



PhD in URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN, AND POLICY - 30th cycle

Number of scholarship offered	6
Department	Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani

Description of the PhD Programme
<p>The PhD Program in Urban Planning, Design and Policy aims at exploring the significance and the impact of contemporary urban changes and at understanding the way they can be governed through planning, design and policy making activities. The program focuses on territorial, social, economic and institutional transformations in contemporary cities, and aims at discussing them as a complex of intertwined phenomena, which calls for new governance, planning and design approaches. The integration between different fields and disciplines of urban research on the one hand, and between theory and practice on the other one, distinguishes the approach promoted by the PhD program. 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. PhD Students are encouraged to reflect upon traditions and innovative experiences in these fields, to participate to research activities concerning cities and regions in Italy and abroad, paying particular attention to international comparison. This will be fostered through the organization of international seminars and through a period of internship to be carried out by the PhD Student at those research institutes, universities or public agencies which constitute the international reference network for the UPDP Program. On the basis of a multidisciplinary approach, the main objective of both the educational program and the individual research activities is to offer to PhD students a challenging environment, a space for international debate and research, experimentation and innovation. Moving from this perspective, the PhD Programme is organized in three research areas: Urban studies, Planning theories and practices; Design topics, forms and tools. These research areas reflect the contents and themes of the ongoing research at DASTU and represent the framework of future proposals. They will be the backbone for PhD Students educational and research activities. Within the PhD Programme in UPDP the following additional subjects are proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evolutions in urban planning and the perspectives of planning practices in relationships with urban and regional changes. • The characteristics and the effects of planning practices taking into account the crossroads between planning and other disciplines • Processes and institutions of urban governance; • Spatial impact of social innovation;



- Forms and processes of regionalization;
- Processes of social, economic and territorial development in local contexts.
- Innovation in the description and representation of urban environment and landscape;
- Tools for the evaluation and management of urban projects and policies, with the aim to master the feasibility and equity of land development, as well as the sustainability and the design quality of the physical outcomes;
- Strategies for land and biodiversity preservation and energy conservation;
- Forms and processes of spatialisation of social and economic inequalities.

The PhD Program in Urban Planning, Design and Policy welcomes foreign and Italian students. English is the official language of the program. The PhD Program takes advantage of the rich research milieu of the **Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU)** and of the cooperation with two other PhD Programs held at DAStU (Architectural and Urban Design and Preservation of the Architectural Heritage).

All candidates will be admitted with the basic departmental scholarships, and the specific research subject will be assigned, with the agreement of the candidate and the Board of Professors of the PhD Programme, within the first years of the PhD activity.



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Research Field: URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN AND POLICY

Monthly net income of PhDscholarship (max 36 months)

€ 1027.73

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 course aims at exploring the significance and the impact of contemporary urban changes and at understanding the way they can be governed through planning, design and policy making activities. On the basis of a multidisciplinary approach, the main objective is to offer to PhD students a challenging environment, a space for international research, experimentation and innovation.

Moving from this perspective, the main courses and workshops focus on the following research areas:

- **Urban studies.** Contemporary cities worldwide are confronted with increasing challenges regarding local democracy, sustainable development, the management of environmental resources and landscape, social cohesion and cultural diversity. Looking at recent cross-scalar urban changes, the main issues addressed are: social, economic, environmental and territorial transformations; governance problems, technological innovation. The main research topics are: forms and processes of 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; processes of social, economic and territorial development in local contexts.
- **Planning theories and practices.** Urban planning is not a unitary and self-contained discipline and the planning



	<p>knowledge and activities can be improved by delving into (and jointly considering) 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 innovate planning theories and practices, going beyond traditional approaches and perspectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 for the implementation of governance policies are experimented as a way to improve the quality of life. Specific research themes are: the role and form of urban projects in leading territorial transformation; innovation in the description and representation of urban environment and landscape; tools for the evaluation and management of urban projects and policies aimed at mastering the feasibility and equity of land development, as well as the sustainability and the design quality of the physical outcomes; strategies for land and biodiversity preservation and energy conservation.
<p>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</p>	<p>The integration between different spheres of research, theory and practice as well as innovative planning practices that combine urban design and policy design are promoting as an approach of the research projects involved in the PhD program.</p> <p>Research projects are supported by introductory courses, which focus on research methods and core themes,</p>



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;
- **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;
- **a design 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 integrates lectures, site tours, design projects and debates among practitioners, researchers and students in one intensive period of work.

