

Name of the PhD Program: Urbanism

Academic degree granted/qualification: PhD in Urbanism

Program supervisors:

Joseph Salukvadze - Professor

Antonio Castelbranco- Professor

Program ECTS:

The program amounts to 180 ECTS from which 60 is envisaged for the study component and 120 for the research.

Language of instruction: English

Program prerequisites:

- Applicants who earned Master's degree (or equivalent) in Architecture, Urban Development, Human Geography, Social and Political Sciences, Economics, Landscape studies are eligible to apply to the Phd program in Urbanism;
- Applicants must have acquired at least 300 ECTS during their Bachelor's and Master's studies;
- Applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency at least at the level of B2 and are required to provide official score reports (after passing an international language test or taking English language proficiency exam). In case an applicant decides to enroll in an English language stream of the program he/she is required to demonstrate the language proficiency at level C1;
- A letter of confirmation from a potential academic advisor and the program supervisor (of the relevant sub-field);
- A letter of recommendation by the interviewing committee following the interview.

Description of the qualification of the PhD program

After joining the Bologna process and approximation to the common European Education Area Georgian higher education started to face some new challenges. Production of the specialists who can adapt to the changing environment, its requirements with the ability to review and resolve some problematic issues independently and in a creative manner became important.

In many countries, in line with the fast pace of urbanization and burgeoning of the city urbanism as the science is among the most progressively developing fields attracting a lot of interest from the students. It must be emphasized that in the last few years the interdisciplinary nature of the field of urbanism has seen synergies of various disciplines demonstrated through incorporation of the achievements of different fields (i.e., architecture, geography, ecology, economics, sociology and human demography) into it. At the same time, urbanism maintains its deep socio-economic research aspects in the fields of architecture and landscape architecture.

According to internationally recognized standards, the field of urbanism envisages raising the intellectuals who specialize in urban studies, bringing together different academic and research resources, boosting scientific activities and improving research quality, integrating into international scientific area and contributing to the generation of new knowledge.

Urbanists, well-informed professionals in the field of city development can take jobs related with city issues/urbanism where advanced knowledge of modern computer technologies and possession of socially relevant worldview is significant.

This PhD program was prepared in the framework of EU-funded TEMPUS RETHINK project and is aimed at preparing scientists in the field of urbanism, something that was not attainable until recently.

In the case of successful completion of the program, the graduates will be able to: conduct research, develop and implement projects, carry out expertise of projects and planning documents in urban development from the perspective of socio-economic and spatial functioning; be able to effectively use the interdisciplinary approach by contributing to assessment and resolution of complex challenges faced by cities. In order to develop these skills and competencies it is important to synthesize all necessary knowledge in the field of the city's physical environment and planning (architecture, landscape architecture and planning structure), with such important urban components as geography, ecology, economics, sociology and human demography.

Aims of the PhD program:

The Doctoral program in Urbanism aims to:

- Prepare graduates equipped with field-specific competencies in order to resolve acute issues of city development;
- Ensure intellectual development of the doctoral students in line with international standards;
- Integrate academic and research resources;
- Enhance scientific work and raise the standards of research output;
- Integrate into international scientific area, contribute to the creation and organization of new knowledge in the field;
- PhD students will acquire new knowledge, 'instruments' and methods that will allow them to work as informed professionals equipped with modern knowledge in city development/urbanism, the field where knowledge of new technologies and socially relevant vision is important.
- Provide a PhD student with exhaustive academic and professional knowledge about the city space, something that will allow them to adequately understand and evaluate ongoing processes in urban development, be able to adequately plan, organize and manage city zones and the socio-economic environment;

- Equip students with research skills, the skills of project development and implementation, as well as project and competency to evaluate project documents in the field of urban development focusing on the city's socio-economic and spatial functioning.
- Use interdisciplinary integrated approaches to evaluate and solve acute issues faced by modern cities;
- Acquire the ability to synthesize relevant knowledge in the fields of the city's physical space and planning (architecture, landscape architecture and planning structure) with such important components as geography, ecology, economics, sociology and human demography.

