PhD in URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN, AND POLICY - 33rd cycle

Number of scholarship offered | 4

Department | DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA E STUDI URBANI

Description of the PhD Programme

The PhD Program aims at exploring the significance and impact of contemporary urban changes and understanding the way these processes can be governed through planning, design and policy making activities. The integration between different fields and disciplines of urban research on the one hand, and between theory and practice on the other, distinguishes the approach promoted by the PhD programme. By establishing a dialogue with the best European and International schools, PhD Students are encouraged to reflect upon traditional and innovative practices in these fields by participating in research activities concerning cities and regions in both Italy and abroad, paying particular attention to international comparison. This approach will be fostered through the organization of international seminars along with a period of internship to be carried out by the PhD Student at one of the research institutes, universities and public agencies that constitute the international reference network of the UPDP Program.

The PhD Program is organized in three research areas: Planning theories and practices; Design topics, forms and tools; Urban Studies. They represent some of the key research areas at DASiU and the framework of future proposals. Candidates, when submitting their application to the admission announcement, are required to send contextually a research proposal related to the following research topics, suggested by the three research areas:

Planning theory and practices
- From post metropolis to planetary urbanisation;
- Policies, projects and planning for inland areas in Italy;
- Policies and practices for the reuse of abandoned and disused urban spaces and buildings.

Design topics, forms and tools
- Digital devices and new technical tools for improving feasibility and inclusiveness as well as sustainability and design quality of the urban projects (Sharing city; Infrastructures for resilience and sustainability);
- Identity and urbanity: review of conceptual and design issues for the contemporary city (Urban development without urban growth; Building in the built environment; Nodes and centralities in low-density environment);
- Landscape design and competitive land uses in the contemporary city (Productive landscape...
design; Slow tourism and new forms of territorial accessibility).

**Urban Studies**

- New structures of spatial and socio-economic inequalities and territorial cohesion, consequences on economic growth, spatial justice and democratic capacities;
- Who governs the urban? new forms of agency, transcalarity of governance questioning the right to the city and the idea of citizenship;
- Local welfare policies and housing systems within multi-level governance frames: social justice, re-distribution, contrast of inequalities, promotion of well-being and social cohesion, appropriateness, effectiveness, accountability, affordability, sustainability.

English is the official language of the program.

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Research Field: URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN, AND POLICY

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<tr>
<th>Monthly net income of PhD scholarship (max 36 months)</th>
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<td>€ 1012.0</td>
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<td>In case of a change of the welfare rates during the three-year period, the amount could be modified.</td>
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## Context of the research activity

UPDP PhD Program aims at exploring the significance and impact of contemporary urban changes and understanding the way these processes can be governed through planning, design and policy making activities. The program pays specific attention to the transition towards new, more sustainable and equitable modes of urban development as well as to pro-active advancements in planning practices and to potential innovations in traditional urban studies, urban design and policy approaches.

Starting from this perspective, UPDP Phd Program is organized in the following research areas:

- **Urban studies.** Contemporary cities worldwide are confronted with increasing challenges regarding local democracy, sustainable development, management of environmental resources and landscape, social cohesion and cultural diversity. Looking at recent cross-scalar urban changes, the main research topics are: forms and processes of the spatialization of social and economic inequalities; urban segregation; differentiation of urban populations; processes and institutions of urban governance; spatial impact of social innovation; forms and processes of regionalization and processes of social, economic and territorial development in local contexts.

- **Planning theories and practices.** Urban planning is not a unitary or self-contained discipline and planning...
knowledge and activities can be improved by delving into both theoretical and practical issues. First, the cultures, ethics, traditions and paradigms of planning are varied and have been evolving differently according to their geographical, institutional and political context. Similarly, planning practice is multiform and can be understood from several perspectives. Studying the characteristics, the peculiar interpretations and the effects of planning practices constitutes a second relevant research field. Thirdly, the selection and discussion of the crossroads between planning and other disciplines can dramatically innovate planning theories and practices.

