



Europe Sustainability Field School

May 7 – June 11, 2026

University of Victoria Department of Geography

General Information

The **Europe Sustainability Field School** provides unique experiential education opportunities for UVic students. This **travel-study program** focuses on the cutting-edge **sustainability** efforts of cities in Northern Europe.

The **benefits** of getting out of the classroom to learn in the field include: personal growth, expanded worldview, and enhanced career opportunities. In 2025 we are offering an exciting **4-week itinerary** that includes cities in **Norway, Sweden, Denmark** and **Germany**. En route, students will meet with urban planners, community leaders, scholars, and other engaged individuals who are grappling with the challenges of building socially and ecologically sustainable and resilient cities. Students travel by train, bus, ferry, bike, and local transit to various sites of interest. Hostel or equivalent affordable accommodation is arranged. Most days involve guided field trips, hands-on workshops, and engaging discussions while ensuring time available for individual exploration.

Topics of study include: climate adaptation, inclusive community building, urban planning, ecological restoration & resilience, green building, walkable and bikeable cities, public placemaking, alternative economies, social change; cultural, historical, and political geography of Northern Europe

Eligibility

To be eligible for the program you must be a UVic student that has completed their first year of study and be able to register in 300-level Geography courses, or be granted special permission from the field school instructor: Cam Owens (camo@uvic.ca). Non-Geography students are encouraged to apply. Priority will be given to students with interest in the subject matter – urban sustainability.

Application

The application form is available on the UVic Geography website [here](#). Applications with a deposit of \$1000 are due by Thurs, Nov 27. *Early applications are looked upon favourably.*

If you have any further **questions** about applying after reading the information in this package, please email geoginfo@uvic.ca. For questions about the program itself, contact Cam Owens Camo@uvic.ca



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Courses

Students register in **both** of the classes below. Each course is worth 1.5 credits for a total of 3.0 credits. Successful applicants will be registered in these courses through special registration by the Department of Geography and do not need to register themselves.

COURSE OVERVIEWS:

Geography 388 – Regional Studies: Europe

Instructor: Cameron Owens

May 07 – June 11

Overview: This course, delivered as part of an off-campus travel study program, focuses on the regional geography of Europe attending in an engaging, experiential way to physical, historical, cultural, and political elements of the region with a focus on human/environment relationships. The course complements and must be taken in association with Geog 317.

Geography 317 – Field Studies in Sustainable Communities

Instructor: Cameron Owens

May 07- June 11

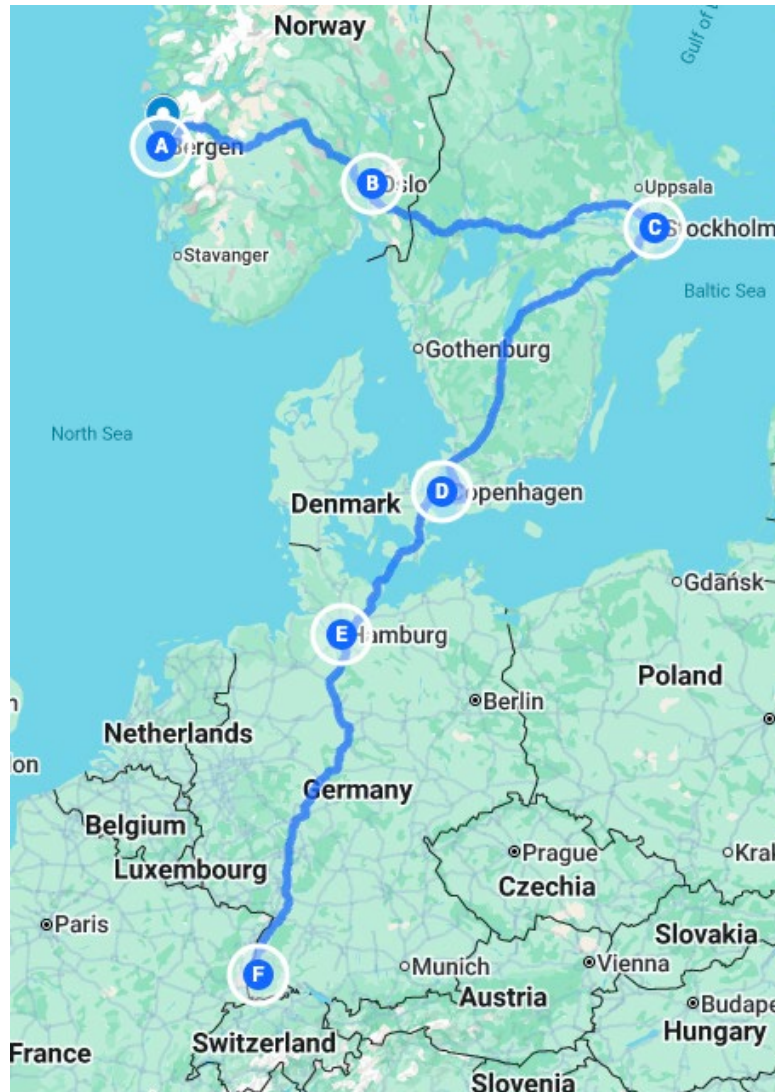
Overview: This course, delivered as part of an off-campus travel study program, focuses on sustainable community development. Students will learn in an engaging, experiential format about efforts to address social, economic, and ecological concerns facing contemporary communities. The course complements and must be taken in association with Geog 388.

Proposed Itinerary

Dates	Location
May 7-13	Pre-departure program at UVic
May 14-15	Pack, prepare, and depart Canada for Europe
May 16-24	Norway: Bergen & Oslo
May 25-29	Sweden: Stockholm
May 30 – Jun 3	Denmark: Copenhagen
Jun 4-11	Germany: Hamburg & Freiburg
Jun 12	Travel home or onwards

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2025 Field School Itinerary



Fees and Financial Support

Fees:

Students pay **regular UVic tuition** and a **field school program fee**.

The field school program fee can be paid by **cheque, money order, counter cheque, or cash ONLY**. Cheques should be made payable to the University of Victoria. Payment can be dropped off at the Geography main office (David Turpin Building room B203), or mailed (cheque only). **DO NOT MAIL CASH**.

The field school program fee is \$4100

- **\$1000 deposit** paid at time of application (**due Thurs, Nov 27th, 2025**)
- **\$3000** paid by **Thurs, Feb 12th, 2026**

It includes:

- All accommodations (usually includes breakfast) during the travel study part of the field program
- Activity costs (entry admissions, guided tours, workshop & presenters' fees)
- Ground transportation (e.g. train, local transit, ferry, bike rentals)
- Emergency contingency fund

It does not include:

- Tuition (paid separately to the registrar)
- Airfare (to allow students flexibility in terms of travel plans)
- Other expenses: e.g. meals (apart from breakfast), entertainment, travel insurance (if you need coverage beyond your UVSS plan)

Please note the following **refund policy**. After February 12th, if a student is no longer able to participate in the program, we cannot guarantee a refund. If a replacement cannot be found, we will retain the \$1,000 deposit and potentially additional amounts. This is because we are required to pay for certain expenses, such as accommodation and transportation, in advance, and these payments may not be refundable by the vendors.

Financial Support:

Students are encouraged to explore funding opportunities for example at the [Undergraduate Scholarships & Funding page](#): or through [UVic International](#).