



PhD in CONSERVAZIONE DEL PATRIMONIO COSTRUITO / BUILT HERITAGE CONSERVATION - 41st cycle

**THEMATIC Research Field: CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE CROSS-BORDER MOUNTAIN
TERRITORY. ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION MODELS**

Monthly net income of PhDscholarship (max 36 months)

€ 1300.0

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 PhD program is embedded within the Interreg Italy–Switzerland 2021–2027 project *Valley4ACTIONS*, which aims to enhance the tourism offer in four different Alpine Valleys - the middle Valtellina, Valchiavenna, Valmalenco, and Valposchiavo. The project focuses on developing cultural and tourism products that integrate historical, cultural, landscape, and food and wine heritage. A key objective is revitalizing ancient trail networks—linked to major European routes—connecting the city of Sondrio with Valposchiavo through Valmalenco, thus improving regional connectivity and accessibility. This initiative is particularly timely given the upcoming 2026 Winter Olympic Games and their opportunities for long-term cultural and tourism development. The project seeks to systematize and scale up existing initiatives through renewed collaborative and participatory approaches involving a wide range of public, private, and non-profit stakeholders within the tourism sector. The cross-border nature of the project is essential to effectively address shared challenges and maximize the potential for synergy between the involved territories. A distinctive feature of the project lies in its capacity to foster a collaborative network of economic and cultural actors, promoting an integrated, sustainable, and inclusive form of tourism that highlights these cross-border regions' cultural and natural heritage. Ultimately, the project aims to bring about a



	<p>significant transformation from the current situation, enhancing both the competitiveness and sustainability of the cross-border tourism system and increasing the attractiveness of the destinations involved. The PhD candidate will collect, analyze, and systematize strategies to enhance the tourism appeal of cultural heritage-based routes and circuits at national and international levels. Based on this research, the candidate will develop Guidelines for enhancing cultural tourism itineraries and strategies for monitoring and evaluating the various actions undertaken within the project framework. These activities will be supported using integrated methods and robust multidimensional spatial approaches to help identify intervention areas and directly assess their short-, medium-, and long-term impacts on the territory. A key component will also include mapping and analyzing stakeholders involved directly or indirectly in the enhancement process. The research group involved in the project focuses on the conservation and management of cultural heritage at multiple scales, including historical built environments and landscapes (prof. Davide Del Curto and Andrea Garzullino) and project appraisal and multidimensional evaluation of projects and plans supported by evidence-based and value-based approaches (prof. Alessandra Oppio and Marta Dell'Ovo). The candidate will also benefit from the expertise and facilities of the Experimental Laboratory System of the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DASU).</p>
<p>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</p>	<p>The PhD programme, lasting three years, calls for the acquisition of minimum 25 credits divided as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 credits (minimum) offered by PhD courses organized by the PhD programme in Preservation of the Architectural Heritage; • 10 credits offered by the PhD School (transferable and soft skills). <p>In support of research carried out for their thesis, students will benefit from several laboratories both inside and outside the University. The activities undertaken during the second and third year also include attendance of workshops, seminars, and national and international conferences related to individual research, with great</p>



	<p>attention to conferences wherein PhD candidates present the results, even partial, of their research theses, especially in the field of operational research, decision aiding, and multicriteria decision analysis. Periods of study at foreign universities and research centers are also strongly suggested. The PhD candidate will benefit from the support of robust research groups such as the European Working Group on Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding (EWG-MCDA). Educational activities are related to research either underway or at an early stage of development, some of which addresses major monumental structures and some of the most renowned sites of the world. To the aim of their thesis research, PhD candidates have the opportunity to rely on facilities and laboratories, both inside and outside the University, the breadth and width of which provide them with crucial support to the aim of acquiring competence for highly qualified research activities in the domain of cultural heritage protection. As for the thesis research, candidates thus have the opportunity to build their theoretical background on multidisciplinary research fields, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches and experimenting with advanced methods of investigation. Knowledge acquired will bridge the gap between several themes belonging to heritage preservation and valorization, multi-value and multi-scale evaluation, spatial analysis, and socio-cultural enhancement. This aspect increases the technical and soft characteristics and will make PhD immediately competitive at the European level.</p>
Educational objectives	<p>Aim of PhD course is providing the PhD candidates with a unique training experience in the Italian panorama, so far unparalleled also in domains other than the preservation of the architectural heritage. The program of study leading to the doctoral degree is organized in such a way that the students can get ready to contribute to enhance knowledge in the field of Preservation of the Built Heritage and Cultural Landscapes; to enable to engage in advanced study and research; to integrate their professional education and experience with the larger problems of the research around the field. To reach these objectives, students in the doctoral program work closely</p>



	<p>with one or more faculty members of the school and from their related fields of study. Members of the field and invited experts will also play important roles in a student's academic progress, and PhD candidates will be prepared to fill faculty and researcher positions or secure positions at research institutes and centers. Upon successful program completion, we expect that they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared for employment in research/faculty positions at high-level research institutions • Engage in and promote evidence-based practices through the application of rigorous methodology • Develop value-based approaches by eliciting the needs and expectations of stakeholders and the context • Provide leadership in the field by developing an independent line of ethical and culturally responsive research • Contribute to the development of the next generation of scholars.
Job opportunities	<p>Graduates of the PhD programme have often found employment in public sector and conservation institutions, as well as in professional practices and in the business world, in specific specialized fields. PhD candidates from abroad find job in their native countries at University or in Cultural Heritage Institutions.</p> <p>As regards Italy, the relationship with Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage (Mibact), has been definitely fruitful, especially when we consider that many among the best PhDs in Preservation of Architectural Heritage have been hired as officers and executives to the above ministry: recently many PhD from this Programme won the competitive exam to become public officers in the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and most of them are now responsible in prestigious seats.</p>
Composition of the research group	<p>10 Full Professors 13 Associated Professors 4 Assistant Professors 50 PhD Students</p>
Name of the research directors	Alessandra Oppio, Francesca Albani



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	650.0 €
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

List of Universities, Companies, Agencies and/or National or International Institutions that are cooperating in the research:

1. National Technical University of Athens (N.T.U.A.), Greece
2. Departamento de Historia del Arte, Universitat de València, Spain



3. Department of Architectural Composition, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha
4. École Nationale supérieure d'architecture de Paris-La Villette (ENSAPLV), France
5. Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto, Portugal
6. Université Paris I - Pantheon - Sorbonne, Parigi, France
7. Universidad de Sevilla, Departamento de Historia de América, Spain
8. ISPC-CNR Istituto di Scienza del Patrimonio Culturale (Italy)
9. ISCR Istituto Superiore per la conservazione e il restauro (già ICR), Roma

Educational activities (purchase of study books and material, funding for participation in courses, summer schools, workshops and conferences): financial aid per PhD student per year ("DOTE"): **total amount: 5.300,25 euro:**

1st year: max 1.766,75 euro

2nd year: max 1.766,75 euro

3rd year: max 1.766,75 euro

Teaching assistantship (availability of funding in recognition of supporting teaching activities by the PhD student)

There are various forms of financial aid supporting the teaching practice.

The PhD candidate is encouraged to take part in these activities, within the limits allowed by the regulations.

Workspace:

In the CBA PHD room at Bldg. 14 in Leonardo Campus, are available workstations for shared use. All the Ph.D. students can use their laptops with a wireless connection.

Workstations and other equipment are available in the various departmental laboratories (Dastu) linked with the doctoral Program.