

# URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN AND POLICY



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## URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN AND POLICY

# PHD PROGRAMS

### Programme

The PhD Programme in Urban Planning, Design and Policy was initiated in 2013 through the merging of two earlier programmes both based in the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies. This is one of the most important departments in Italy in the field of urban studies, integrated in a strong international network of academic institutions. As one of 180 departments selected and financed by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research for the “Departments of Excellence” initiative, the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies in the five-year period 2018-2022 will focus its efforts on the issue of territorial fragility.

The PhD programme in Urban Planning, Design and Policy benefits from this rich research environment and aims at training young researchers in the field of urban studies according to the best international standards. Over the last six years, twelve PhD candidates have graduated and five more are expected to do so in 2019.

### Mission and goals

The PhD Programme in Urban Planning, Design and Policy aims at exploring the significance and impact of contemporary urban changes and understanding the way these changes can be governed through planning, design and policy-making activities. The programme pays specific attention to recent spatial, environmental, social and economic dynamics taking place in urban contexts, as well as to pro-active advancements in planning practices and to potential innovations in traditional urban studies, urban design and policy making. Based on a multidisciplinary approach, the main objective of both the educational programme and the individual research training is to offer PhD candidates a challenging environment with space for international debate, research, experimentation and innovation.

The main courses and workshops are focused on the following areas:

- Urban changes. Contemporary cities are worldwide confronted with increasing challenges regarding social inequality, local democracy, environmental, social and economic sustainability, and cultural diversity. The main issues addressed are: social, economic, environmental and territorial transformations; technological change that cities are facing; social and political innovation strategies.
- Planning theories and practices. Different planning fields and cultures are explored through a critical and comparative approach. The main issues addressed are: paradigms, traditions and innovations in planning theory; land use planning and its relationship with citizenship and justice; comparative studies about planning systems; the relationship between planning theory and practice; visioning and the strategic dimension in plans, policies and projects.
- Design topics, forms and tools. Theoretical and technical issues for the construction of urban projects and the implementation of public policies are addressed through specific research themes. The main themes addressed are: the role and form of urban projects in driving territorial change; innovations in the descriptions and representations of cities and landscapes; evaluation and management of urban projects to balance the financial feasibility of land development with land protection, biodiversity, and energy saving.

### **Career Opportunities**

According to its international orientation, the programme intends to train highly qualified researchers and professionals. They are all expected to work worldwide in academic institutions, research centres, public administrations and the private sector in the following fields: spatial planning; design and management of urban and landscape projects; urban policies and urban studies.

### **Eligible students**

Eligible students hold a master degree of whatever discipline and speak English language fluently.

### **Scholarships**

Scholarships both on general and on specific themes are available, in accordance with the call for admission.

### **Contacts**

For further information, visit the following website:  
[www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/phd-programmes/active-phd-programmes/urban-planning-design-and-policy](http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/phd-programmes/active-phd-programmes/urban-planning-design-and-policy).  
 For inquiries on specific aspects of the PhD programme, please contact the Coordinator Prof. Luca Gaeta ([luca.gaeta@polimi.it](mailto:luca.gaeta@polimi.it)).