- **Design topics, forms and tools.** In a scenario of changing socio-economic, environmental and territorial conditions, theoretical and technical issues for the construction of urban projects and the implementation of governance policies are being experimented with as a way to improve the quality of life. Among them, specific research themes are: role and form of the urban projects in leading territorial transformations; strategies for land and biodiversity preservation and energy conservation; tools for the evaluation and management of urban projects, aimed at mastering the feasibility and equity of land development, as well as the sustainability and the design quality of the physical outcomes.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</th>
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<tr>
<td>The integration between different fields and disciplines of urban research on the one hand, and between theory and practice on the other, distinguishes the approach promoted by the PhD program. This approach will be fostered through the organization of international seminars along with a period of internship to be carried out by the PhD Student at one of the research institutes, universities or public agencies that constitute the international reference network of the UPDP Program.</td>
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### Educational objectives

The program aims at providing analytical and interpretative tools, as well as research/planning/design methodologies, able to produce further advancement in urban studies, spatial and land use planning, urban design, urban policies and governance.

By establishing a dialogue with the best European and International schools, this PHD program is the place for research and innovative approaches to urban studies, spatial planning and urban design.

The objective of the UPDP Program is to provide PhD Students with the analytical and interpretative tools and skills together with research/planning/design methodologies to advance research in the field of urban studies, spatial planning, urban design, urban policy and governance. PhD Students are encouraged to reflect upon traditional and innovative practices in these fields by participating in research activities concerning cities and regions in both Italy and abroad, paying particular attention to international comparison.

### Job opportunities

According to its international orientation, the UPDP PhD Programme intends to train highly qualified researchers and professionals and expects them to work in academic institutions, research centers, public administrations and the private sector in the following fields: spatial planning, design and management of urban projects and policy, urban studies and urban governance.

PhD Graduates with such a profile are qualified to be employed by Italian and International academic institutions, public bodies and research centers, as well as public and private development agencies.

### Composition of the research group

- 11 Full Professors
- 13 Associated Professors
- 1 Assistant Professors
- 27 PhD Students

### Name of the research directors

Pucci Paola

### Contacts

PhD Coordinator: prof. Paola Pucci (e-mail: paola.pucci@polimi.it; phone +39/02/2399.5474)
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Website: http://www.dastu.polimi.it/index.php?id=1146
https://beep.metid.polimi.it/web/85168196/home#p_29

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<tr>
<th>Additional support - Financial aid per PhD student per year (gross amount)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Housing - Foreign Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing - Out-of-town residents (more than 80Km out of Milano)</td>
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**Additional information: educational activity, teaching assistantship, computer availability, desk availability, any other informations**

Educational activities are supported by introductory courses, which focus on research methods, comparative assessment of best practices and design workshops. The main courses and workshops provided in the first year are the following:

- **specialized courses on Research Methods**, providing a methodological introduction to the doctoral dissertation (literature review, drafting of a research project), as well as research tools in the fields of urban planning, policy and design;
- **a planning and design research workshop**, in which different experiences and skills are combined in order to explore themes and methods of urban planning, policy making and project design. The workshop, organized in an intensive period of work, will be anticipated by introductory seminars offered by the three research areas of Urban studies; Planning theories and practices; Design topics, forms and tools;
- **intensive and interactive seminars**, focusing on specific sets of topics in the three research areas of Urban studies; Planning theories and practices; Design topics, forms and tools, emphasizing a comparative approach among relevant Italian and international experiences. Each learning activity is subject to grading through oral examination and the submission of written papers and essays. Detailed programmes are available on the PhD programme's website.

Within the end of the first year, PhD students will be required to submit a project proposal for their PhD dissertation.

The core activities of the second year are:
• a bibliographic essay related to the PhD dissertation, to be presented and reviewed within the first month of the first semester;
• an internship of six months in a foreign university or agency working in the field of urban planning and policy; a written report is due to the Board;
• at least one paper submitted to an international journal and the participation in an international conference as a speaker.

During the third year the PhD candidate should devote his/her time to research and development of the PhD thesis.

For each candidate, one member of the Board will be appointed as a Tutor responsible for supervising and supporting the candidate's work.

The Tutor and the whole Board will follow the preparation of the Thesis, and will hold regular meetings with the candidates.

About the computer and desk availability, one individual desk and 2 pc for shared use are available to each candidate. All PhD students can use their own laptop with the wireless connection. Workstations and other equipment are available in the various laboratories linked with the programme.