

Dear Colleagues,

please circulate this call among colleagues and potential candidates (deadline: October 18, 2021).

In the framework of the Italian PNRR funding, the PhD Program in Urban Planning, Design, and Policy Politecnico di Milano issues one position on the “Winter Olympics and Sustainable Development: Planning Challenges and Opportunities” topic.

TOPIC

In recent years, cities have hesitated in applying to host mega-events such as the Olympics. For example, 4 out of 6 candidates withdrew from the bid for the 2024 Olympics. The same occurred for the 2026 winter edition. In part, the discontent and problems derive from the significant resources required to host such events. In addition, the Olympics' environmental and social sustainability, or lack thereof, proved to be problematic both in the planning phase and in subsequent years during the management and legacy. Related large-scale projects may also have long-term negative urban and regional impacts due to accelerated processes and little connection with existing local contexts.

To date, there is a lack of analysis of the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development connected to the planning and management of the Olympics and the associated infrastructure and transformations. The risks derived from fast-track planning and development, transnational and decontextualized projects, intensive tourist exploitation and post-event economic slowdowns are particularly relevant for the cities involved in the Winter Olympics.

In the Italian context, there has until now been little discussion regarding the role of the 2026 Winter Olympics in relaunching the multiple territories involved, in particular in relation to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. The geographic contexts of this mega-event span from the core of Milan's metropolitan area to the Alpine region (part of which falls within the National Strategy for Inner Areas). Sustainability is one important aspect to linking Olympic planning with spatial planning; however, it requires further investigation in terms of infrastructural, environmental and landscape projects and their effects to generate a clearer picture of its relevance. The PhD student will deepen these topics or expand his/her individual work in similar directions.

Main RESEARCH ACTIVITIES include:

- review of available concepts and methods for assessing the challenges and opportunities for planning sustainable mega-events and infrastructure;
- collection of relevant evidence regarding specific mega-events and related projects through multiple methods;
- analysis of the challenges and opportunities for sustainable mega-event planning and projects in specific cases, including the planning of the Milano-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics (in cooperation with the private planning firm MobilityinChain);
- dissemination of the results in both academic and practice-related environments.

We seek CANDIDATES that

- are highly motivated and interested in the topic;
- have completed a Master's degree in urban planning or in a related field;
- have an excellent command of the English language in addition to one or more other languages;
- are willing to work in an interdisciplinary team and to develop practice-oriented research.

Please find the general CALL here (see the PhD Program in URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN, AND POLICY in particular) and kindly follow the application procedure:

<http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/looking-for-a-phd/call-for-positions-and-scholarships/calls/pon-calls/>

The specific TOPIC of this PhD position can be found here:

http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/fileadmin/files/dottorato/concorso37/borsePON/SCHEDA-UPDP-PON-GREEN-WINTER_OLYMPICS.PDF

More information regarding the PhD program in Urban Planning, Design, and Policy can be found here: <http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/phd-programmes/active-phd-programmes/urban-planning-design-and-policy/index.html> http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/fileadmin/user_upload/schede_corsi/URBANPLAN/2019_19_UrbanPlanningDesignPolicy.pdf

The PhD program is part of the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU - <https://www.dastu.polimi.it>) at Politecnico di Milano. The Department is internationally esteemed in the fields of architecture and urban planning, with Politecnico di Milano ranking 10th in the world in the field of Architecture and Built Environment according to the 2021 QS Ranking.

The DEADLINE for the application is:
October 18, 2021, at 2.00 pm (local Italian time).

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an online conference call.
The program will start at the beginning of November 2021.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me for further information: davide.ponzini@polimi.it

Best
davide

Davide Ponzini, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Architecture and Urban Studies
Politecnico di Milano
Via Bonardi 3, 20133 Milan, Italy
Tel +39 02 23995414
Email davide.ponzini@polimi.it
www.tau-lab.polimi.it