

Welcome to the Future of Education

Design Solutions for a Changing World


The Design for Humanity Institute equips changemakers to use creativity, design thinking, and interdisciplinary problem-solving to address urgent social, environmental, and technological challenges.

[Start Your Journey →](#) [Learn About DHI](#)


6 Problem Clusters **4** Degree Programs **Global** Community

Our Mission


"To empower the next generation of changemakers to design equitable, sustainable, and human-centered solutions for a rapidly changing world."



Socially Driven
Concerned with urgent social, environmental, and technological challenges.




Solution Focused
Go beyond studying problems and actively find and implement solutions.




Globally Minded
Work alongside communities locally and globally to drive sustainable change.

What Makes DHI Different


Our interdisciplinary approach combines creativity, design thinking, and real-world impact.




Studio-Based Learning
Students spend most of their time in collaborative labs working with peers and professors on real-world challenges, developing transferable skills that create lasting impact.



Global Partnerships
Field campuses in different regions enable students to co-create solutions with local communities, NGOs, and international organizations.




Applied Impact
Capstone projects consist of real products or policy recommendations with measurable social benefit, creating tangible change in the world.




Interdisciplinary Approach
Blend design thinking, social sciences, ethics, public policy, business, and STEM to develop comprehensive solutions to complex challenges.

Signature Centers & Labs


Specialized hubs where students dive deep into critical global challenges.




Center for Human Flourishing
Psychology, wellbeing, and design of supportive communities



Urban Futures Lab
Sustainable cities, housing, and mobility solutions



Ethics & Emerging Tech Hub
AI, biotech, and policy design for responsible innovation



Climate & Resilience Studio
Renewable energy, water security, and disaster response

Ready to Make a Difference?

Join our community of changemakers and learn to design solutions that impact the world.

[Begin Your Application →](#)



At the Design for Humanity Institute, we start with a simple premise: the world's most pressing challenges don't fit neatly into academic departments. The traditional university model—divided by discipline—rarely offers broad views, politics, and missed opportunities for collaboration.

Our interdisciplinary curriculum redefines how knowledge is organized and applied. Instead of departments, students learn within problem clusters—long, evolving areas of inquiry that draw insights from across the humanities, sciences, and design fields.

- **Climate & Environment**
- **Health & Human Wellbeing**
- **Cities & Infrastructure**
- **Technology & Ethics**
- **Migration & Social Justice**
- **Educator & Human Flourishing**

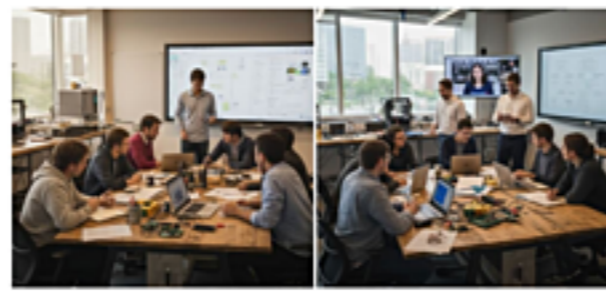
Within each cluster, students engage both thematically and practically. They complete skills-based learning modules that build adaptable competencies—design methods, data science, policy analysis, business modeling, and ethical reasoning—equipping them to navigate complex, real-world systems.

The curriculum unfolds in two phases. In their first two years, students explore simulations and interdisciplinary studies designed to foster creative problem-solving and collaboration. In their final two years, they transition to the Application Phase, where they partner with real clients and organizations to co-design solutions with tangible social impact.

By integrating design thinking with humanistic inquiry, the Design for Humanity Institute prepares students to move fluidly between disciplines, imagine new possibilities, and lead with empathy and innovation.

Studio-Based Learning

DHI's studio-based learning approach transforms traditional classrooms into active, interdisciplinary studios. Here students spend most of their time collaborating on semester-long projects with real community partners (NGOs, government agencies, or startups) to solve pressing social, environmental, and technological challenges. Projects serve as the vehicle for learning—students engage directly over weeks on an authentic problem or question, integrating theory with practice. In this hands-on setting, instructors guide and mentor rather than lecture, and each team works iteratively to prototype solutions that have immediate, real-world impact.



