



POLITECNICO DI MILANO

Doctoral Programs
in
Spatial Planning and Urban Development

1. GENERAL INFORMATION:

1.1 Name of the Doctoral Program:

SPATIAL PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1.2 Department of Politecnico di Milano coordinating the Doctoral Program:

Department of Architecture and Planning (Dipartimento di Architettura e Pianificazione)

2. OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT:

2.1 Objectives of the Doctoral Program:

The PhD Program in Spatial Planning and Urban Development is addressed to foreign and Italian students and is fully taught in English.

The program is focused upon research, and is intended to educate planners able to establish a dialogue with the experiences of the best European and International PhD programs in planning, urban policies and design, urban studies.

The approach of the PhD Program in Spatial Planning and Urban Development is interdisciplinary and it is based upon the specific approach of Polytechnic to design and territorial analysis.

The organisation of the PhD program is based upon some introductory courses, regarding methodological aspects and core themes, and some design international workshops. Some courses are also offered to the other PhD program in Planning in the same Department. The new PhD Program will take advantage of the close cooperation within the same Department with two other PhD programmes in Architectural and Urban Design and in Preservation of the Architectural Heritage.

2.2 Contents of the Doctoral Program:

The courses and workshops are focused on three main themes:

1. **Cities in globalisation.** The processes of radical transformation of contemporary cities will be explored through a comparative approach, and with a specific attention to new global developing cities and to European cities. The main issues addressed will be the social, economic and territorial transformations that have been taking place in cities in the last two decades as a consequence of globalisation processes; the governance problems in the evolving cities; the economic and technological change they are experiencing.
2. **Planning theory.** Different planning fields will be explored, through a critical and comparative approach. The main issues addressed will be: paradigms, traditions and innovation in planning theory; spatial and land use planning, and the relationship with citizenship and justice; comparative studies about planning systems; relationship between planning theory and practice; visioning and strategic dimensions in planning, policies and projects.
3. **Urban and territorial policies.** Sector policies, and their relationship with the problems of governance and government will be analysed using a comparative approach. Some of the policies analysed will be: welfare and cohesion, land use, mobility and infrastructures, environmental quality, housing.

2.3 Types of professional skills and possible occupations of the graduated Doctors

The program has a strong international orientation and is aimed at meeting the demand for researchers skilled in analytical approaches to urban problems, as well as in planning, management and implementation, of urban policies.

Doctors with such profile could be employed by Italian and International academic institutions, public bodies and research centres.

2.4 INTRODUCTORY COURSES

(For the Instructor's cv see file attached)

Title of the Course: **Introduction to Research Methods**

Mandatory course yes no
Course held in English yes no

Instructors: Stefano Moroni, Gabriele Pasqui
Institution: Politecnico Milano

Content of the course:

The course is a methodological introduction to research methods for a PhD Program. The main themes are: the analysis of Italian and international literature and the building of a survey; theoretical and empirical approaches to quantitative and qualitative research methods (analytical, phenomenological, pragmatist); empirical research tools (case study analysis; field analysis, anthropological observation, ..); milestones for the design of a PhD dissertation.

Teaching method: lectures and discussion with students of texts
Hours of lectures: 30

Credits: 5
Method for grading: oral examination

Title of the Course: **European Spatial Planning**

Mandatory course yes no
Course held in English yes no

Instructor: Luisa Pedrazzini
Institution: Lombardy Region

Content of the course:

The course is focused on a comprehensive and detailed presentation of European spatial policies and planning, EU development and cohesion policies (especially Objective 3 – Territorial Cooperation), operational programmes for the programming period 2007-2013, and effects of EU spatial policies upon national territorial policies and programmes (CAP, TEN, ERDF and so on).

The course is organised in two parts: the first is a general presentation of EU policies; the second is focused on specific examples of European spatial policies, programs and projects and their application at national, regional or local levels.

At the end of the course students should know principles and tools (plans, programs, strategic documents) of EU spatial policies, with particular attention on their regional and local territorial impact.

