

MINOR INNOVATIONS IN SUSTAINABLE CHAIN MANAGEMENT



THE CENTRAL THEME OF THIS HTHT MINOR PACKAGE IS TRANSITION TO A FOSSIL FREE, CIRCULAR AND FAIR ECONOMY (e.g. THE 'PEOPLE-PLANET-PROFIT' PERSPECTIVE) BY UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.

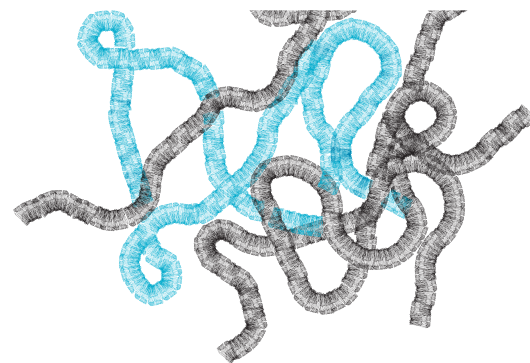
WHAT IS A HTHT MINOR?

A HTHT-minor fits within the UT profile: High Tech, Human Touch. The minor is offered in English and accessible for both national and international students. The goal of the HTHT-minor is to illuminate specific societal themes for which the UT develops High Tech Human Touch solutions. These solutions are created by conducting high-quality research. Both the form and the content of the minors are High Tech Human Touch (multidisciplinary) and are profiling for the student.

The UT offers most HTHT-minors in a coherent package of 2 (30 EC). There are also HTHT minors of 15 EC that do not belong to a package. You can choose one of these minors and combine this with one minor of a package. If possible, you can even choose 2 minors from different packages.

Theme

A decarbonized and circular bioeconomy is a top priority. Climate change, deterioration of nature, resource depletion and pollution need to be addressed, transformative change is needed. In this module you learn about transitions and innovations while you practice applying the triple bottom framework thinking. The triple bottom line emphasizes that responsible solutions start with assessing social, environmental and economic impacts (also called the "People-Planet-Profit" perspective or "3P" for short). You take a systems approach upon networks of connected consumers, producers, retailers, governments, NGOs and other stakeholders. And you reflect upon how things are done, what the impacts are, and you envision improvements. Are you prepared to learn how to map, assess and investigate (Analysis module) and develop responsible and creative design based action (Design module)? You can choose between enrolling in one of the modules or participate in both. This minor suits students from the natural sciences, behavioral and social sciences, business administration, public



Society needs concepts, strategies and instruments for initiating transitions and innovations

administration, marketing, communication, sociology, psychology, finance, engineering, logistics and physics are among the relevant disciplinary backgrounds.

What will you learn during the modules?

The Analysis module (15 EC) positions the 3P perspective as a lens to understand and evaluate interactions between actors in networks, materials, technology, economy and society. Societal, consumer and governmental preferences are mapped to elaborate issues, impacts and the orientation of potential innovations. The networks and their coordination are assessed to find anchors for innovative actions. By working upon this, you also learn how to develop a proper and feasible research plan and to conduct the research and deliver a research paper.

In the Design module (15 EC), you rethink the interactions between actors in networks, society, economy, materials and technology to improve products, services and processes in an interactive design process. Core steps in this process are understanding the users of the design, generating ideas for improvements, refining alternatives by iteration, presenting visualizations and/or mock-ups and an outlook on implementation. By working upon this you learn how to envision responsible futures with 'one leg in science and one leg in creativity'.

Structure

The structure of teaching is similar in both modules. The first teaching block concerns small-group literature reflection sessions to consolidate your grasp of relevant concepts. During the second block you develop individual knowledge and research and design skills by working upon a research or design paper on a relevant topic of your choice. You present your work and exchange ideas in groups. During the third block you work in a multidisciplinary team on an assignment related to a societal domain, again either on analysis or design. In both modules you learn about niches, innovations and transitions, and you participate in

literature reflection sessions. Both the research work and design work are facilitated by introductory guidance sessions and readings on how to understand and do it. You will learn the concepts, approaches and methodology on a generic level enabling you to apply them to other networks successfully.

Real-life challenges

This minor challenges you to practice your role of 'change agents' in society, just like UT's 'Shaping 2030' mission, vision and strategy expects you to do. We offer content and training that enable you to learn to contribute to a responsible, sustainable and fair society, while learning to connect social, economic and technical perspectives in analysis and design. The modules of this minor are generic in offering knowledge, perspectives and tools. Individual and group work is scheduled in a manner that facilitates cross activity learning. In group assignments in the eighth edition of this minor in 2025/26 we will mostly focus upon the EU (analysis module) and the region of Twente (design module) as a case. In your individual work, innovations in products, services, processes in and governance of production and consumption can be chosen, if related to a 3P perspective.

MORE INFORMATION

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For more information about this minor and for general information about minors:
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