

**TRAVEL GRANTS**  
**to the South**

Summer Internship  
Paraguay – Global Minds  
(deadline 6th MARCH 2025)

Project in Paraguay: 6 weeks starting  
July to mid August 2025

This 2025 VLIR-OUS project,  
planned for 4 students (min. 2) in  
the summer of 2025 will focus on  
Sustainability, inclusivity and  
ecology in the Asunción Port Area,  
Paraguay

For more info:  
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& <https://www.collectivespaces-kuleuven.be/>  
Website:  
DEADLINE 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025

**PARAGUAY**  
**CALL FOR STUDENTS**

**Sustainable and inclusive urban redevelopment in  
the Asunción Port Area, Paraguay**

UDi  
Centro de Investigación  
Desarrollo e Innovación  
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# Travel grants to the South – PARAGUAY CALL FOR STUDENTS

## Sustainable and inclusive urban redevelopment in the Asunción Port Area, Paraguay

Promoters: prof. Yves Schoonjans (KU Leuven) & prof. Juan Cristaldo (CIDi, Facultad de Arquitectura, Diseño y Arte -Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Paraguay)

**Planned period of stay in Asunción, Paraguay: 6 weeks, from the beginning of July to mid-August 2025**

**Call for 4 students in Architecture or Urban Planning & Spatial Design (minimum 2 participants required)**

This VLIR-UOS project will focus on the relationship of cities with their water fronts, how it has deteriorated along with relatively recent accelerated expansion processes and possible interventions in search of sustainable and resilient responses.

### **Context:**

The waterfront of Asunción, the capital of Paraguay, and its metropolitan area are undergoing territorial changes associated with the development of road and energy infrastructure, which has promoted the

establishment of industries and ports along its extension. Simultaneously, this area is experiencing significant social transformations characterized by stark inequalities: on one hand, the rise of exclusive real estate developments creating gated communities for high-income groups, and on the other, the expansion of informal settlements in environmentally sensitive areas such as the wetlands of the Paraguay River.

These territorial dynamics are particularly critical in two ways. First, the transformation and destruction of wetlands through hydraulic fill (refulado) to create "flood-free" land; and second, the privatization of riverbanks, blocking public access to the river and wetlands, without any urban planning or design to ensure public access to the waterfront.

In light of these often uncoordinated and thoughtless transformations, it is urgent to identify and study areas with potential to foster sustainable, just and resilient urban densification. In this context, researchers at CIDI FADA UNA hypothesize that the area between the Port of Asunción and Ita Pyta Punta (depicted in the image below) holds highly favorable conditions (social and ecological) for urban renewal and sustainable densification.

This area can be subdivided into two distinct segments. Subsection 1 expands from the Port of Asunción to the Calera-Kué Plant of Petropar (approximately 1300 meters, mainly along De Las Residentas Street). This area has significant potential for introducing new urban uses, increasing population density, and enhancing public access to the river, while avoiding negative impacts on wetlands and repurposing largely obsolete industrial facilities; and Subsection 2: From the Calera-Kué Plant of Petropar to Ita Pyta Punta. This area is characterized by informal settlements along the Paraguay River's bank, making it particularly suitable for projects aimed at neighborhood consolidation and improvement, alongside landscaping initiatives to strengthen public spaces and highlight the area's natural potential.



The following map depicts the proposed study area for this internship. The highlighted area is divided in two segments: Subsection (1) Ita Pyta Punta and Subsection (2) The Port of Asunción



*A combination of industrial and port infrastructure contrasts sharply with precarious and vulnerable settlements observed in the described study area*

### **Main goals:**

The proposed internship - a continuation of previously joint academic efforts developed by CIDI FADA and KU Leuven - will focus on analyzing these areas and addressing the complex urban-environmental and social challenges faced by contemporary Paraguayan society. Additionally, preliminary proposals will be developed for each subsection.

Key aspects of the internship include:

1. Site visits to experience the urban, social and environmental characteristics of the study area in both subsections.
2. Site analysis using urban mapping tools based on open-source software and GIS methods with platforms such as OpenStreetMap, QGIS, Mapillary, and OpenAerialMap. Prior knowledge of these tools is desirable but not required.
3. Proposal Development: Exploring ideas and models for urban redevelopment in Subsection 1, and designing projects for inclusive urban consolidation and public space enhancement in Subsection 2.

### **Main Objectives**

- Understand the urban, environmental, and social conditions of both subsections through remote and on-site mapping.
- Produce graphic outputs (maps, diagrams, physical models) and short academic texts about the territory.
- Propose preliminary ideas for sustainable and inclusive urban redevelopment in both subsections.

### **Specific Tasks**

- Conduct site visits and mapping activities.
- Learn mapping methods and develop alternative mapping strategies with the CIDI FADA UNA team & the research group “Collective Spaces and Local Identities” with peers in Paraguay.

- Develop an interpretation of the analyzed sites based on field experience and mapping.
- Design proposals for sustainable and inclusive urban redevelopment of both subsections.

#### **Expected Outcomes**

- Short essays and analysis maps, that elaborate an interpretation of the analyzed sites based on field experience and mapping.
- Design proposals exploring different density and typology scenarios in both subsections.

The internship outputs will be included in the research project *"PINV01-1264: Study of the Potential for Urban, Social, and Economic Development of the Area between the Port of Asunción and Ita Pyta Punta"*, jointly developed by the Center for Research, Development, and Innovation (CIDI) at the Faculty of Architecture, Design, and Arts of the National University of Asunción and the research group "Collective Spaces and Local Identities" at KU Leuven.

#### **More information about CIDI:**

Website: <https://cidifada.com/>

Instagram: @digidifada

Email: [secretaria@cidi.fada.una.py](mailto:secretaria@cidi.fada.una.py)

**More information:** [yves.schoonjans@kuleuven.be](mailto:yves.schoonjans@kuleuven.be)

More info on the grant (we will help you in your application): <https://www.kuleuven.be/global/going-abroad/outgoingstudentmobility/traineeshipgrants>

#### **Applications:**

Who can apply: students from 3<sup>rd</sup> bachelor and 1<sup>st</sup> master in Architecture / Architectuur @ students from 1<sup>st</sup> master in Urbanism and Spatial Planning

Mail to [yves.schoonjans@kuleuven.be](mailto:yves.schoonjans@kuleuven.be) & [nele.demeyere@kuleuven.be](mailto:nele.demeyere@kuleuven.be) with

- Motivationsletter: 1 page
- Short cv, including international experience (if so) and language skills
- Grades of last year and semester 1 2024-2025

Deadline: 1<sup>th</sup> of MARCH 2025 application at the Faculty of Architecture

After the first selection, the selected will be giving information on the next steps.

Yves Schoonjans, dean of the faculty of Architecture