Study results:

The PhD degree in Urbanism is based on in-depth and systematic knowledge of the modern trends in scholarship and allows the PhD holder to work according to international standards, to revalue some parts of knowledge and the values following the adoption of the objective and new knowledge; Carry out research about the city-related problems. The degree holder is able to carry out innovative research and use analytical approaches oriented towards the creation of new knowledge. The PhD holder acknowledges that urbanism, as a concrete interdisciplinary science, has relations with other academic fields. The graduate is integrated in international scientific networks by taking part in international conferences and forums.

A) Knowledge and understanding

PhD holder in Urbanism possesses deep theoretical knowledge in the field and research methods thoroughly, is aware of regularities in the field, classical and modern concepts and approaches; is capable to utilize new terminologies in the field. PhD holder is able to apply the research methods and other aspects to real-life events. After completion of the program the graduates will possess exhaustive information about own scientific issue/problem and about the current achievements in the field.

Program graduates are equipped with fundamental knowledge and skills enabling them to become employed at the positions relevant to the qualification the PhD in Urbanism grants; possess the skills necessary for a research group leader; has in-depth understanding of modern approaches in research methods, among them information gathering and processing skills; is aware of the main working principles of national and international foundations and focal aspects in preparation of research projects and academic publications; is able to lead academic process using modern technologies and is aware of the fundamentals of electronic teaching and learning process; participates in electronic teaching and implementation of information and communication technologies; is aware of the fundamentals of common European Higher Education Area, about the main tenets of Georgian higher education reforms, Bologna process and its objectives; is aware of the main principles of the university curriculum development and design and requirements of authorization and accreditation processes; possesses work-related skills in higher education institution, is aware of its main goals and results.

B) Using knowledge in practice:

Graduates of the PhD program in Urbanism can define the ways to resolve complex issues pertinent to the field of city development, can think about novel research and analytical methods and approaches oriented towards the creation of new knowledge; are able to carry out research using modern scientific and analytical methods; produce high quality academic works and publications possessing scientific values; can successfully utilize acquired knowledge and

competencies to implement specific projects while working at research organizations and universities; are capable of collaboration with neighboring academic fields; are capable of analyzing and critically assessing the results and outcomes of own and others' research; are capable of accruing knowledge independently and conveying it to others; are able to prepare teaching and methodological resources in various subfields of urban studies; are able to provide generalized expertise of the knowledge obtained through the neighboring disciplines; are able to lead various projects, work in teams of interdisciplinary projects and its coordination.

Graduates of the program are able to produce necessary texts (scientific work, presentation, evaluation and etc.), their evaluation and presentation; are capable of preparing scientific works for peer reviewed publications; are able to produce all necessary texts (scientific work, evaluation and etc.) with adequate terminology and style, format it in accordance with the formatting requirements of the university, present it, peer review it and defend it in an academic setting; are able to carry out research using the basics of e-learning methodology, modern technologies and their application in teaching; are able to develop scientific projects in different directions and/or improve the existing proposal in line with the requirements of donors; can develop the curriculum and evaluate it according to the needs of Bologna process, European standards and requirements of authorization and accreditation; are able to apply modern teaching and learning strategies in teaching and implement student-oriented teaching principles and components in teaching process; can successfully use interactive teaching methods and are able to set up teaching-academic and cultural-educational programs/projects and others.

C) Ability to draw conclusion

The PhD holders in Urbanism is capable of summarizing the field-related research, logically integrating all relevant arguments and drawing clear conclusions; are able to provide in-depth and critical analysis of a problem, relevant evaluation and argumentation; critical analysis of complex and nonlinear problems and ideas, synthesis and assessment; ability to make efficient strategic decisions.

D) Ability to communicate

The PhD holder in Urbanism is able to communicate ideas clearly in writing and orally both in native and in foreign languages; is able to communicate with peers professionally, to provide highly professional and academic commentary on the results of interdisciplinary scientific works; to present research results to various audiences; to use variety of communication strategies in order to solve certain professional issues, adequately use rhetorics and metalanguage of the field and successfully cooperate with the peers from neighboring fields.

Program graduates are able to create all the necessary texts (scientific work, presentation, evaluation and etc), their assessment and presentation; is able to prepare high quality scientific material to be published in peer-reviewed publication; are capable of presenting in front of an international audience, take part in discussions, endorsing own opinions and arguments; employees the communication skills relevant for planning and administration of scientific and research projects, is able to convey professional information on archaeology, paleoanthropology and paleontology to wider audiences in an understandable way.

