2015. She is also an expert in the Technical Committee ISO / TC 292 - Security and resilience.

#### CARMEN MALVAR

Carmen holds a B.S. in Design at the School of Arts and Crafts of Santiago de Compostela, Architect by Pratt Institute New York (with honours), PhD in Social Design in Arts and Humanities at Southampton University, UK (Vice-Chancellor Award). Her thesis on Social Design strategies developed in Mexico has been the origin of the CADA foundation, a platform for reinforcing cultural heritage through design and selected by the Swiss Design Network under the theme Design for Common Good together with India and Egypt. Carmen regularly works as a consultant and speaker for various institutions, local governments, foundations, corporations, and academia.

### Professors

MIQUEL CARRILLO, Chemical engineer, member of Engineering Without Borders, the Catalan Council for Cooperation and the Peace Promotion Council, as well as a member of the board of the NGDO State Coordinator. He has worked in international cooperation for more than 25 years.

CURRO CLARET, Industrial designer. His design can be considered social since it is a tool to generate inclusion, collaboration, and co-design with groups of people in fragile situations.

MIQUEL CORRAL, Collaborator at the Department of Information Systems Architecture of the Municipal Institute of Informatics of Barcelona, and since 2013 developing graphical profiles of resilience from data modelling with UN-Habitat.

JORDI CORTÉS, Sociologist and political scientist, specialises in International Relations and Cooperation. Head of Direct

Cooperation Projects of the Ajuntament de Barcelona.

ANDREU GATUELLAS, Psychologist, team coach, cognitive neuroscience researcher, emotional intelligence specialist, trainer and lecturer.

CRISTINA GONZÁLEZ GRACIANTEPARALUCETA, Psychologist with extensive experience in the humanitarian sector (UNICEF) and human resources management. Intelligence culture and leadership skills specialist.

RICARDO GUASCH, Researcher and team member responsible for Elisava's "Decoding Well-Being" line of research. His areas of knowledge are interior design, user-focused design, housing, workspace and hospitality.

DANIEL LEWIS, Consultant and advisor at the UN and other academic organisations in the UK, Turkey, Burma, Australia and Canada. He has managed the global portfolio of Disaster and Conflict Work for UN-Habitat from 2002 to 2017.

MARTA LEBOREIRO, Architect specialised in managing and coordinating housing solutions and human settlements in emergency and transition situations for the displaced population with a view to lasting solutions. International experience in NGOs and the UN in natural disasters, conflicts, and complex crises. Inter-agency Shelter & Humanitarian Transportation Coordinator (IOM).

LOBELIA by IsardSat team, Experts in Earth observation data and climate projections to assess vulnerabilities, risks and opportunities associated with different climate scenarios for particular cases and regions of interest.

JORDI MORATÓ is a Doctor in microbiology with 20 years of experience in research, education and management of sustainable human development projects related to resources, circular economy and participatory community development.

BRAULIO MORERA, Director of 50L Home Coalition, jointly coordinated by 2030WRG, WEF and WBCSD. Before joining WBCSD, he was the Director of Strategy Delivery at 100 Resilient Cities and an Associate at Arup International Development. He

has substantial experience supporting cities in creating strategic plans, coordinating complex urban projects, and fieldwork-based research.

MARTINA NADAL, Designer and communication expert. Head of Social Impact at Domestic Data Streamers, leading international projects and accounts with UN agencies, NGOs and cultural institutions like communication campaigns, exhibitions, participatory tools and creative consultancies.

NIKOLAY NIKOLAIEV, Analyst and strategist, currently works in the Department of Architecture of the Republic of Sakha (Russia). His specialisation is the governance of scientific cities, space exploration and international development. TEAM N'UNDO, group of architects that re-architecture intervening in the territory and the city from no construction, minimising, reusing, and dismantling.

MÓNICA SANS, Leader of the Awasuka Programme since 2015, is dedicated to improving the habitat in rural Nepal and is interested in music as a channel for the dissemination of healthy habits in rural communities.

SÉBASTIEN THOMAS, Head of the resilience team at Oxfam Intermon from 2015 to 2021, coordinator of the climate change team and resilience for Oxfam Intermon since 2021, Lead of the Oxfam International Resilience Knowledge Hub.

NICOLA TOLLIN, Professor with special responsibilities in Urban Resilience at the University of Southern Denmark. Executive Director of RESURBE, International Program on Urban Resilience.

GRETA TRESSERRA, Architect and urban planner, specialises in sustainable development and international cooperation. Extensive experience using materials with a low ecological footprint, such as bamboo. Twelve years of international career, in Germany, Kenya or Colombia.

MIGUEL URQUIA, Emergency Shelter Coordinator at UNHCR from Geneva (Switzerland), supports clusters at the national level in Syria, Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other countries.

## WHY GO BEYOND?

→ You can find out more about the Master in Design for Resilience at [mastersbeyond.elisava.net](https://mastersbeyond.elisava.net)

- If you are a Bold Category Member of Elisava's Alumni Association, you may enjoy a 15% discount on our Master's tuition.
- There may be some changes to the faculty for reasons beyond the course programme.
- Elisava will make the necessary and appropriate changes in the programme or, in exceptional circumstances, cancel the programme altogether if the course has not reached the minimum number of students to ensure its proper functioning two weeks before its initiation. Elisava will only refund the amounts already paid by the students.
- According to their specific necessities, the Master schedules may include additional hours, including during the weekend.