



POSTGRADUATE

CIRCULAR and SYSTEMIC DESIGN

Understanding and designing circular systems across value chains

Information 2026/2027

howest
university of applied sciences

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Why this (new)
postgraduate?

Ever wondered **where products
and materials come from?**

Ever wondered **where products and materials go after use?**

As material scarcity and resource dependency reshape global supply chains, **the circular transition** calls for designers who understand systems and lead change.

Circular design and circular systems across
value chains doesn't start
at the end of a product's life.
It begins at the start of a system.

This programme gives you the
insight, skills, and tools to be ahead
of that shift.

**You'll learn to think beyond products,
understanding how materials,
processes and value chains connect,
and how every design decision
ripples through entire systems.**

For designers in **product, systems or innovation**, ready to go **beyond the product** and drive real **circular change**.

You won't just study it.
You'll apply it, working on real cases,
with real companies.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN 1

Think and design
across entire systems and value-chains

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN 2

Apply circular **strategies**
in real-world practice

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN 3

Lead change across teams
and organizations

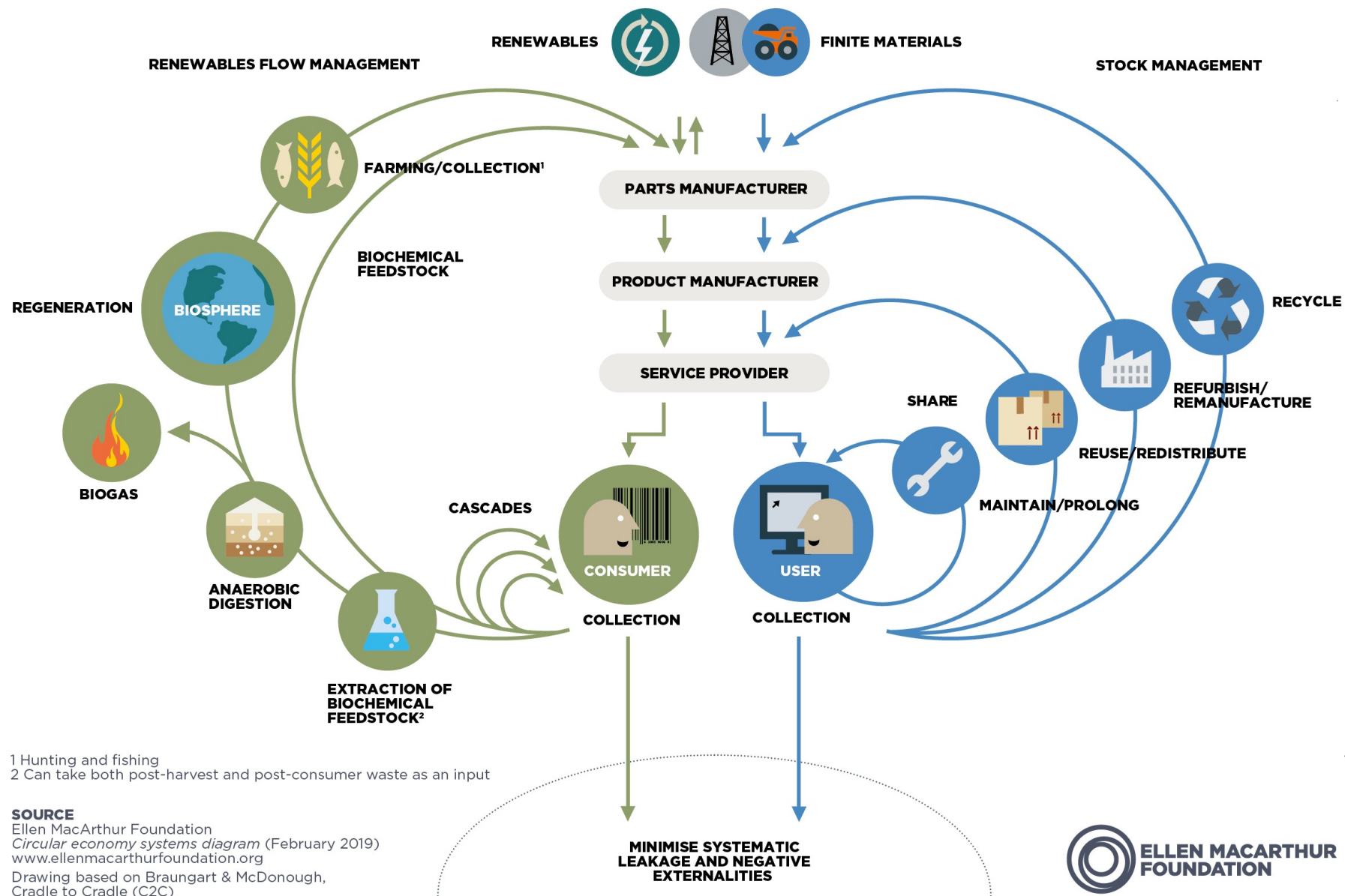




FIGURE 3.4 Skills on the rise, 2025-2030

FIGURE 3.6

Core skills in 2030

Emerging skills
Less essential now, but expected to increase in use

Core skills in 2030
Core now and expected to increase in importance

Out of focus skills
Less essential now, and not expected to increase in use

Steady skills
Core now, but not expected to increase in use

Share of employers expecting increasing skills in use by 2030 (%)

Share of employers considering as a core skill in 2025 (%)

Legend:

- Cognitive skills
- Engagement skills
- Ethics
- Management skills
- Physical abilities
- Self-efficacy
- Technology skills
- Working with others

Skills plotted include:

- AI and big data
- Technological literacy
- Creative thinking
- Resilience, flexibility and agility
- Analytical thinking
- Curiosity and lifelong learning
- Talent management
- Systems thinking
- Leadership and social influence
- Motivation and self-awareness
- Empathy and active listening
- Design and user experience
- Environmental stewardship
- Networks and cybersecurity
- Programming
- Global citizenship
- Marketing and media
- Teaching and mentoring
- Quality control
