



PhD in URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN, AND POLICY - 31th cycle

Number of scholarship offered	5
Department	DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA E STUDI URBANI

Description of the PhD Programme
<p>The PhD Programme 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 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 Programme.
The PhD Programme is organized in three research areas: Urban studies, Planning theories and practices; and Design topics, forms and tools. They reflect the themes of the ongoing research at DASTU and represent the framework of future proposals.
Within the PhD Programme in UPDP, the following subjects are proposed to be considered for the presentation of the research proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-scalar regional urbanization processes: rethinking and reshaping the city on a regional scale and addressing the challenges for the analytical approaches and descriptions, as well as for institutional and governance processes; Advances and challenges in contemporary planning theory and practice: the reshaping of citizenship, boundaries and collective action in urban arenas and their effects in the urban environment; Urban transitions towards sustainability: strategies and tools for land and biodiversity preservation, energy conservation, and natural and technological risk prevention and mitigation; Social and economic changes and their effects on spatial processes: social inequalities and urban segregation; economic specialization and diversification in a global context; Tools for the evaluation and management of urban projects: feasibility and equity of urban projects, as well as the sustainability and design quality of the physical outcomes; European cities, urban policies in Europe, the EU urban policy agenda: exploring distinctiveness, convergences and divergences. <p>The PhD Programme welcomes both foreign and Italian students. English is the official language of the program. All candidates will be admitted with the basic departmental scholarships, and the specific research subject will be assigned according to the research topics</p>



covered in the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), with the agreement of the candidate and the Board of Professors of the PhD Programme, within the first years of the PhD activity.

Further information is available at: **Handbook** a.y. 2015/2016 of the PhD Programme in Urban Planning, Design and Policy (UPDP) is available in <http://www.dastu.polimi.it/index.php?id=1146>



PhD in URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN, AND POLICY - 31st cycle

Research Field: POST-FLOOD DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FOR PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Monthly net income of PhDscholarship (max 36 months)

€ 1020.16

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 research aims at understanding how post-disaster damage assessment and in particular post-flood damage assessment can support on the one hand recovery and reconstruction decisions and on the other better prevention strategies in sites that are similar to the ones that were affected.

This research is embedded into a larger EU funded project and it fits within an ongoing international effort to improve knowledge on damage and losses that are encountered after disasters.

Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research

The research is carried out by a highly interdisciplinary team, made of hydraulic engineers, computer scientists and urban planners.

The analysis of damage is relevant to verify to what extent risk maps and assessments on which land use planning is carried out are over or under-estimating a real event.

The analysis of the latter should encourage planning decisions aimed at reducing settlements and cities exposure and vulnerability.

Educational objectives

The program aims at providing expertise in the field of risk assessment to support planning decisions, to develop a research in an international context and partially in response to a European grant provided by DG ECHO, the European Civil Protection Mechanism.

For further reference on the type of work that has been already developed, see:



	http://home.deib.polimi.it/ardagna/PoliRisposta/index.html
Job opportunities	<p>According to its international orientation, the UPDP course intends to train highly qualified researchers and professionals in 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>In the particular case of the topic offered under this call, doctors with such a degree could be also employed by national and international organisations in the field of civil protection, risk and disaster mitigation.</p>
Composition of the research group	<p>5 Full Professors 12 Associated Professors 5 Assistant Professors 16 PhD Students</p>
Name of the research directors	Pucci Paola

Contacts	
<p>Contact in the PhD Office at DASTU: dr 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>Phd tutor: dr Giulia Fini (e-mail: giulia.fini@polimi.it; fini.giulia@gmail.com); phone +39/02/2399.9408</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>Educational activities are supported by introductory Courses, which focus on research methods and core themes, comparative assessment of best practices and design workshops. The main courses and workshops provided in the first year are the following:</p>



- 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 and 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 PhD programs 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 presented 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 candidates work. The Tutor and the whole Board will follow the preparation of the Thesis, and will hold regular meetings with the candidates.

About computer and desk availability, 2 pc for shared use and one individual desk are available. 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.



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Context of the research activity

Motivation and objectives of the research in this field

UPDP PhD Programme 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.

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

The objective of the UPDP Programme 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.

Methods and techniques that will be

The integration between different fields and disciplines of



<p>developed and used to carry out the research</p>	<p>urban research on the one hand, and between theory and practice on the other, distinguishes the approach promoted by the PhD programme.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Programme.</p>
<p>Educational objectives</p>	<p>The programme 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>Starting from this perspective, the main courses and workshops focus on the following research areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 issues addressed are the following: social, economic, environmental and territorial transformations; governance problems and technological innovations. 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



	<p>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, going beyond traditional approaches and perspectives, such as growth-centered urban development, commoditization of the urban environment and others.</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 the implementation of governance policies are being experimented with 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 environments and landscapes; 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 and strategies for land and biodiversity preservation and energy conservation.
<p>Job opportunities</p>	<p>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</p>



	<p>the private sector in the following fields: spatial planning, design and management of urban projects and policy, urban studies and urban governance.</p> <p>PhD Doctors 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</p>
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