



**INTERNATIONAL
DOCTORAL COLLEGE
SPATIAL RESEARCH LAB**

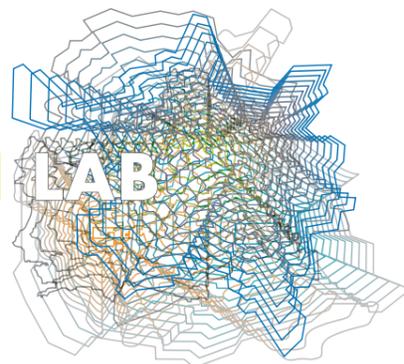
Curriculum 2013 – 2016

Transformation of Cities and Landscapes

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ADVANCED STUDIES IN SPATIAL PLANNING



PROFILE

Spatial planning and design at academic level form the focus of the International Doctoral College “Spatial Research Lab”. Students are required to embark on independent explorations of uncharted academic territory within the framework of their individual doctoral theses (PhD). The International Doctoral College is open to excellently qualified candidates from a wide range of spatially relevant disciplines who would like to engage in an intensive, academically creative discourse on difficult, spatially relevant problems within the framework of a doctoral thesis (PhD) and with a view to elaborating viable and innovative attempts at solutions.

The College offers outstandingly qualified doctoral students the opportunity to engage with spatial issues of high societal relevance within the context of an interdisciplinary, cross-border exchange. This exchange is stimulated by addressing specific case studies as part of a common framework theme and is designed to encourage the production of independent, original academic contributions. Complementary taught modules and guest lectures by well-known experts equip participants with in-depth knowledge in the fields of planning theory and methodology, spatial planning design, and communication.

SUBJECT MATTER

The Doctoral College takes difficult, highly complex and complicated problems of spatial development as its starting point. The latter usually cut across several different disciplines, affect a diverse range of geographical reference areas and involve numerous actors from the public and private sectors. In this context, the concept of space comprises the entire physical environment, both the “urban” and the “rural”, along with all the possibilities it opens up in terms of existence, behaviour and experience.

AIMS

The International Doctoral College “Spatial Research Lab” aims to develop students’ ability to independently elaborate relevant research questions on issues of spatial importance. The intensive exchange of ideas that is a prerequisite for critical discourse and the formulation of individual contributions is developed step by step and cultivated by the doctoral students on their own initiative. The international platform of the Doctoral College provides a framework for systematic, comparative study in the chosen thematic field as well as critical discussion of practice-oriented concepts and strategies in collaboration with actors from the public and private sectors. In the course of the doctoral programme, students not only have excellent opportunities to engage in intensive interdisciplinary discourse but additionally have access to expert mentoring and advice from all the participating professors and teaching staff. Guest professors are also involved in the discourse.



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THE INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND A COMMON FRAMEWORK THEME

International, interdisciplinary exchange is absolutely vital in order to place academic contributions in context, recognise spatially relevant patterns and stimulate the academic discourse on issues of future importance. Six professors in the field of spatial development from Germany, Switzerland and Austria have therefore seized the initiative for a second time to create a suitable framework for this exchange. The Doctoral College centres on a common framework theme within which the research foci can be developed, depending on the capabilities and interests of the doctoral students and in consultation with the respective professor supervising the thesis.

FRAMEWORK THEME FOR THE 2013 – 2016 CURRICULUM

The framework theme for the Doctoral College curriculum in the period 2013 – 2016 is “Transformation of Cities and Landscapes”. The diverse changes taking place in living environments with the predominantly inward focus on infill development, changes in the fields of mobility, landscape, demographics, energy, and not least climate change, call for integrated, demonstrable strategies and concepts for comprehensive, holistic transformation. In order to explore and delimit their research topics the doctoral students at the various universities and institutes of higher education will analyse significant spatial issues relating to the transformation of cities and landscapes of national and European importance in Switzerland, Germany and Austria. The objective is to explore the possibilities of cross-border concepts and strategies, test suitable tools and approaches and demonstrate the effects and consequences of spatially relevant actions and decisions by means of experimental simulations. Three doctoral symposia per year held at the institutions where the participating professors and guest professors are based facilitate exchange and allow the students to acquire additional skills and expertise. The symposia feature guest lectures by well-known experts and joint seminars.

03

CURRICULUM & ORGANISATION



03

CURRICULUM & ORGANISATION

CURRICULUM

The underlying rationale of the curriculum is based on the simultaneous treatment at several European universities and institutes of higher education of key thematic fields that are essential to the academic discourse in spatial planning and design and all related disciplines. These thematic fields include, for example, management of settlement areas, spatial and infrastructural development and cross-border urban and rural development issues. Further project laboratories (case studies) on suitable framework themes of equal importance in the cities of the participating universities and institutes of higher education will be selected as required.



Particularly in the first year, the key thematic fields are supplemented by the following curricular modules: a) Spatial planning methodology, b) Spatial planning design c) Process design and communication and d) Landscape theory, which are taught by expert lecturers from the respective fields. The Doctoral College is organised so as to allow the opportunity for different forms of interdisciplinary, national and international cooperation. This requires personal attendance for defined periods at the doctoral symposia and willingness on the part of all participants to communicate and cooperate with the help of modern information technologies.