Teaching method: lectures, exercises and tutoring
Hours of lectures: 25

Credits: 5

Method for grading: oral examination and paper evaluation

Title of the Course: **Field research methods for urban studies**

Mandatory course : yes no

Course held in English : yes no

Instructor: **Alessandro Balducci**

Institution:: Politecnico di Milano

Content of the course:

The course covers the following themes with the participation of visiting experts: research strategies: how to analyse the processes of spatial change; the research project: single or multiple case studies, the research protocol, data collection; the sources that can be used: documents, retrieval data, interviews, direct observation; the techniques: semi-structured interview, direct observation, the analysis of documents; the interpretation of results: strategies and ways of analysis; the problem of comparison; the proper character of field research strategies; the observation techniques; the survey techniques; data analysis; bibliographic sources; the research report: composition, users, structure.

Teaching methods: lectures, exercises and tutoring

Hours of lectures: 50

Credits: 5

Method for grading: oral examination

2.5 MAIN COURSES:

Title: **Planning Practices in a Global Perspective**

Mandatory course yes no

Course held in English yes no

Instructor: **Alessandro Balducci**

Institution: Politecnico Milano

Content of the course:

The course addresses the theme of emergent planning practices in the context of globalisation. A first part has a theoretical orientation and illustrates the main interpretations of planning practices: models, paradigms, actors of the planning processes and meaning of an attention to practices. A second part will deepen some emergent planning practices with a particular attention to strategic planning as a form of planning strongly based upon interaction. The third part will illustrate cases of planning in different contexts: Europe, emerging countries, countries of the global South. The aim will be to verify if we can recognize common elements of an approach to planning which can be effective in different circumstances.

Teaching method: Lectures and Seminars

Hours of lectures: 20 + 20 Seminar

Credits: 5

Method for grading: Written paper

Title: Planning and Citizenship

Mandatory course yes no

Course held in English yes no

Instructor: Luigi Mazza

Institution: Politecnico Milano

Content of the course:

The programme develops two arguments. The first one suggests that a dynamic and active idea of citizenship may be an analytic and normative standard for planning, The second suggests that to be consistent and effectiveness a planning system must refer to a republican idea of citizenship. Two basic ideas of citizenship are considered, in particular one assume citizenship as a redistribution of resources, and space is prime within them; there is the link between citizenship and planning. Classic and contemporary planning case studies are used to develop the argument.

Teaching method: Lectures and seminars

Hours of lectures: 15 + 24 exercises

Credits: 5

Method for grading: evaluation of a paper

Title: Paradigms and innovation in planning theory

Mandatory course yes no

Course held in English yes no

Instructor: Pier Carlo Palermo

Institution: Politecnico Milano

Content of the course:

The programme is focused upon different traditions and paradigms in planning theory. The approach is critical and interpretative, and a direct lecture of classic and contemporary texts will be proposed to students. The aim is to stimulate a critical approach to different fields, problems and key-words in planning theory (decision, design, participation and interaction, justice and ethics, democracy), with particular attention to spatial planning theories and experiences.

Teaching method: Lectures and seminars

Hours of lectures: 25 + 10 exercises

Credits: 5

Method for grading: evaluation of a paper

Title: Global cities: problems and policies

Mandatory course yes no

Course held in English yes no

Instructor: Costanzo Ranci

Institution: Politecnico Milano

Content of the course:

This course is focused on the social, economic and territorial transformations that have been taking place in global cities in the last two decades as a consequence of globalisation and tertiarisation of economy. The most relevant theories explaining these processes will be critically analyzed, paying attention to the relationship between social cohesion and economic development. The second part of the course will be focused on urban policies (social policies, housing policies, integrated local programs, and so on) addressing these problems, by analysing and comparing the situation of various European cities.

