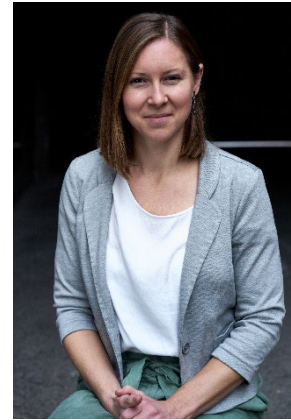


CAROLIN KRUSE

Country of origin: Germany
Programme: Master of Transportation Sciences
by distance learning
Graduated: 2020



With a master's degree in Business Management, Carolin eagerly took the initiative to complement her knowledge by studying the Transportation Sciences master programme at UHasselt. She proudly graduated as a distance learner student in 2020. During her studies, she worked as a Transportation Research Assistant at the Technical University of Berlin and as a transportation freelancer, particularly interested in cycling. Since the end of 2020, she is the co-founder of the AEM Institute which shapes equitable and accessible mobility through consulting, education and research. Her diverse background and experience facilitate the path for various questions.

What was your main motivation to shift from business management to mobility management?

Mobility in cities concerns everyone. As commuting is an inevitable daily need, I decided to start working again in the mobility field as a freelancer in 2014, and surprisingly, I found a lot of interesting projects. The skills gained as a business manager helped me in terms of project management and furthermore understanding mobility organisations.

What made you decide to pursue education at UHasselt?

Since finishing my first master's degree in 2012, I always felt that my academic path had not ended yet, so I searched for opportunities in further education. After many years working in the field of mobility as a "career changer", I felt that it was the right time to get a good overview of this field so I could evaluate which path in mobility I wanted to follow in the future. With time, I was lucky enough to find this master programme and I mainly liked it due to its flexibility. In addition, it was a great opportunity for exchanging knowledge with lecturers and future colleagues.

How did you see the "new" degree fitting into your career goals?

I found doing the degree was

very helpful. It showed me which future career goals I can have. Moreover, I find it valuable to do something good with my work so I can give people better opportunities to commute and improve their health.

Can you distinguish one course that shaped your thinking about transportation as a future professional?

I can still remember the course of 'Environmental Economic Assessment'. Since I was already experienced in the field of sustainable transport, I had an overall understanding of their positive impacts. Nevertheless, my knowledge was not deep enough as I lacked information of tools which could derive high benefits, for instance, cycling.

How would you describe your experience at Hasselt University in three words?

It is not easy defining the whole experience with three simple words however I would outline it as bundled, distant and friendly.

You have already gained a lot of experience as a mobility consultant. What does a typical working day of yours look like?

Especially during the Covid-19 pandemic there are a lot of online meetings, e-mails, project works, acquisition of new projects and a lot of take-in knowledge through colleagues, networks and articles. The mobility market is shaping very fast lately, hence it is easy to miss a relevant study, project, idea or product, if you do not stay in the loop.

What do you look forward to in the near future?

It is very difficult to meet people nowadays, therefore I want to be able to work side by side with my co-founder after the pandemic. Obviously, my focus is high in being able to reach a wider range of municipalities and mobility service providers, mainly aiming to provide them with an equitable and accessible mobility.

Current students would love to hear advice from an experienced mobility professional such as you. What would you say to them?

It will not always be easy to find the "right" job opportunity because of the market diversity and changeability. Therefore, I would highly suggest prioritizing your personal goals and the expertise you want to bring in the new job. Don't be afraid to question what your future / current employer is doing and if it brings the change you wish for transportation, or better, the change that is needed by society. If more qualified mobility experts work in this field, the necessity of shared and green mobility can be easily achieved.