FUTURES STUDIES AND SPECULATIVE DESIGN CERTIFICATE

100% online

Individuals, communities, governments, and businesses all face complex questions when planning for the future. This certificate is aimed at developing necessary skills for future image making and the creation of compelling immersive sensory experiences. Students learn to apply theory and methods to design and employ projections of desirable and undesirable future scenarios.

Continuing and Professional Education at The New School delivers courses and programs that give professionals and non-degree-seeking students the edge that can come only from our accredited university and the dynamic network of renowned faculty and industry-leading professionals at the #1 art and design school in the United States\(^1\) — Parsons School of Design.

Learn the skills you need to advance your career in a changing world.

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Certificate Details

- **Number of courses:** 2
- **Course length:** 8 weeks
- **Timeline to completion:** Most students take two courses per semester. Students have up to two years to finish, but many finish in one year or less.
- **Format:** Online
- **Price:** $1,600

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\(^1\)Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings (2020).
COURSE OUTLINE

The courses making up this certificate are listed in the order in which they should be taken.

**Design Futures 101**
This course introduces ways to enable engagement with future visions through powerful sensory experiences. The course also touches on approaches such as discursive design, speculative design, critical design, and design fiction.

**Week 1**
Reflection Signal Database

**Week 2**
Reflection Signals Organization

**Week 3**
Designing an Asset Map

**Week 4**
Final Project: Plan

**Week 5**
Final Project: Progress Report

**Week 6**
Final Project: Instructor Review Meeting

**Week 7**
Final Project: Instructor Review Meeting

**Week 8**
Presentation of Final Project

**Immersive Scenario Planning**
In this course, students build on the foundational knowledge acquired in Design Futures 101 - and focus on a key element of futures thinking: scenario planning and immersion. The course leads students through the creation of a set of scenarios, based on their interests, from start to finish.

**Week 1**
Introduction to Scenarios

**Week 2**
Trends and Signals

**Week 3**
Patterns and Sense Making

**Week 4**
Scenario Methods

**Week 5**
Scenario Design and World Building

**Week 6**
Immersive Elements

**Week 7**
Futures Games

**Week 8**
Inspiring Change
Who Should Enroll
» Individuals who want to effect systems-level change in organizations and work toward long-term goals
» Professionals working in organizations and those wishing to find or create new opportunities
» Those who are new to futures studies or have a working knowledge of the field and wish to increase their proficiency and build their portfolio of practice

What You’ll Gain
» Knowledge of key principles of futures studies and design futures
» Techniques for identifying, researching, and critiquing signals of change as potential trend indicators
» The ability to apply design futures methods and approaches to concrete topics
» The opportunity to lead scenario-planning exercises for community and corporate contexts

How You’ll Learn
» Engaging video lectures and interviews with industry experts
» Direct interaction with faculty practitioners at the top of their fields
» Online collaboration and video conferencing
» Project-based learning focused on developing real-world skills and portfolio assets

Get started today.
Register at cpe.newschool.edu.

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