Teaching method: Lectures and exercises

Hours of lectures: 25 + 10 exercises

Credits: 5

Method for grading:

Students will be asked to carry out a short analysis of a global city by following the theoretical and methodological framework developed in the course

Title: Transport policies

Mandatory course yes no

Course held in English yes no

Instructor: Marco Ponti

Institution: Politecnico Milano

Content of the course:

The course will be focused on contemporary passengers transport and mobility issues, within an economic approach.

A first part will be dedicated to a review of microeconomic tools: economic welfare, market failures, externalities, equity issues, state failures and the "Public Choice" approach, basic regulation theory.

A second part will deal with urban mobility, in different territorial contexts. Public transport policies, fares, congestion phenomena and "road pricing" strategies, land rent and distributive effects will be the main themes dealt with.

A third part will deal with infrastructural investments, summarizing the main evaluation tools, and the role of public and private actors (concessions, Project Financing, regulatory tools).

Teaching method: Lectures and exercises
Hours of lectures: 15 + 25 exercises

Credits: 5
Method for grading: oral examination

Title: Internationalisation of the Economy, Industrial Location and Logistics

Mandatory course yes no X
Course held in English yes X no

Instructor: Flavio Boscacci
Institution: Politecnico Milano

Content of the course:

The course will be organised into the following five sections: 1) Internationalisation of the Economy and Location Theory; 2) Infrastructures and Regional development; 3) Globalisation and Logistics Supply Chains; 4) Logistics: from Transport Costs to Spatial Transaction Costs; 5) Policies for Industrial Location, Infrastructures and Logistics.

Teaching method: Lectures and exercises
Hours of lectures: 15 + 25 exercises

Credits: 5
Method for grading: oral examination

Title: Property Development and Spatial Planning

Mandatory course yes no X
Course held in English yes X no

Instructor: Luca Gaeta
Institution: Politecnico Milano

Content of the course:

The course outlines the typical phases, opportunities and threats of property development in different market sectors and in different geographical contexts. The following topics are covered: market analysis and location strategies; investment evaluation techniques; property finance; asset and property management. Particular attention is paid to the patterns of interaction between private developers and public officials in European planning practices.

Teaching method: Lectures and exercises
Hours of lectures: 25 + 10 exercises

Credits: 5
Method for grading:
oral examination, preparation of reports on selected property developments

Title: **Urban design Workshop**

Mandatory course yes no
Course held in English yes no

Instructor: Corinna Morandi
Institution: Politecnico Milano

Content of the course:

The workshop is lead by a cluster of instructors and teachers. The theme will change every year, and the approach will be inter-disciplinary. In an introductory phase some lectures will be given, in order to define the theme and the theoretical approaches and to discuss international case studies. The workshop will be organised though group activities, and students will realise a large scale urban. Physical, organisational and management aspects will be explored by students, with particular attention to visioning and strategic dimensions of the design experience.

Teaching method: Lectures and workshop activities
Hours of lectures: 40 + 150 workshop activities

Credits: 20
Method for grading: Evaluation of a project draft

2.6 Elective courses and training on specific themes:

Elective training will be based upon three main activities:

International workshops (10 credits). Every year will be organised an international workshop, coordinated by a member of the Faculty, in collaboration with one international University, institution or research centre. The Workshop will be organised as a period (two weeks) of intensive design activities in a location in Italy or abroad.

International stage (up to 30 credits). During the second year each PhD student has to attend to a period of at least 6 months at a foreign University or agency working in the field of urban planning and policies. At the end of the stage the student has to write a paper (case study, analysis of international literature) that will be based upon his/her international experiences.

Other research activities (up to 10 credits). Participation and presentation of papers to international seminars and congresses, publishing on international reviews, organisation of international seminars are considered complementary research activities.

2.7 Development of the Doctoral Thesis

The dissertation is the most important output of the PhD Program, and each student will be guided by a tutor member of the Faculty.

The dissertation must be written in English, and should develop a theme linked with the different courses and workshop activities.