- Resource management and operations
- Service orientation and customer service
- Dependability and attention to detail
- Reading, writing and mathematics
- Manual dexterity, endurance and precision
- Sensory-processing abilities
- Multi-lingualism

Note
The Future of Jobs Survey uses the World Economic Forum's Global Skills Taxonomy.

Note

The Future of Jobs Survey uses the World Economic Forum's Global Skills Taxonomy. Bold lines represent the median values across all skills.

FUTURE FIT (JOBS)

Circular & Systemic Designer
Service Designer (circular-focused)
Circular Economy / Design Futures Researcher
Circular Innovation Consultant (junior)

Sustainability Experience Designer
System Designer (experience + operations + sustainability)
Circular Business Designer

Director Circular Experience Strategy
Head of Service & System Design
Chief Experience Officer (CXO)
Head of Transition Design / Circular Transformation

...

PRACTICAL

1 year program on campus & companies

60 SPT / **Certificate**

1st Semester

30 SPT / **Certificate of successful participation**

PRACTICAL

1 year program on campus

Semester 1 / **impact track** (semester 1 + 2)

Postgraduate CSD					
Example timetable (phase 1)					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
09.00 am -10.30 am		Circular & Systemic design	Studio / small case / own time	Research skills & circular futures / own time	Future Proof skills / Tracks
10.45 am - 01.30 pm	Research skills & circular futures	Circular & Systemic design	Studio / small case / own time	Research skills & circular futures / own time	Future Proof skills / Tracks
01.30 pm - 03.00 pm	Studio / small case	industry and expert insights	Studio / small case / own time	Research skills & circular futures / own time	Future Proof skills / Tracks
03.15 pm - 04.30 pm / 05.00 pm	Studio / small case	industry and expert insights	Studio / small case / own time	Research skills & circular futures / own time	Future Proof skills / Tracks

on campus

on campus

on campus

PRACTICAL

1 year program on campus & in company

Semester 2 / **impact track** / €2700

Postgraduate CSD					
Example timetable (phase 2)					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
09.00 am -10.30 am	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Future Proof skills / Tracks
10.45 am - 01.30 pm	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Future Proof skills / Tracks
01.30 pm - 03.00 pm	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Future Proof skills / Tracks
03.15 pm - 04.30 pm / 05.00 pm	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Studio / big case / internship	Future Proof skills / Tracks

