GRAN SASSO SCIENCE INSTITUTE
URBAN STUDIES AND REGIONAL SCIENCE
GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK
ACADEMIC YEAR 2017 / 2018
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program description</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course requirements and academic calendar</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core courses description</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Geography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and the City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative and quantitative methodology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty advisors</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules for progression</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First year paper requirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second year: requirements and doctoral candidacy examination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third year: Final exam: thesis defense</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements of the Ph.D. Thesis</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper collection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monograph</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research ethics and plagiarism</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International mobility</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Budget</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The GSSI website and communication</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Committee</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Lecturers</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Doctoral Program in Urban Studies and Regional Science is a scientific program leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), the highest degree awarded by universities of the Italian education system. The goal of the program is to train doctors capable of doing independent and original research that contributes to the wellbeing of people and the society, and that enhance our understanding of relevant issues in urban studies and regional science.

Some of the topics addressed by the Doctoral Program in Urban Studies and Regional Science are migration and local labor markets, creativity and innovation-led regional growth, the social effects of spatial regulation, place and city resilience to catastrophic shocks, informality and urban shrinkage, development of peripheral areas and the political economy of regional development.

The program depends on the Social Sciences Unit of the Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), a school of advanced studies and a center for research in the areas of Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science and Social Sciences, located in L’Aquila, the capital city of the Abruzzo Region in Central Italy.

The Doctoral Program in Urban Studies and Regional Science is organized around six teaching cores:
- Regional science;
- Economic geography;
- Social sciences and the city;
- Urban planning;
- Public policy;
- Qualitative and quantitative methodology.

Each of these cores comprises a wide range of activities reserved to Ph.D. candidates, which includes lectures, research and policy seminars, training and mentoring sessions. Members of the teaching committee as well as visiting scholars and experts contribute to the development of the different courses. All these activities take place during the first year of the program and are compulsory; proof of attendance can be required (e.g. by signing the attendance sheet circulated in class). For lectures, seminars and training session, a syllabus will be circulated the first day of class. At-home assignments will be given at the discretion of the lecturers. Detailed information on the schedule of each activity will be available on the GSSI website, prior to the beginning of the academic year.
The 2017-2018 academic year runs from November 7th, 2017 to October 31st, 2018 and the teaching period comprises two semesters:

- the first semester runs from November 7th to February 10th, in which the students take the courses on regional science, economic geography, social sciences and the city and urban planning
- the second semester runs from February 12th to July 8th, when the cores on policy and research methodologies take place.

During the academic year, Ph.D. candidates are required to stay at the GSSI from Monday to Friday, with the exception of Italian feast days and academic breaks. There are three breaks during the 2017-2018 academic year:

- the Winter break runs from December 15th, 2017 to January 14th, 2018;
- the Spring break runs from March 30th to May 6th, 2018;
- the Summer break runs from July 9th to September 2nd, 2018.

---

**Core courses description**

**Regional Science**

The teaching core on Regional Science provides the students with a basic understanding of the main theories and facts about the social and economic organization of regions, regional growth dynamics and the rationale behind regional development policies. The main questions addressed by the teaching core on Regional Science are the determinants of the location decisions of firms and industries; the drivers of inter-regional migration and the consequences of factors’ mobility for regional growth and regional inequality.

The course is structured around three main units:

- The location and agglomeration of people and economic activities
- The functioning and consequences of interregional migration
- Theories of regional growth and development, and regional policy options.

For the academic year 2017/18, the course will include 20 contact hours taught by Professor Alessandra Faggian (course convenor).
Why do some territories and regions perform better than others in terms of economic growth and development? How can local and regional development policies foster economic activity and socio-economic development in lagging areas? The teaching core on Economic Geography will provide students with an in-depth understanding of the determinants of spatial economic disparities and of the evolution of the geographic reflection on them, examining the main theories and approaches to local and regional economic development. The final part of the course will then focus on the regional development policy of the European Union, illustrating its rationale and discussing its evaluation and results. The last lesson will be devoted to a debate exercise: students will be divided into two groups defending contrasting policy positions on a pre-established topic.

The course will include 20 contact hours taught by the course convenor, Dr. Giulia Urso, along with Dr. Davide Luca. Seminars with international speakers are also an integral component of the Economic Geography course.

The teaching core on Social Sciences and the City aims to introduce students to the key theoretical foundations and the empirical practice of qualitative research approaches to the study of the city. While presenting the tradition and the prevailing contemporary developments in urban theory across different disciplines, the course will address a selection of relevant research objects such as socio-spatial differentiation patterns, housing pathways, public spaces and diversity. Each research object will be addressed through the critical presentation and discussion of a range of qualitative studies.

