



PhD in ARCHITETTURA, INGEGNERIA DELLE COSTRUZIONI E AMBIENTE COSTRUITO / ARCHITECTURE, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING - 41st cycle

THEMATIC Research Field: URBAN PROXIMITY AND THE HERITAGE CITY. INNOVATIVE TOOLS FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIO

Monthly net income of PhDscholarship (max 36 months)

€ 1400.0

In case of a change of the welfare rates during the three-year period, the amount could be modified.

Context of the research activity

Motivation and objectives of the research in this field

The intensification of climate change and recent urban challenges is generating significant impacts in cities, particularly in "heritage cities", which are becoming increasingly vulnerable from an economic, social, and cultural perspective, threatening their sustainable development and long term-resilience. In this context, it is essential to reflect on how to promote actions that make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, as defined by Goal 11 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. Achieving this goal, along with others, requires integrated planning that attempts to experiment with the "proximity" strategy. The concept of proximity, studied by many researchers over the years, has become central to addressing the multiple urban challenges, made more evident by the Covid-19 pandemic. Proximity represents one of the strategies to guide the urban regeneration processes of heritage cities, such as Mantua, by promoting dynamic environments with diversified functions, residential areas, commercial activities, and a mix of green public spaces and areas accessible through slow mobility solutions. The proximity approach aims to reflect and reinterpret different urban themes, as outlined by the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, translating these concepts into concrete actions to be experimented with, validated, and



	<p>implemented in heritage cities. This requires innovative planning and territorial governance tools - progressive instruments that evolve over time, allowing flexible solutions that adapt to new needs. This also fosters territorial and social synergies among actors and places, aiming to develop new strategies for sustainable and integrated improvement that consider the needs of heritage cities and their inhabitants. Integrated planning for such urban transformation requires strong social integration to address climate change, encouraging shared responsibility for multidisciplinary and multisectoral projects. In this process, the collective and individual identity rooted in "heritage cities" is crucial to incorporate into proximity strategies, creating more livable, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable places based on historical and cultural characteristics. The opportunity lies in experimenting with new urban strategies and innovative tools that respond effectively to the proximity-heritage combination, enhancing the cities' resilience to climate challenges.</p>
<p>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</p>	<p>The activity will aim to understand and develop knowledge for the integration of proximity strategies within planning tools, through the experimentation of innovative instruments designed to promote the resilient and sustainable development of "heritage cities", with a specific focus on the goals of the 2030 Agenda. The candidate will be required to explore the phenomena that directly and indirectly impact the environment and cities, threatening their heritage and cultural values. Efforts should focus on addressing the ongoing challenges posed by climate change by adopting increasingly sustainable strategies and actions that are oriented towards urban proximity. The heritage city involved is Mantua, a city recognized for its historical, cultural, and architectural value, which contributes to a strong identity recognized both nationally and internationally. Indeed, Mantua, along with Sabbioneta, was designated as a single site in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2008, in recognition of its exceptional contribution to urban, architectural, and artistic achievements of the Renaissance. The candidate</p>



	<p>must take this heritage into account when considering potential urban transformation, employing both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches. Additionally, the candidate will experiment with integrated, multi-scale planning capable of addressing urban design and planning at various levels, with the goal of developing solutions that are responsive to emerging needs and applicable at different scales of investigation. The candidate must build upon existing studies by providing a theoretical, analytical, and interpretive framework based on the distinctive features and peculiarities that define the identity of the heritage city, as well as experimenting with effective operational tools that can be integrated into current governmental urban planning instruments. In this applied phase, the candidate will explore how the proximity strategy, integrated with innovative tools, could represent an opportunity for urban planning. This experimentation will center on the city of Mantua as a case study, with the aim of understanding the specific needs of heritage cities in the context of climate change, thereby defining the potential and limitations of this new approach for future urban planning that increasingly aligns with sustainability objectives.</p>
Educational objectives	<p>The program aims to provide analytical tools and methodologies for research, analysis, and urban planning, fostering advancements in urban studies for the development of innovative tools for territorial governance. The goal is to promote integrated planning for “heritage cities”, such as Mantua, through a “proximity culture”, experimenting with actions and strategies aligned with the SDGs of Agenda 2030.</p>
Job opportunities	<p>The research aims to qualified professionals in the field of territorial planning, design and governance of urban projects. Specifically, in relation to this program call, PhD graduates with this qualification will be working in national and international organizations or academic Institutions in research, consultancy and planning for heritage cities with historical, cultural and architectural value.</p>



Composition of the research group	1 Full Professors 1 Associated Professors 1 Assistant Professors 1 PhD Students
Name of the research directors	Piergiorgio Vitillo

Contacts
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Additional support - Financial aid per PhD student per year (gross amount)	
Housing - Foreign Students	--
Housing - Out-of-town residents	--

Scholarship Increase for a period abroad	
Amount monthly	700.0 €
By number of months	6

Stage and period abroad	
Institution or company where the candidate will spend the period abroad (name and brief description)	
By number of months abroad	0

Additional information: educational activity, teaching assistantship, computer availability, desk availability, any other information
<p>Additional support: Budget for the research activity (only for positions supported by scholarship):total amount Euro 5.707,20 per student. In detail: -1st year Euro 1.902,40 -2nd year Euro 1.902,40 -3rd year Euro 1.902,40.</p> <p>Additional information about the organization and regulations of ABC-PhD programme can be found in the Regulations for the 41st Cycle of ABC-PhD:download is available at link: https://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/phd-programmes</p> <p>Additional information about ABC department and ABC-PhD programme:available at link: https://www.dabc.polimi.it/</p> <p>Desk availability:The ABC department provides non-permanent desks to be temporarily booked</p>



in common PhD rooms.