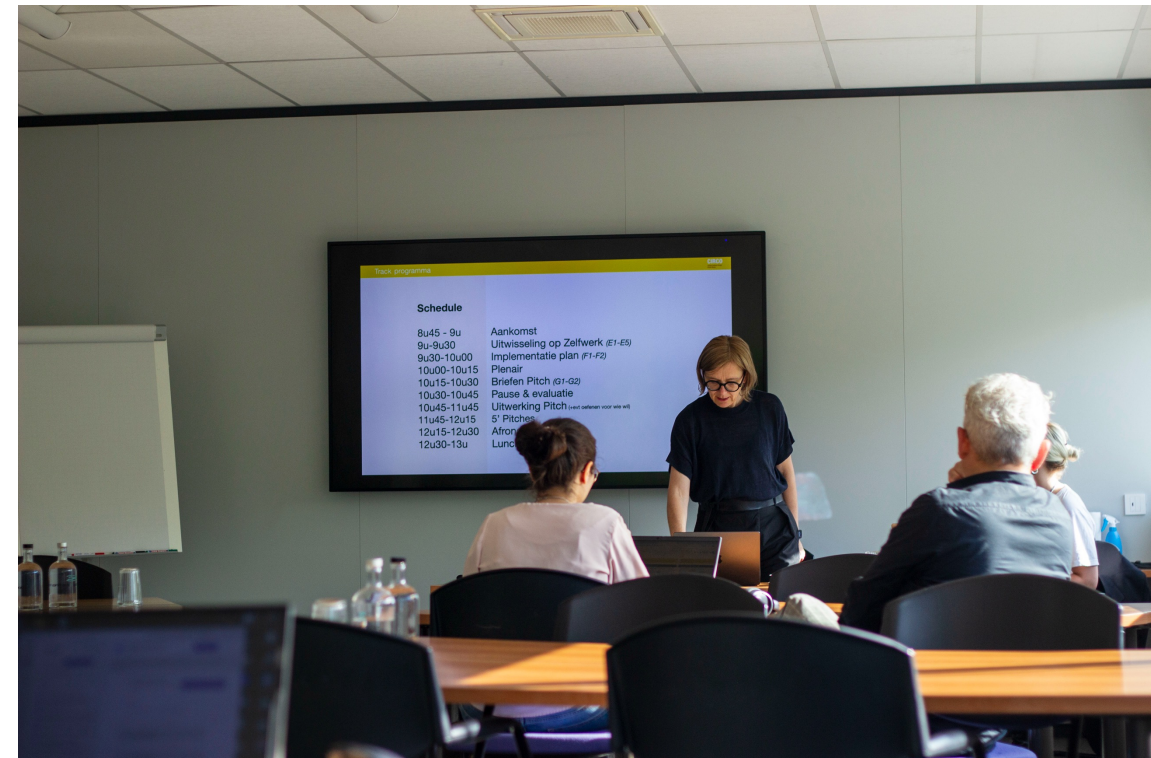
on campus

DO YOU
KNOW
CIRCO?

*CIRCO*TRACK

FOCUS ON COMPANIES

- **Co-creative approach:** 10–12 companies
- **Tandem team:** 2 participants – a company representative with either a strategic or design profile, paired with a student from the Postgraduate Programme in Circular and Systemic Design.
- **Workshops:** Two half-day workshops and one full-day workshop, with online guidance and coaching in between. Total duration: 6 weeks.
- **Trainers:** Act as coaches and educators rather than consultants.
- **Cost for the company:** Participation in the CIRCO Track is included as part of the company-based project placement in Semester 2.



