

2025 FIELD SCHOOL IN BREDA, THE NETHERLANDS

REDESIGNING LEISURE:
CREATING ACCESS AND INCLUSION FOR EVERYONE

Save the date! August 20th - 23rd 2025, Breda, The Netherlands

*The field school will be extended until the end of the WL Congress 2025 (August 25th – 28th 2025) .



*Photos by Breda Marketing

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REDESIGNING LEISURE: CREATING ACCESS AND INCLUSION FOR EVERYONE

FIELD SCHOOL World Leisure Congress 2025
August 20th - 23rd 2025, Breda, The Netherlands
(followed by the World Leisure Congress, August 25th – 28th 2025)

Join us in August 2025 in the city of Breda, The Netherlands, for the 2025 World Leisure Congress international Field School! Students from the hosting university, Breda University of Applied Sciences, and from various World Leisure Centres of Excellence, will work together to develop ideas to answer the following question:

How can Breda become an accessible, welcoming, inclusive leisure city for people with disabilities?

The schedule will feature a diverse mix of company visits, project design sessions, and engaging leisure and social activities, of course! Field school students, from different cultures, context and academic backgrounds will work together with experience experts (people with disabilities, who are experts in understanding and navigating their specific conditions) to assess the accessibility of several leisure organizations and attractions in Breda and co-create improvement ideas. The outcomes of this collaboration will be showcased during the World Leisure Congress and shared widely through the World Leisure Organization website and other channels.

For ambitious young academics, the benefit from participating in this field school includes contributing to a societally relevant project, gaining free access to the congress, and having the potential opportunity to co-author publications based on the project's findings. For young leisure specialists hoping to build their network, the field school immerses you in a vibrant community of enthusiastic peers (during the field school itself) and leisure professionals and scholars (during the congress), allowing you to make friends and establish professional contacts that might last you a lifetime.

Field School Programme

The World Leisure International Field School, led by the prestigious and global World Leisure Centres of Excellence (WLCE) network, offers a unique and immersive learning experience that blends hands-on fieldwork with the excitement of attending the World Leisure Congress. Since its debut at the 2014 WL Congress in Mobile, Alabama (USA), this programme has grown to become one of WLO's most dynamic and sought-after initiatives, inspiring and empowering the next generation of leisure professionals. Previous editions have been hosted in iconic locations such as Durban, South Africa (2016), São Paulo, Brazil (2018), and Dunedin, New Zealand (2023). Read more and learn about this opportunity from the past and upcoming field schools here: <https://www.worldleisure.org/field-school/>.

Eligibility

Priority will be given to current master students and 3rd/4th year undergraduate students in the Leisure Studies (Leisure, Tourism, Sports, Culture, Parks & Recreation) degrees program. Space is limited; selection will be determined by the WLCE Coordinators in collaboration with the WLO Secretariat.

Selection criteria

- Career or educational fit and faculty references.
- Ability to work effectively in groups and as part of a team.
- Demonstrated contribution to community and/or school.
- Level of intercultural awareness.
- Proven academic success and demonstrated ability to manage stress.
- International travel experience.

**WLCEs can determine their own eligibility and selection criteria*

Field School cost

Participants pay EUR 599 (+/- USD \$685), which includes:

- All excursions and activities during the field school, including a theme park visit on Sunday and local transport
- Access to the WLCongress
- Most meals during the field school and congress (lunches and dinners)

The fee does NOT include:

- Accommodation
- Travel to and from Breda
- Travel insurance
- Visa fees

Draft Itinerary (*subject to change(s)*)

**More detailed information will be provided in due course*

Pre-Phase: Online eLearning Platform

An online preparatory meeting and a short assignment will take place in spring 2025. Participants will be asked to collect best-practice examples of accessible leisure activities, recreation opportunities, or events from their own country or culture.

Wednesday, 20th August

Participants arrive, followed by a Field School representatives welcome.

Thursday, 22nd August

Company Excursion and Accessibility assessment #1 – PIER15

Participants will begin with a company excursion and their first accessibility assessment at PIER15, a dynamic skatepark and youth culture hotspot. Following the assessment, the group will enjoy lunch at a nearby local venue. In the afternoon, participants will relax with a boat ride through the scenic canals of Breda, offering a unique perspective on the city's accessibility features and urban design.

Friday, 22nd August

Company Excursion and Accessibility Assessment #2 at the Breda Municipal Museum

The day begins with Company Excursion and Accessibility Assessment #2 at the Breda Municipal Museum, where participants will evaluate accessibility features in a cultural setting. From there, the group will take a bike ride to a local care farm—an inclusive workplace supporting individuals with special needs—followed by a scenic return ride through the historic Mastbos forest. The day concludes with a group dinner in the city centre.

Saturday, 23rd August

Inspirational visit

Participants will take part in an inspirational visit to the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, a leading example of accessibility in the cultural sector. After lunch, the group will engage in a focused work session to prepare their presentation for the upcoming Congress.

Sunday, 24th August

Inbetween day

Participants will have free time to spend at their leisure, offering a chance to relax, explore the city, or catch up on personal activities. Alternatively, they can choose to visit De Efteling, one of Europe's most enchanting theme parks, known for its fairytale-inspired attractions and immersive experiences.

From Monday, 25th August to Thursday, 28th August World Leisure Congress

Accessibility Assessment #3

The congress officially begins, and field school students will have full access to all sessions and activities. As part of their learning experience, students will also conduct Accessibility Assessment #3, evaluating the accessibility of the congress environment itself — from the venue layout to participant experience.

Post-Phase: Online eLearning Platform

Participants share their stories, insights, and experiences from the field school, contributing valuable input for testimonials and reports to be used in WLO communications. Additionally, there may be an opportunity for participants to continue their involvement by joining the next phase of the BeFuture project (STEP 2), where the design journey will further evolve and expand.

Program considerations

- Students are responsible to organize and pay for travel related costs (to and from Breda, The Netherlands). Flight costs vary depending on carrier.
- Students are responsible to purchase and provide confirmation of international travel insurance and international travel medical insurance prior to travel.
- Students might be required/able to participate in physical activity, including long walks, in a hot/humid environment.
- An itemized list of suggested items to bring will be provided prior to travel.

Anticipated costs

Description	Approx. cost
WLO Field School (World Leisure Congress fee value €349 complimentary registration included)	USD \$ +/- 685 (€599)
Flights/Travel (students book own flights)	USD \$1,500
Travel insurance and travel medical insurance	USD \$100
Accommodation (students book their own accommodation)	USD \$ +/- 600
Total anticipated costs:	= USD \$2,885.00 USD

Application Form:

Are you interested in applying for the Field School 2025 – Redesigning Leisure: Creating Access and Inclusion for Everyone.

Click here to apply: <https://forms.gle/w5dDdYBpbaTmajNX9>

Deadline: May 31st 2025

Contact Information:

Field School Organizer for Breda University: Marco van Leeuwen (leeuwen3.m@buas.nl)

For World Leisure Organization: Mireia Iglesias (mireia@worldleisure.org)

More information about the program can be found here: [World Leisure Field School](#)