The course will include 20 contact hours and will be organized as a series of reading seminars: students will be invited to present weekly readings and to participate to a class-discussion followed by a final lecture. Several visiting and residential lecturers will also contribute to the teaching core in social sciences and the city.

The teaching core on urban planning explores regulatory, institutional, social and ethical aspects of spatial planning. The course covers main aspects of both planning theory and practice. The first part of the course is devoted to the investigation of the complex nexus between technical knowledge and political
knowledge in planning, and of the connection between spatial regulation and social regulation lato sensu. Several historical and contemporary case studies are explored at this aim. The second part of the course analyses the most relevant international trends in planning theory and practice throughout the Twentieth century, focusing in particular on some recent developments in the field, such as strategic planning, communicative and collaborative planning.

The course will include 20 contact hours taught by the course convenor (Prof. Francesco Chiodelli). Several visiting lecturers will also contribute to the teaching core in Urban Planning.

Public Policy

The course introduces some of the major debates and issues in urban and regional policy and politics. It will enable students to develop analytical and critical skills relevant for understanding policy analysis and some of the difficult choices involved in identifying, addressing and resolving public policy problems. Understanding the impact, scope, and reach of public policy on individual and collective lives and choices, and role of the government in urban and regional management and development is the principal goal of this course.

The Public Policy course comprises several seminars by visiting lecturers from both the academia and international organizations and institutions.

Qualitative and Quantitative Methodology

The teaching core on qualitative and quantitative methodology aims at providing the Ph.D. candidates with an introduction to both qualitative and quantitative methods applicable to the urban and regional research fields. Courses will be taught by members of the academic board and invited lecturers. Topics to be addressed in the teaching core on qualitative and quantitative methodology are:

- Qualitative Research Methods (Dr. Giulia Pezzi, GSSI);
- Building up and managing a reference library using Mendeley (Dr. Giulia Pezzi, GSSI);
- Ethics and research (Prof. Stefano Moroni, Polytechnic University of Milan);
- Introduction to Statistical Analysis using STATA (Prof. Özge Öner, Jönköping International Business School);
- Visualizing Data (Maddalena Falletti and Roberto Rota, freelance graphic designers);
- Academic writing and publishing (Lorenzo Chelleri, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya);
- Introduction to GIS (Rachel Franklin, Brown University).
Lectures will be complemented with a series of seminars, where leading international experts from various disciplinary fields will present results of their research and share their knowledge with participants. The seminars are conceived as an open instance for exchanging ideas and discussing on key topics of contemporary regional sciences and urban studies.

Below is the preliminary list of seminar speakers for the 2017-2018 academic year:

- **Rachelle Alterman**, Technion, Haifa, Israel
- **Andrea Ascani**, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
- **Miguel Atienza**, Catholic University of the North, Chile
- **Nicola Bellini**, Tourism Management Institute, La Rochelle Business School, France
- **Ron Boschma**, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
- **Marco Calaresu**, University of Sassari, Italy
- **Marco Cremaschi**, Sciences Po, Paris, France
- **Alessandro Crociata**, University of Chieti-Pescara, Italy
- **Francesca Gelli**, IUAV, University of Venice, Italy
- **Ulrich Hilpert**, Friedrich Schiller Universität Jena, Germany
- **Philip McCann**, University of Sheffield, UK
- **Colin McFarlane**, University of Durham, UK
- **Ezio Micelli**, IUAV University of Venice, Italy
- **Antonio Páez**, McMaster University, Canada
- **Mark Partridge**, Ohio State University, US
- **Gabriele Pasqui**, Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy
- **Carlo Salone**, University of Turin, Italy
- **Federico Savini**, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- **Petra Stauffer-Steinhocher**, WU Wien, Austria
- **Paolo Veneri**, OECD, Paris, France
- **Tommaso Vitale**, Science Po, Paris, France
- **Frank Witlox**, Ghent University, Belgium.
Faculty advisors

It is not only allowed, but also recommended, that each doctoral student is advised by two co-advisors (one internal and one external). The internal advisor must be chosen among the members of the Teaching Committee (http://www.gssi.infn.it/people/professors/lectures-social-science-gssi-cities). External advisors must be approved by either the Doctoral Program Coordinator or the Area Director. The internal supervisor needs to be selected at the beginning of the second year (by the 15th of December 2018), while the external supervisor should be proposed by June 2019 (and, in any case, no later than the end of the second year).

Rules for progression

In each academic year, the doctoral students will be required to complete an assignment in order to prove their ability to continue with the program. In addition to formal assignments throughout the Ph.D. program, students must be in contact with their supervisor and the Ph.D. coordinator on a regular basis and inform them on their study path and research progresses. Details on the assignments are given below.