The varied inter-disciplinary suggestions offered to the PhD student represents a great opportunity for understanding the multiple dimensions of urban change, planning, projects and policies but, in order to avoid the concurrent risk of redundancy, students should be able to convey them to a clear research project. That is why the topic of the dissertation will be outlined since the first year, in order to lead and specialise the educational process along all the three years of the PhD program. At the end of the first year the student submits to the Faculty: a) an articulated outline of his research project, with reference to the presented papers; b) a proposal for a stage abroad, both coherent with the theme of the dissertation, and previously discussed with the tutor and the director . The second milestone is at the end of the second year. The student will complete the review of the works carried out during the stages, and will deepen the discussion on the advancements of the thesis work. During the third year is settled a fourth milestone, at the end of the first semester, for refining the preparation of the thesis and a final examination at the end of the year.

The thesis should be innovative both for the theme addressed and for the methodological approach.

2.9 Programme outline

Students are also recommended to attend courses offered by other academic institutions.

Year	Semester	Introductory courses	NC	Required (yes/no)	Main courses	NC	Required	In English (yes/no)	Elective courses and training on specific themes	NC	Development of the Doctoral Thesis	NC
1	1	Introduction to Research Methods	5	yes								
1	1	European Spatial Planning	5	no								
1	1				Planning Practices in a Global Perspective	5	yes	yes				
1	1				Paradigms and Innovations in Planning Theories	5	yes	yes				
1	1				Planning and Citizenship	5	yes	yes				
1	2				Transport Policies	5	no	yes				
					Internationalisation, industrial location, logistics	5	no	yes				
1	2				Global cities: problems and policies	5	yes	yes				
1	2				Property Development and Spatial Planning	5	no	yes				
1	2	Field research methods for urban studies	5	yes								
1	2	Review paper	10	yes								
1	2				Urban design Workshop	20	yes	yes				
1	2										Project of PhD Thesis	5
1/2	1/2								International Workshop	10		
2	1/2								Stage	30		
1/2	1/2								Other research activities	10		
2	2										Second milestone for PhD Thesis	5
3	1/2										Dissertation	70
		TOT CREDITS	20/25		TOT CREDITS	40/55			TOT CREDITS	40/50	TOT CREDITS	80

3. ORGANISATION:

3.1 Faculty

Family Name	First Name	Position	Institution
Balducci	Alessandro	FP	Politecnico di Milano
Boeri	Stefano	FP	Politecnico di Milano
Boscacci	Flavio	FP	Politecnico di Milano
Bricocoli	Massimo	RE	Politecnico di Milano
Mazza	Luigi	FP	Politecnico di Milano
Morandi	Corinna	AP	Politecnico di Milano
Moroni	Stefano	RE	Politecnico di Milano
Palermo	Pier Carlo	FP	Politecnico di Milano
Pasqui	Gabriele	AP	Politecnico di Milano
Ponti	Marco	FP	Politecnico di Milano
Ranci	Costanzo	FP	Politecnico di Milano

For the CV of the faculty members see file attached

3.2 International scope: PhD course collaboration with foreign universities

Cooperation agreements will be activated with foreign Universities, research centres and institutions, using networks already existing between Architecture and Planning Department and other academic and non academic institutions. Agreements for the organisation of International Workshop, students exchange and research projects will be managed.

3.3 Contacts

Tutor: Dr. Luca Gaeta
Department: DiAP
Telephone: +39-02-23995426
Fax: +39-02-2399 5435
E-mail: luca.gaeta@polimi.it

4. EXPECTED NUMBER OF STUDENTS:

Students with grant	4
Students without grant	4

5. INFRASTRUCTURES FOR THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM:

5.1

Laboratories for experiments: Experimental Laboratory for Urban Modelling

5.2

Mainframes and computers: no

5.3

Personal computers for student's exclusive use: 0,5 pc for each student

5.4

Workplace (desk+telephone) for each student: 1 workplace for each student

5.5

Other facilities: the facilities of Master program in Planning (Faculty of Architecture and Society) will be offered also to PhD students