Key Features of DHI's Studio Learning

Interdisciplinary, Real-World Projects

Each studio project spans an entire semester and is designed around a genuine societal challenge. Students draw on multiple fields (engineering, social science, design, etc.) and work in teams to develop solutions. Consistent with project-based learning principles, these projects are extended in time and focused on authentic problems. Teams often present their work publicly—creating a tangible product or demonstration—so that the final deliverable reaches a real audience (community members or partners).

Collaborative Studio Culture

Our studios emphasize teamwork and creative iteration. Instead of sitting passively in lectures, students learn by doing—sketching, modeling, testing, and refining ideas together. The open studio environment is specifically arranged for collaboration, providing flexible workspaces, whiteboards, and digital tools. Instructors act as mentors, guiding students through design cycles and helping them integrate knowledge across domains, much like professional design studios in industry.

Transferable Skills & Workshops

DHI embeds focused skill building within the curriculum. Students attend short modules and workshops on topics like design thinking methods, prototyping techniques, data analytics, and project management. These modules ensure that learning is not just about facts but about acquiring transferable skills. The project itself frames curriculum and instruction so that important knowledge and skills are learned through doing. Outcomes align with evidence showing that project-based approaches develop deep content knowledge alongside critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication.

Reflection & Mentoring

Every student keeps a weekly reflective journal and meets regularly with a coach or mentor. Reflective journaling is an effective pedagogical practice that nurtures lifelong learning skills and higher-order thinking. Ongoing mentor guidance helps students build self-regulation. The program explicitly trains students in metacognition and transfer strategies so they not only complete projects but also learn how to learn and adapt in future contexts.

Data-Driven Tools & AI

We leverage technology to enhance learning. Students use collaboration platforms, data dashboards, and AI-assisted research tools to manage their projects. AI-powered dashboards convert project and learning data into real-time insights, enabling quicker feedback and targeted interventions. In our studios, these tools can analyze group discussions, track prototype iterations, or identify which design aspects need more attention—giving students and instructors actionable information at a glance.

Adaptability, Ethics & Sustainability

Projects at DHI are explicitly designed to endure. We incorporate scenario planning and multiple adaptation pathways into each project so students learn to anticipate risks and adjust designs as conditions change. Ethical, long-term impact is a core priority; students must consider the sustainability and social consequences of their solutions. The program highlights each student's creativity and agency while providing a robust institutional framework to carry projects forward. In this way, promising projects can continue to grow beyond a single class, leaving a lasting positive impact on the community.

Applied Impact AI at The Design for Humanity Institute

At the Design for Humanity Institute (DHI), we recognize that Artificial Intelligence is not just a technological field—it is one of the most urgent social, environmental, and ethical challenges of our time. Our Applied Impact AI approach ensures that students are not only equipped to build new technologies but are fundamentally trained to design equitable, sustainable, and human-centered AI solutions for a rapidly changing world.

Ethics & Emerging Tech Hub

The core of our AI-focused curriculum is anchored in the Ethics & Emerging Tech Hub. This Signature Center is designed to ensure all AI work is conducted with ethical discernment and a positive social focus.

- The Hub specifically focuses on the intersection of AI, bioethics, and policy design.
- Learning is organized around problem clusters, such as Technology & Ethics, instead of rigid academic departments.
- Students blend the hard skills of ESEM and data science with the critical thinking of ethics and public policy.

AI in Studio-Based Learning

AI is integrated directly into the DHI's methodology for interdisciplinary problem-solving, moving beyond traditional classroom settings to ensure students acquire transferable skills and connect concepts to real-world challenges.

- Students work in collaborative, interdisciplinary studios to research and design solutions for real-world challenges.
- These studios utilize AI-assisted research to enhance learning outcomes.
- Projects must be robust, incorporating risk scenario planning and multiple adaptation paths for their technological solutions.
- Through simulations and learning modules in their first two years, students transition to applying their skills on real client projects during their third and fourth years.