Each learning activity is subject to grading through oral examination and the submission of written papers and essays. Detailed programs are available on the programs website. Within the end of the first year, PhD students will be required to submit a project 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 (at least) 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 presented to an international journal and the participation to an international conference as speaker.

During the third year the PhD candidate should devote his/her time to research and to the development of the PhD thesis. For each candidate, one Member of the



	<p>Board will be appointed as Tutor for supervising and supporting the candidates work. The Tutor and the whole Board will follow the preparation of the Thesis, and will hold regular meetings with the candidates.</p>
<p>Educational objectives</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>PhD Students are encouraged to reflect upon traditions and innovative experiences in these fields, to participate to research activities concerning cities and regions in Italy and abroad, paying particular attention to international comparison.</p> <p>This will be fostered through the organization of international seminars and through a period of internship to be carried out by the PhD Student at those research institutes, universities or public agencies which constitute the international reference network for the UPDP Program.</p> <p>The integration between different fields and disciplines of urban research on the one hand, and between theory and practice on the other one, distinguishes the approach promoted by the PhD program.</p> <p>http://www.dastu.polimi.it/index.php?id=1146</p>
<p>Job opportunities</p>	<p>According to its international orientation, the UPDP Program intends to train highly qualified researchers and professionals and expects them to work in academic institutions, research centres, 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.</p> <p>Doctors with such profile could be employed by Italian and International academic institutions, public bodies and research centres, public and private development agencies</p>
<p>Composition of the research group</p>	<p>7 Full Professors 9 Associated Professors 9 Assistant Professors</p>



	7 PhD Students
Name of the research directors	Paola Pucci

Contacts
<p>Coordinator: Paola Pucci; e-mail: paola.pucci@polimi.it ; phone +39/02/2399.5474; PhD Tutor: Giulia Fini; e-mail giulia.fini@polimi.it; fini.giulia@gmail.com; phone +39/02/2399.9408</p> <p>Contact in the PhD Office at DASTU: Marina Bonaventura (E-mail: marina.bonaventura@polimi.it ; tel. +39/02/2399.5165) and Manuela Rinaldi (e-mail: manuela.rinaldi@polimi.it; phone +39/02/2399. 5019)</p> <p>Website: http://www.dastu.polimi.it/index.php?id=1146</p>

Additional support - Financial aid per PhD student per year (gross amount)	
Housing - Foreign Students	--
Housing - Out-of-town residents (more than 80Km out of Milano)	--

Additional information: educational activity, teaching assistantship, computer availability, desk availability, any other informations
<p><i>Educational activities</i></p> <p>The financial aid per PhD student per year are:</p> <p>1st year: max 0 euros per student 2nd year: max 1.365 euros per student 3rd year: max 1.365 euros per student</p> <p><i>Teaching assistantship:</i> various forms of financial aid for activities of support to the teaching practice may be available in the research projects, the didactics, and the Laboratories carried out by the PhD faculty, within the limits allowed by the regulations..</p> <p><i>Computer availability:</i></p> <p>1st year: 2 pc for <i>shared use</i> 2nd year: 2 pc for <i>shared use</i> 3rd year: 2 pc for <i>shared use</i></p> <p>Many PhD students already have their own laptop. Workstations and other equipment are available in the various laboratories linked with the program.</p> <p><i>Desk availability:</i> 1st year: one individual desk 2nd year: one individual desk 3rd year: one individual desk</p>