First-year paper requirement

The doctoral students are required to submit a sole-authored research manuscript that meets high standards of scholarship and exposition by October 1st, 2018. This manuscript is expected to be a first paper ready for presentation at international conferences. The manuscripts will be evaluated and results will be announced on October 30th 2018 (end of the first academic year). Failure to submit a satisfactory manuscript by that date will result in automatic dismissal from the Ph.D. program.

In order to ensure that the research manuscript meets the standards required to pass the first year, three intermediate deadlines are set to provide students with feedback and guidance:

- January 14th, 2018: the students are required to submit an extended abstract (around 1,000 words) and a table of contents of their intended contribution;
- April 30th, 2018: a first draft (around 6,000 words) with the basic structure of the paper needs to be submitted for feedback;
- September 1st, 2018: a complete draft of the paper (around 8,000 words).
At the end of the first year, a decision about the admission to the second year of the program will be made. If a positive decision is made, the student will step forward to the second year during which students are encouraged to organize a research period abroad (see below) and participate in conferences and workshops (all activities must be discussed with and agreed by the supervisor and approved by the Area Director). Beside international mobility, students are expected to actively participate in the GSSI activities, such as seminars and workshops and in contributing to a lively research milieu at the GSSI. Accordingly, the evaluation of second-year Ph.D. students (see below) will not only consider the individual research progress, but also the degree of participation in the GSSI research events.

A first draft of the dissertation proposal must be submitted to the Teaching committee by the 15th of December 2018, together with the name of the internal supervisor. The dissertation proposal is intended to provide evidence that the student has set forth a plan of research that promises to contribute to the body of knowledge in the field of urban studies and regional science. The proposal must conform to guidelines that will be circulated in due time. A final version of the dissertation proposal, together with a report on the activities carried out during the Ph.D. program and an advanced draft of at least one paper (or one chapter) of the Ph.D. thesis (see the requirements for the Ph.D. dissertation below) must be submitted by the 30th of September 2019.

The Doctoral Candidacy Examination is administered by the end of the second year by an Examination Committee consisting of at least two faculty members. The Candidacy Examination consists of a written and an oral portion. The written portion of the Candidacy Examination refers to the assessment of the documents mentioned above (dissertation proposal, report of activities, draft of the paper). The oral portion of the Candidacy Examination is a one-hour oral examination that may focus on the dissertation proposal, but may cover any aspect of the student’s doctoral program. Successful completion of the Candidacy Examination requires a unanimous vote of the Examination Committee and admits the student to the final doctoral year.

The final exam consists of the thesis defense in front of a Committee composed of three professors (one member of the teaching committees and two external members) who will decide about the student’s graduation. In order to proceed to the thesis defense, the candidate has to submit the whole dissertation manuscript for internal and external examination prior to the
defense. In particular, the Ph.D. candidate has to:

- submit a complete draft of the dissertation to two external referees during the first days of October 2020. By the end of December 2020, the assigned referees will provide their evaluations of the thesis. The Doctorate Board, once received an evaluation by the referees and a report by the student’s supervisor, will decide about the admission to the final thesis submission;
- to be admitted to the defense, students will have three weeks to revise the thesis according to the reviewers’ comments;
- submit a report on the activities carried out during the Ph.D. program, 1 month before the expected graduation time;
- submit the Final Thesis to the Examination Committee 1 month before the expected graduation date.

Information on the timing of the defense sessions will be circulated when officially scheduled.

Requirements of the Ph.D. Thesis

Students can choose between two different thesis formats: Papers Collection and Monograph.

Papers collection

Students can choose to structure a collection of three papers focused on a topic whose theoretical, methodological and empirical dimensions must be addressed. The common thread across the papers has to be explained and discussed in an Introduction to the collection. Accordingly, the dissertation manuscript is composed of three distinct papers and one introduction. A concluding chapter may also be included at the request of the supervisor, external reviewers and/or the student’s own will.

Co-authorship is admitted for one or two papers provided that the individual contribution by the Ph.D. candidate is significant and fully acknowledged in the paper. That is, co-authorship is allowed up to two papers out of three only if the Ph.D. candidate is evidently the principal author of the project.

Each paper has to be conceived as an article that meets international publication standards, that is: it is around 8,000 to 10,000 words and should include title, abstract, up to six keywords, introduction, literature review, methodology, findings, discussion and conclusion, reference list (including only in-text citations). Appendices for reporting e.g. photographic materials, tables, data
elaborations can be included, out of the word count. The introduction should not exceed 7,000 words. The collection can be concluded with a full bibliography, including all the references used for the thesis production, even if not cited within the texts. A template for the Paper Collection formatting will be circulated.

