

# URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## DIST - Green Restitution for Urban Heritage Planning and Protection - GRUHPP

<b>Funded By</b>	Dipartimento DIST
<b>Supervisor</b>	COTELLA GIANCARLO - giancarlo.cotella@polito.it
<b>Contact</b>	
<b>Context of the research activity</b>	<p>The GRUHPP Project questions and reframes the role of Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) and Nature-based Solutions (NBS) in historic urban environments. The elaboration of the Green Restitution theory and approach will provide new tools for planners, heritage experts and local communities to support heritage environments confront unprecedented threats from climate change.</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>“Green Restitution for Urban Heritage Planning and Protection.” The GRUHPP Project is an international research project that directly confronts the challenges of introducing sustainability-oriented projects into historic urban contexts. Ongoing dilemmas and conflicts between traditional conservation approaches and the development of new innovative projects such as Nature Based Solutions (NBS) as well as Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) have restricted the development of effective policies and project implementation. The PhD scholarship will focus on addressing these issues across local, national and international scales. As a PhD researcher, you will be part of an interdisciplinary and international team working alongside another PhD and Postdoc to investigate these issues as part of a 5-year research project.</p> <p>The GRUHPP Project repositions GBI and NBS in heritage spaces by confronting the existing dilemmas and conflicts through fundamental, interdisciplinary and multiscale research. The approach aims to recognize and reclaim the lost green history of heritage cities, define the heritage-specific risks and opportunities of GBI and NBS, develop the new theoretical concept of Green Restitution as well as establish clear policy guidelines to inform future research and planning activities. The work spans the fields of urban planning, heritage and environmental studies to challenge long-standing development and conservation paradigms that have overlooked the critical role that green areas and natural environments play in the long-term sustainability and resilience of heritage.</p> <p>During your PhD, you will contribute to the following Research Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate in diverse contexts around the world the historic and ongoing</li> </ol>

loss of cities' green history to identify the range of lost social, cultural and environmental relationships to restore as heritage.

2. Define the heritage-specific risks and opportunities of implementing GBI and NBS schemes within historic environments to assess their feasibility and appropriateness.

3. Develop the Green Restitution theory and GRUHPP Policy Guidelines and Recommendations to support future decision making, urban planning and project development of GBI and NBS within historic environments.

These will be achieved by mapping and documenting lost green heritage, building a library of GBI and NBS heritage projects as well as conducting six detailed case studies in UNESCO World Heritage cities across different climate zones around the world. The research will be highly collaborative with the other team members at DIST as well as by engaging with international experts and institutions alongside the relevant local and national actors in the six case studies

**Skills and competencies for the development of the activity**

The interdisciplinary research spans several fields, and successful candidates should have a background or training in the disciplines of urban planning and design, heritage studies, architecture, landscape architecture or other related fields.

During the research, the successful candidates will be responsible for carrying out the following research tasks:

- Desktop, archival and on-site research
- Literature Reviews
- Policy Analysis
- GIS Analysis
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Interviews
- Co-creation participatory workshops

The selected candidates will be expected to conduct research abroad in one or more of the global case studies where they will be a Visiting PhD Research Fellow for a period of several months. The official language of the PhD is English, but additional language skills in Arabic, Chinese, Italian, Spanish or other languages will be considered an advantage.

We are looking for highly motivated candidates that work well in a collaborative environment as well as independently. Candidates should have a strong interest in planning, heritage and environmental studies which will implement critical analytical thinking skills throughout the project.