ORGANISATION FACULTY

The curriculum lecturers are professors and lecturers specialising in the following fields: planning theory, planning methods and strategies, spatial planning and development, landscape and infrastructure planning, urban planning, urban design, and neighbourhood development. These are complemented by specialist lecturers from the fields of communication and process design, planning methodology, spatial planning design, landscape theory, and well-known guest lecturers.

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

The candidates for the Doctoral College are selected by the respective professors and typically have a master's degree or equivalent in fields such as architecture, civil engineering, landscape architecture, spatial planning, urban planning, environmental planning or other spatially relevant disciplines. In addition, highly motivated and excellently qualified candidates from other related disciplines are expressly encouraged to apply to the participating professors for a place in the International Doctoral College "Spatial Research Lab". To obtain their doctorate, students are required to comply with the degree conferral regulations applicable at the respective university or institute of higher education.

DOCTORAL COLLEGE CYCLE

The Doctoral College operates on a three-year cycle. The first year serves as a familiarisation phase, focussing on narrowing down the topic, determining the research field and the structure of the doctoral thesis and evaluating potential case studies. The second year is chiefly devoted to in-depth analysis of the issues within the framework of study projects, experiments and elaboration of the key chapters of the doctoral thesis. The third and final year is reserved for evaluation, detailed study of selected aspects, the writing of and feedback on the doctoral thesis.



DOCTORAL SYMPOSIA

Integral components of the Doctoral College are the thrice-yearly doctoral symposia. These will be held at each of the participating universities and institutes of higher education in turn as well as at the institutions where the respective guest professors are based, according to the following timetable:

10 – 15 March 2013	Vienna Kick-off event
12 – 16 August 2013	Munich
18 – 22 November 2013	Hamburg
17 – 21 March 2014	Stuttgart
Spring / summer 2014	institution of guest professor A
10 -14 November 2014	Zürich
Winter / spring 2015	institution of guest professor B
21 – 26 June 2015	Karlsruhe
Autumn 2015	institution of guest professor C
Spring 2016	final symposium

The dates of the as yet unscheduled doctoral symposia will be fixed in the course of the doctoral programme. The symposia usually start on a Sunday or Monday and finish on a Friday. The first half of the week is devoted to exploring the respective project laboratories (case studies) and the taught modules of the curriculum. The second half is set aside for in-depth discussion and individual exchange. The programme features seminars, round-table discussions, field trips, lectures and one-to-one consultations. The doctoral symposium is put together by the respective host professor in consultation with the doctoral students.

TAUGHT MODULES AND CREDIT POINTS (ECTS)

The number of credit points students must acquire during the course of the doctoral programme is regulated by the participating universities and institutes of higher education. Students earn approx. 3 – 6 credit

points (ECTS) per semester for the teaching sessions offered within the framework of the Doctoral College – i.e. the taught modules that form part of the doctoral symposia. Details will be established at the start of the Doctoral College.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The doctoral students have a modern infrastructure at their disposal at the respective universities and institutes of higher education. The institution hosting the doctoral symposium ensures that sufficient seminar rooms and technical equipment are available for presentations, exchange and discussion.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

To support the doctoral programme an Internet platform will be available for exchange and discussion in the intervals between the symposia. The participants are encouraged to record their personal notes and findings in logbooks. The platform is also used for presentations to external partners.

SPOKESPERSON, GENERAL MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION

As spokesperson, Prof. Andreas Voigt will be responsible for the general management of the Doctoral College as well as acting as its public ambassador for the 2013-2016 programme cycle.

FUNDING

The professors of the doctoral college endeavour to attract funding for the programme.

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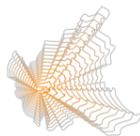
PARTICIPATING PROFESSORS & INSTITUTIONS



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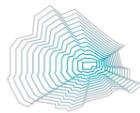
GENERAL INFORMATION

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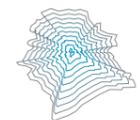
HCU | HafenCity Universität
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Institute for Local, Regional and State Planning
Chair of Urban Planning and Design
KIT (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)



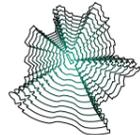
KIT
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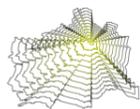
ETH
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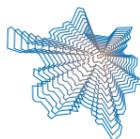
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Technical University of Munich



TUM
Technische Universität München

TEACHING LANGUAGE

Teaching is predominantly in German. Individual lectures and teaching sessions may be delivered in English.

APPLICATIONS/BURSARIES

Applications consisting of the usual documents, i.e. CV and covering letter should be submitted to the candidate's preferred supervisor by 31 October 2012. Applicants should also enclose a preliminary two- to three-page outline / exposition of the proposed doctoral thesis. A research plan will be drawn up in consultation with the supervising professor. Candidates are advised to apply in good time to any potential sponsors and funding providers. Bursaries may be made available to outstandingly qualified candidates.

GUEST PROFESSORS

Guest professor A (NN)
Guest professor B (NN)
Guest professor C (NN)

TEACHING STAFF

DI Michael Heller, Spatial Planning Design
Dr. Eva Ritter, Communication and Process Design
Dr. Rolf Signer, Planning Methodology
Dr. Nicole Uhrig, Landscape Theory

INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL COLLEGE COORDINATOR 2013-2016

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INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL COLLEGE SPOKESPERSON 2013-2016

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FURTHER INFORMATION

<http://www.forschungslabor-raum.info>
International Doctoral College "Spatial Research Lab" (ed., 2012): Spatial Research Lab. The Logbook.
JOVIS [ISBN 978-3-86859-127-9]