A Monograph consists usually of 5 chapters including an introduction, literature review, methodology, findings/discussion of results and conclusion. It opens with an abstract of about 1,000 words, followed by up to six-eight keywords. The length of the monograph should be around 40,000 to 60,000 words. Appendices for reporting e.g. photographic materials, tables, data elaborations can be included, out of the word count. A template for the Monograph formatting will be circulated.

The GSSI is committed to research ethics. Any form of plagiarism is not accepted. The Ph.D. thesis will be verified with anti-plagiarism systems, supervisors and lecturers will carry out control over papers and essays. Sanctions will be defined for rules infringements and exclusion from the Ph.D. program may be decided.

Study and research abroad is encouraged by the GSSI and all students are invited to discuss this opportunity with their supervisors. Once agreed with the supervisors, the mobility period has to be approved by the coordinator of the Ph.D. program and the Area Director. At least two months before departure, the student has to formally communicate the mobility project by email to the Area Director, the Ph.D. coordinator and the Administration Office to request approval, by providing complete information on destination (University, Department), visiting duration, reference person at the
host institution (including contact details) and a brief summary of the research agenda. The supervisor, previously informed, has to be included in the communication.

During the period abroad, the yearly amount for the incoming cohort remains €16,159.91 gross and an additional 50% on a monthly basis may be awarded, if the visiting period is previously approved by the GSSI.

### Research Budget

All doctoral students will be awarded an annual research budget (about the practicalities and a detailed list of allowed expenses, please be in touch with the Administration Office):

- first-year doctoral students: €1,500 to be used for education only, e.g. summer schools;
- second-year doctoral students: €2,000 (research missions, conference/workshop participation, English proofreading, etc.);
- third-year doctoral students: €2,000 (research missions, conference/workshop participation, English proofreading, etc.).

Before spending the research budget, students have to inform Francesco Chiodelli (francesco.chiodelli@gssi.it) and their supervisors and, with their agreement, they have to follow the GSSI administrative procedure, including the registration on the GSSI platform (Portale Missioni), to request formal approval by the Area Director (further information will be circulated by the Administrative Office).

### The GSSI website and communication

Students are required to provide all information needed for their personal page on the GSSI website and to update their profiles regularly (updates on e.g. conference participation and published papers). Every three months, each student has to review his/her web page and send any request for updates to Félix Modrego (felix.modrego@gssi.it).
Teaching Committee

Bianca Biagi
University of Sassari, Italy

Andrea Brighenti
University of Torino, Italy

Francesco Chiodelli
GSSI, Italy

Alessandro Coppola
GSSI, Italy

Marco Cremaschi
Sciences Po, France

Alessandra Faggian
GSSI, Italy

Ugo Fratesi
Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy

Simona Iammarino
London School of Economics, UK

Philip McCann
University of Sheffield, UK

Mark Partridge
The Ohio State University, USA
Marco Percoco  
Bocconi University, Milan, Italy

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose  
London School of Economics, UK

Alberto Vanolo  
University of Turin, Italy

Paolo Veneri  
OECD, Paris, France

Federico Zanfi  
Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy
Visiting Lecturers

Rachelle Alterman  
Technion, Haifa, Israel

Andrea Ascani  
Utrecht University,  
The Netherlands

Miguel Atienza  
Catholic University of  
the North, Chile

Nicola Bellini  
Tourism Management  
Institute, La Rochelle  
Business School,  
France

Ron Boschma  
Utrecht University,  
The Netherlands

Marco Calaresu  
University of Sassari,  
Italy

Lorenzo Chelleri  
Universitat  
Internacional de  
Catalunya, Spain

Alessandro Crociata  
University of Chieti-  
Pescara, Italy

Rachel Franklin  
Brown University,  
USA

Francesca Gelli  
IUAV University of  
Venice, Italy
Ulrich Hilpert
Friedrich Schiller Universität Jena, Germany

Ezio Micelli
IUAV University of Venice, Italy

Colin McFarlane
University of Durham, UK

Stefano Moroni
Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy

Özge Öner
Jönköping International Business School, Sweden

Antonio Páez
McMaster University, Canada

Gabriele Pasqui
Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy

Carlo Salone
University of Turin, Italy

Federico Savini
University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Petra Staufer-Steinrhoche
WU Wien, Austria

Tommaso Vitale
Sciences Po, Paris, France

Frank Witlox
University of Antwerp, Belgium
This document is meant to supplement the information already contained in the 'Call for Applications'.
