



## **IRKUTSK, KARL MARX STREET. NEW LIFE OF THE OLD STREET**

27th Session of the International Baikal Winter Urban University  
23.02 - 7.03. 2025-26





## **HISTORI**

The development of the historical center of Irkutsk for four centuries as the largest public and business district of the city and the region remains a unique place to visit. In addition to the fact that the historical center is a modern business, shopping, public center. At the same time, in recent years, the historical center of the largest Siberian city has faced growing challenges and difficulties: the pressure from peripheral trade and service centers, a real estate crisis, and a decrease in the comfort of the urban environment.

Reaffirmed the importance of aligning urban development with broader community and environmental goals. Modern concepts of the development of historical centers are increasingly inclined towards urbanism and social life, using the great historical potential to create a holistic and prosperous community, which contributes to a better economy and a higher quality of life.

In these conditions, the transformation of the historical city in the logic of sustainable development is necessary, we are talking about a paradigm shift, a deep reassessment of the principles underlying the development of the historical center and central historical streets as a comfortable public space, the regeneration of the outdated urban planning model of the last century. Irkutsk has modest experience in creating a car-free street: Uritsky Street, about 400 meters long and about 24 meters wide, connects the central market with the central of Karl-Marx street - the first pedestrian zone of Irkutsk.

## **THEME OF THE SESSION**

In the theme of the project for updating the central streets and the unique location of the historical center of Irkutsk on the coast of the Angara River flowing from Lake Baikal, various opportunities for revitalizing the historical city open up. What values should be guided by projects for the future of the historical center? How to improve this unique place in the face of numerous environmental, economic and social challenges? How can the multifunctional area of the city be reintegrated into its unique natural environment? What program and model of the historic center corresponds to the 21st century? As a historical street, its central spaces can become a motor of the revival of historical center Irkutsk?

## **INVITATION**

Irkutsk National Research Technical University invites masters to participate in the 27th urban planning session and joint development of projects for the future main axis – Karl-Marx Street in the historical city center Irkutsk. We invite you to participate in one of six project teams with thirty local and international participants in various disciplines (urban planning, economics, environment, architecture, landscape, geography, engineering, sociology, art...), which are developing projects for the future development of public spaces in the historical center of Irkutsk.

The concept of the new educational master program INRTU in the six interdisciplinary project teams to create projects for the future historical center of Irkutsk in two formats: full-time format of the urban planning session from 23.02.2026 to 07.03.2026 in Irkutsk for the exchange of ideas, communication at lectures, excursions, professional consultations and presentation of architectural concepts to international jury, then an online format during the spring semester for the detailed development of team projects and presentation of results to experts and partners.

**APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP!**

The 27th urban planning session is open to undergraduates of all nationalities and disciplines.

**Place**

Irkutsk National Research Technical University (IRNITU), Irkutsk, Russia.

**Requirements**

- Russian. English languages skills for effective cooperation with international project teams.
- Face-to-face participation during urban sessions and online during the semester study.

**Details**

Participation is free. Participants pay for travel to\from Irkutsk.

**Apply**

To apply, go to the following address:

[http://winteruni.ru/session\\_27/en](http://winteruni.ru/session_27/en)

**Deadline**

Submissions: 30 November 30, 2025

**Request information for more information write:**

mail: [orlovasa@ex.istu.edu](mailto:orlovasa@ex.istu.edu); [kozlov@istu.edu](mailto:kozlov@istu.edu);