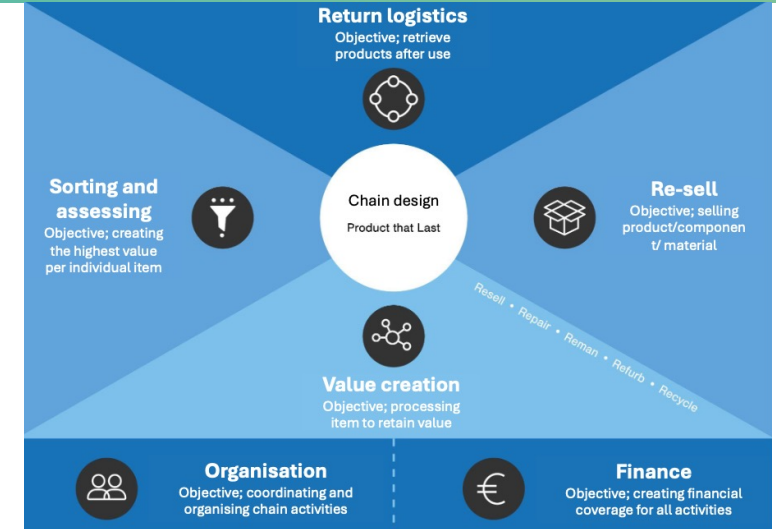
CIRCULAR BUSINESSMODELS



CIRCULAR DESIGN STRATEGIES



ORGANISATION CIRCULAR VALUE CHAIN



DEVELOP BUSINESS MODELS



ROADMAP & PITCH



PRACTICAL

1 year program on campus

Semester 1 / **full track** / €1850

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on campus

on campus

on campus

PRACTICAL

1 year program on campus & companies

Semester 1 / **core track** (1 day/week) / €1250

Postgraduate CSD					
Example timetable (phase 1)					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
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preferable

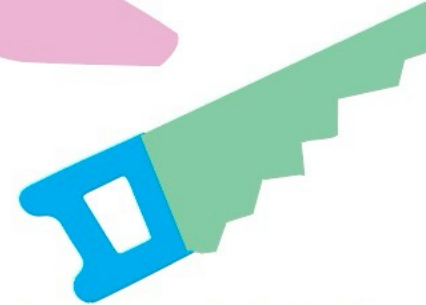
on campus

preferable

Ready to go **beyond the product**
and drive real circular change?

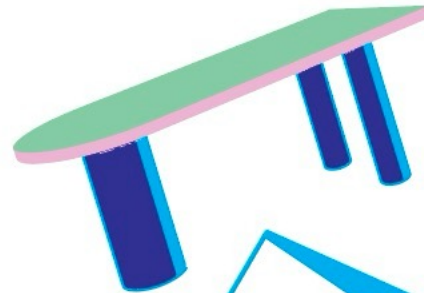
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Ever wondered
where products
and materials
come from?



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Ever wondered
where products
and materials
go after use?

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The circular transition needs bold creatives,
the ones who connect the dots and
aren't afraid to reimagine the system.

SOUND LIKE YOU?

Postgraduate Circular and Systemic Design

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WHAT WILL YOU LEARN

Circular design doesn't start at the end of a product's life. **It begins at the start of a system.** You'll learn to think beyond products, understanding how materials, processes and value chains connect, and how every design decision ripples through entire systems. **You won't just study it. You'll apply it,** working on real cases, with real companies.

WHAT YOU'LL DEVELOP

- . Think and design **across entire systems and value-chains**
- . Apply circular strategies in **real-world practice**
- . **Lead change** across teams and organizations

FOR WHO

For designers in product, systems or innovation. Ready to go beyond the product and drive real circular change? **howest.be/csd**

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Q&A

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Thank you!