AI Solutions and Measurable Impact

The ultimate goal of studying AI at DHI is not just proficiency, but the creation of tangible solutions with measurable social benefits. This focus on competencies over degrees is what sets our graduates apart.

<p>Capstone Projects</p> <p>The culminating project for students focused on applied impact. It is an integral part of the curriculum, product or policy recommendation.</p>	<p>Solutions Portfolio</p> <p>Graduates leave DHI with a degree and a portfolio of AI solutions they have designed and tested in the field.</p>
<p>Real-World Clients</p> <p>Students explore projects with focus on working on the state's priorities, including work with state government agencies, non-profits, or public service organizations.</p>	<p>Career Skills</p> <p>By combining theory and practice, students develop transferrable career skills in technology while fulfilling the DHI's mission of bettering the world.</p>

[Student Experiences](#) [Apply Now](#)



Financial Aid

We're committed to making a DHI education accessible to all qualified changemakers through comprehensive financial aid and scholarships.

The Design for Humanity Institute (DHI) is committed to making our revolutionary, impact-driven education accessible to all qualified changemakers. We offer a robust program of financial aid, grants, and scholarships to support our students, ensuring that financial need does not prevent a motivated applicant from joining our community.

Cost of Enrollment: Academic Year [2026-2027]

The Cost of Enrollment (COE) is an estimate of your total educational expenses for the academic year. It includes both direct costs billed by the university and estimated indirect costs for planning purposes.

Tuition	\$25,000
Student Services & Fees	\$18,000
Housing (On Campus)	\$2,000
Books & Supplies (Including Design Software/Materials)	\$2,000
Total Cost of Enrollment	\$47,000

Need-Based Financial Aid

DHI is committed to supporting our students with a comprehensive financial aid approach that prioritizes assistance that does not need to be repaid.

1 Grants and Scholarships

As stated in our founding documents, DHI offers a combination of **Grants and Scholarships** to reduce your overall cost of attendance. These funds are awarded based on a combination of financial need, academic merit, and demonstrated commitment to the DHI's mission of social impact.

- DHI Need-Based Grant**
 Institutional grant funds awarded to admitted students demonstrating financial need, as determined by the financial aid application process.
- Merit-Based Scholarships**
 Awarded to students with exceptional academic records, leadership experience, and a proven track record of creative problem-solving.

2 DHI Impact Grants

Unique to the DHI model, **Impact Grants** offer small seed funding for student-led projects. These are awarded separate from your tuition aid and are intended to cover expenses for your real-world Capstone and Studio projects—such as material costs for a prototype, travel expenses to a local government partner, or field research in cooperation with a global community.

Deadline: Applications for Scholarships and Grants are due by July 21, 2026 for the 2026-27 school year.

Applying for Financial Aid

The financial aid application process should be completed concurrently with your application for admission. You must reapply for financial aid each year.

Primary Application Forms

Applicant Type	Required Form(s)	Purpose
U.S. Citizens & Eligible Non-Citizens	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Determines eligibility for all federal and state aid.
Domestic Applicants	Applicant Profile	Used by DHI to determine eligibility for institutional need-based grants and scholarships.

Additional Required Documents

You will be notified via your applicant portal if you are required to submit any supplementary documents, which may include tax transcripts, W-2 forms, or non-custodial parent information.

Financial Aid Deadlines

Meeting our deadlines is crucial for maximizing your eligibility for limited institutional funds, grants, and scholarships.

Application Type	Deadline	Notes
Early Decision/Early Action	November 15, 2026	Priority deadline for those applying in the early rounds.
Regular Decision	February 1, 2027	Recommended deadline for full consideration for DHI Grants and Scholarships.
FAFSA Filing	March 1, 2027	Priority deadline for federal and state aid consideration.

Important Note: The final Federal FAFSA Deadline is June 30th of the academic year, but funds from DHI, your state, and other sources are often depleted after the priority deadlines. We strongly encourage filing as soon as the FAFSA opens on October 1st.

