

A cross-city comparison of strategies for better urban futures

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Scenarios reveal the visions, hopes, and desires of citizens. The [Scenarios Working Group](#) has conducted scenario workshops in the nine cities of the UREx network where participants built over 40 distinct visions for the future of their communities emphasizing resilience to heat, flood, drought, equity, transportation, safety, and more. Through this process, participants identified hundreds of strategies to build a more desirable future that range from increasing greenspace to empowering citizenship. Therefore, there is an opportunity to compare and analyze the strategies featured in each of the scenarios to understand what are commonalities and differences across the nine cities. Given the scope of the data, this analysis will further reveal fundamental values on how we view the cities of the 21st century.

The student (who has not been selected) will code strategies for each of the scenarios following a rubric developed by Berbes-Blázquez and Kim and perform statistical analysis of the results. Given the scope of the project (~800 strategies) we expect that this would take the majority of the student's time. Mentors will prepare the student for this analysis by providing literature (two or three papers) prior to the start of the program, and will discuss the literature with the student at the outset. The student will be assigned a research question based on his/her interests that can be answered within the context of the broader analysis (for example, how do hot, dry cities compare with wet cities in their strategies for conserving water?), and will develop a short (two-page) proposal outlining the background, question, hypotheses, research approach, and statistical tests to be done. This will allow the REU student to experience 1) how to concisely articulate a research question and hypotheses, 2) how to code qualitative data, 3) how to run statistical tests on such data, and 4) presenting research to peers.