

Postgraduate course in Urban Analysis & Management [info]

The postgraduate course provides participants with the skills needed to analyse, plan and manage contemporary urban areas. The course is aimed at training land management professionals capable of carrying out an in-depth analysis of a socio-geographical context and of translating such analysis into urban and land-use planning tools.

To this purpose, the postgraduate course includes lessons that are normally part of different degree courses, combining them around the topic of contemporary city planning.

More specifically, the postgraduate course is aimed at:

- Providing participants with the skills needed to examine the general historical and social background of an urban area. These skills will be acquired during the theoretical part of the course, in which the nature and functioning of urban phenomena will be analysed both at a historical level and in the light of the contemporary dynamics of globalization.
- Providing participants with the skills needed to carefully examine the demographic, social and economic aspects which are at the basis of the problems of an area, as well as the resources – including the cultural heritage – which can be exploited for the sustainable development of the same area. In order to help students acquire these analytical skills, part of the postgraduate course will specifically focus on all the technical and methodological tools which can be used to carry out a truly effective analysis. In other words, students will be taught to go beyond the purely theoretical level and to use their analysis as a solid foundation for the elaboration of concrete action plans. This will be done both through theoretical lessons on the most appropriate methodological approaches (methodology of empirical quantitative and qualitative research, statistical data processing techniques, GIS spatial analysis) and through extensive training sessions on the software applications (both proprietary and open source) needed for the analysis: SPSS and R, ArcGIS and QGIS.
- Training participants to take into consideration both the general aspects of urban planning (urban dynamics and land-use models discussed in the international literature) and the specific characteristics of a given area, trying to make the most of the direct knowledge which participants have of their cities. Students will acquire these skills not only during the lessons, but also during their period of traineeship and while writing their theses, under the constant monitoring of the teaching staff.

The postgraduate course includes a total of 250 hours of face-to-face intensive education. These lessons will be integrated by additional mandatory activities (traineeship and thesis) monitored by the teaching staff.

The lessons will take place in the Department of History, Archaeology, Geography, Fine and Performing Arts (SAGAS) of the University of Florence. Some lessons will be held outdoors.

The overall duration of the postgraduate course is 12 months. All lessons will be held in English.