Federal and State Aid

Eligible students may also receive financial assistance from government sources, including:

- Federal Pell Grants
- State-Specific Grants
- Federal Student Loans (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)
- Federal Work Study (FWS)

Ready to Apply?

Start your application today and take the first step toward transforming your future and the world.

[Begin Your Application →](#)



Student Life at DHI

Discover the vibrant community, collaborative learning spaces, and transformative experiences that define life as a DHI student.

Life at the Design for Humanities Institute (DHI) is built around the idea that learning doesn't end when class does. Our campus is a community of thinkers, makers, and collaborators who see education as a lived experience — one that blends intellectual rigor with human connection, creativity, and care.

Housing & Living Learning Communities

From the moment they arrive, DHI students join one of our Living Learning Communities (LLCs) — residential spaces centered around our six problem clusters. Each LLC serves as both a home and an incubator for ideas, bringing together students who share a passion for topics like Climate & Environment or Technology & Ethics.

Residences are designed with collaboration in mind. Communal studios and flexible common rooms invite spontaneous brainstorming, creative prototyping, or quiet reflection. Shared kitchens host student-led dinners that celebrate global cuisines and sustainability practices. The line between academic and residential life blurs intentionally — a design choice meant to encourage organic learning in community.

As students progress, they often move into cooperative housing or cluster-based residences, where interdisciplinary teams live together while developing capstone projects or partnerships with real-world clients. Every space is designed to feel both personal and purposeful: a home that doubles as a creative lab.

Community & Belonging

DHI is a close-knit, intentionally small community where every voice matters. With a student body of fewer than 1,000, it's easy to know everyone by name — and easier still to find mentors and collaborators across disciplines.

Weekly Design Forums bring the entire Institute together to discuss global challenges, student projects, and emerging ideas in design, ethics, and human development. Faculty, students, and visiting fellows share the same tables, engaging in open dialogue that's both intellectual and deeply personal.

We believe that belonging is a design challenge — one we meet with intention. Students are supported by a layered mentorship network that includes faculty advisors, peer mentors, and alumni fellows who continue to guide projects long after graduation. Diversity of background, thought, and experience is celebrated not just as a value, but as a catalyst for creativity.

Clubs, Organizations & Labs

DHI's student organizations mirror the interdisciplinary spirit of the Institute. Traditional categories like "arts" or "STEM" dissolve into collaborative constellations of interest and impact. Students might join the Ethical Tech Collective, exploring the human dimensions of AI; the Social Impact Studio, designing interventions for equitable cities; or the Policy & Design Lab, where students prototype civic solutions with local governments.

Creative experimentation thrives in the Makers Guild, a cross-disciplinary hub that merges design thinking, digital fabrication, and storytelling. Students regularly launch pop-up exhibitions, podcasts, and collaborative publications through DHI's Media Studio, amplifying their voices beyond campus.

New clubs emerge each semester as students identify evolving global challenges or personal curiosities — and DHI provides both seed funding and faculty mentorship to turn those ideas into reality.

Beyond the Classroom

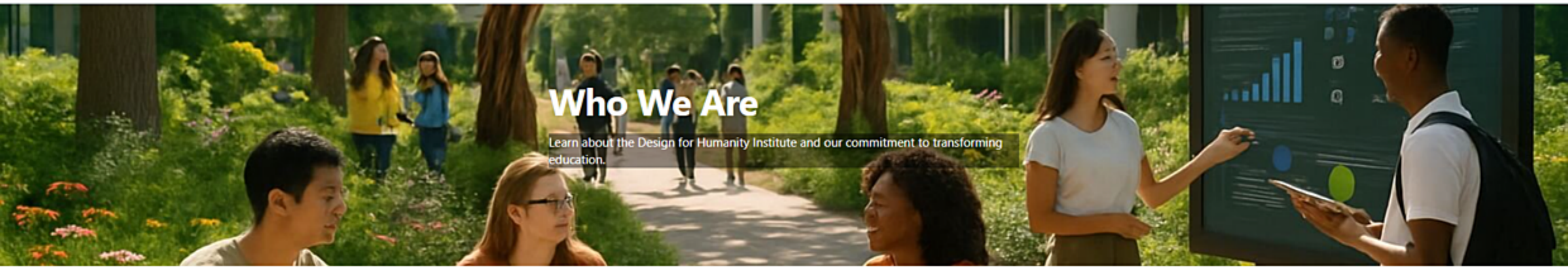
At DHI, the boundary between "campus" and "world" is deliberately porous. Every semester includes opportunities for field immersions, international exchanges, and community-based partnerships.

