Introduction:
The Penn IUR Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium (UURC) facilitates faculty- and doctoral student-mentored, undergraduate urban-focused research. The program includes funding support for a joint research project and a semester-long, credit-bearing seminar *(CPLN 528/URBS 428, meeting time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:15-11:45 AM)* to be offered in Spring 2022. The course is cross-listed between the Weitzman School of Design’s Department of City and Regional Planning and the School of Arts and Science’s Urban Studies Program. Students from each of the University’s undergraduate schools (Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Applied Science, Nursing, and Wharton) are eligible to participate, and faculty and doctoral students from across the University’s 12 schools are welcome to participate in research on a wide range of urban issues. The program will sponsor up to 10 projects this spring and award a grant (up to $2,000) to each mentee-mentor pair to support their joint research project. (Grants must be used for eligible project-related expenses and may not be used for direct student compensation during the period of the course.)

Potential topics:
We welcome proposals from all disciplines, with inquiries focused on urban issues. Areas of interest may include but are not limited to: land use planning and policy, housing policy, community and economic development, environmental planning, energy policy, climate change, urban and local politics, urban education, transportation policy and finance, urban technology and smart cities, urban economics and real estate finance, global cities, urban analytics and computational urban science, and urban history and theory. We welcome all research approaches and methods (e.g., qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods). UURC student-faculty collaborations have yielded publications in refereed journals, leveraged other research funding, and prepared undergraduates to pursue original research as an extension of the UURC project or in other areas.

The course:
The biweekly seminar is designed to teach students the basics of conducting urban research (e.g., how to ask a good research question, how to complete a literature review, how to choose the appropriate research design for the questions at hand, what methods are available) and to guide students in their journey to becoming thoughtful participants in the production of knowledge. In parallel, students will work with their mentors on developing their research projects, applying what they learn in seminar. Students will need to complete course assignments, such as a literature review and short research memos, throughout the semester while making progress on their independent research projects. There will be three main opportunities for feedback from a wider audience—introductory presentations, mid-term review, and final presentations—and mentors will be asked to attend and provide feedback. Students will also have the opportunity to present their research poster at Penn IUR’s Urban Research Symposium in early May of 2022.

Instructions for research proposal and more information:
Please submit a brief proposal (1-2 pages single-spaced) with the following information: research question(s), data source/materials, methods, research/practice significance, and a short budget. In the budget, the team should briefly discuss the grant usage (e.g., $500 for travel related to field work, $700 to purchase data, $800 for conference travel (indicating the conference name, location, and the number of participants)). They should also include a short bio of the two team members with the applicants’ background and past research and professional experiences related to urban studies and policy, if any. The deadline is **December 15, 2021**.
For more information on the course, including samples of last year’s projects, the syllabus for Spring 2022, and the sample project application template, please visit: https://penniur.upenn.edu/instruction/uurc.

We will hold an information session about the seminar and proposal application in late November. If you have any questions or would like to express interest, please email co-instructors Shengxiao (Alex) Li (lsx@design.upenn.edu) and Stephanie Rivera Fenniri (sfenniri@design.upenn.edu).