Students in the Health & Human Wellbeing cluster might collaborate with local clinics on equitable healthcare design, while those in Migration & Social Justice might travel abroad to study policy innovation in refugee resettlement. Design Sprints, hosted in partnership with NGOs, cultural institutions, and global think tanks, challenge students to apply their skills in high-impact, real-world contexts.

These experiences cultivate not just professional readiness, but a sense of ethical responsibility — a recognition that every design decision has human consequences.

[Academic Programs](#) →

[Apply Now](#)



Who We Are

Learn about the Design for Humanity Institute and our commitment to transforming education.

The Design for Humanity Institute is a new kind of university—one built for the world we live in and the future we must imagine. We bring together **learners, practitioners, and global partners** to confront humanity's most pressing challenges through **creativity, collaboration, and meaningful action**.

Our community is driven by the belief that education should not be separate from the world's realities. Here, students learn by engaging **directly** with issues that shape lives and landscapes across the planet. Every semester, they work alongside organizations, innovators, and communities to understand problems deeply, design thoughtful solutions, and bring ideas to life in ways that create **measurable impact**.

Student Stories

From Prototype to Policy
Bachelor of Human-Centered Design & Social Innovation, '25

"In the Urban Futures Lab, my team was challenged to reimagine public transit access. We didn't just write a paper; we built a working prototype for a modular, solar-powered bus stop with real-time air quality sensors. We presented to the city council, and elements of our design were included in their new sustainability plan. DHI taught me that my ideas have weight and can shape the world right now."

— Maria

Building Bridges
Master's in Design for Global Challenges, '24

"My capstone project took me to our field campus in Nepal, where I worked with local farmers to co-design a mobile app that connects them directly to markets, cutting out costly intermediaries. With a DHI Impact Grant, we launched a pilot that has already increased profits for over 200 families. This experience wasn't an 'internship'—it was the start of my life's work in economic justice."

— Ben

Designing for Accessibility
PhD in Systems Thinking & Applied Design, '26

"My research at DHI focuses on creating assistive technologies for people with visual impairments. Through the Center for Human Flourishing, I've collaborated with community members to design a tactile navigation system for public spaces. Seeing our prototypes being tested and refined with real users has been the most rewarding part of my academic journey."

— Sarah

Global Impact




250+
Active Projects Worldwide



45
Countries with DHI Partnerships



\$5M
In Student Project Funding



100%
Graduates with Impact Portfolios

Faculty Stories

Dr. Anya Sharma
Director, Center for Human Flourishing

"At DHI, my research on social connection isn't locked away in academic journals. In my studio, psychology students collaborate with designers and public policy students to prototype 'community hubs' in urban areas. Last semester, we partnered with a local housing authority to turn a theoretical framework into a built environment that reduces loneliness. This is the power of interdisciplinarity in action."

Professor Ben Carter
Lead, Ethics & Emerging Tech Hub

"We're training students to ask 'can we?' alongside 'should we?'. In the Ethics & Emerging Tech Hub, a computer science student might partner with a philosophy student to audit an algorithm for bias. The result isn't just a more skilled engineer; it's a more conscientious innovator. Our graduates are the ones who will ensure technology serves humanity, not the other way around."

Dr. Lena Rodriguez
Head of Climate & Resilience Studio

"What excites me most about DHI is how we break down the barriers between academia and the real world. My students aren't just learning about climate change—they're designing and implementing adaptation strategies with coastal communities. This hands-on approach creates graduates who are ready to lead from day one."

[Explore Our Programs](#) →

[Student Life](#)