E) Learning skills:

Program graduates are equipped with the cutting-edge knowledge in the field, which allows them to plan and manage their professional development independently. They acknowledge the importance of lifelong learning and are able to critically analyze and synthesize the knowledge in their field of study, identify the problems, be updated about the novelties in the field and integrate these novelties in own research; is able to combine the knowledge from neighboring fields of study with new discoveries, to change the scientific profile and adapt to the environment.

F) Values:

Graduates of the Phd program demonstrate high social and democratic values, respect cultural diversity, protect and establish academic and ethical norms: respect of intellectual property, diversity of views, adherence to ethical norms in interpersonal relationships, ability to find ways through these ethical norms.

Study methods: The PhD program is comprised of mandatory and elective courses, doctoral seminars and colloquiums, participation in international, regional and local conferences, publishing in peer-reviewed journals and stimulating other learning activities, which improves teaching and learning outcomes. In these activities various methods are utilized: verbal, practical, book analysis, synthesis and discussion, problem based learning, case study analysis, group and peer work activities and etc.

Grading standards:

Learning component: 60ECTS

Grading of learning components: Students learning is assessed on 100 point numerical scale. In the case of practical taught courses, a PhD student's learning is assessed on 100-point numerical scale; minimum grade point is 51; according to the university regulations on academic process management the grade points are given the following values: **91-100 – Excellent, A; 81-90 – Very Good, B; 71-80– Good,C; 61-70–Satisfactory, D; 51-60–Sufficient, E; 41-50– No credit received, FX; 0-40 – Failed, F.** Assessment criteria are provided in syllabuses.

Doctoral seminar is graded also based on 100 point scale, where the supervisor is entitled to give maximum 60 points (minimum passing point is 31), while seminar presentation is given 40 grade points (with 21 points as a passing margin) according to initially established criteria.

Research Component: 120ECTS (3 doctoral colloquiums 90 (30+30+30), preparation of doctoral thesis and defense is 30 ECTS).

Assessment of Research Component: PhD students are obligated to undergo assessment of their research work by international academics in the frame of which the articles presented for international evaluation will be given 20 grade points. Minimum grade point is 12. Assessment is carried out taking into account the following criteria:

- a) Content (Max 4 points). Assessed according to: Relevance of the problem, independent thinking and argumentation, research purpose, logical reasoning and focuse.
- b) Quality (Max 4 points). Assessed according to: If an author has thoroughly developed the research problem. In-depth examination of the issue, relevant arguments supporting author's views, literature review, balance between academic and popular literature.

- c) Data Reliability (Max 4 points). Assessed according to: Correctness of the data, usage of competent authors published in reputable journals and by reputable organizations, usage of primary sources, relevance of citations with the given text, citations provided from relevant sources and presence of each used sources in bibliography.
- d) Structure (Max 4 points) Assessed according to the following: Whether the article is well structured, if the most important points are accentuated, leaving less significant points also under focus. Whether the article is well organized and its different parts are systematic and logically connected, whether each paragraph is sufficiently elaborated.
- e) Results (Max 4 points). Assessed according to the following: On the basis of the significance of research results and their reliability, whether the PhD thesis utilizes a novel approach, and if it contains new data for novel conclusions. Whether conclusions contain parts which are not consistent with the rest of the thesis and if the conclusions contain weak points and how logical are the conclusions.

If two independent experts' assessment is no less than 12 points, then the conclusion is positive. If one of the experts provides negative assessment and the second one a positive assessment, the paper will be sent to the third evaluator. After receiving two negative evaluations on the thesis, the article will be returned to a PhD student for further improvement.

Assessment of dissertation:

The dissertation committee assesses the thesis anonymously based on 100-point scale system. After the final assessment of dissertation, the dissertation committee will count the votes calculating average grade and correlate it with the alphabetical value of the grade in the following way:

Positive evaluation:

- 91-100 grade summa cum laude (Excellent)- Excellent work;
- 81-90 magna cum laude (Very good)- – the result exceeding expected outcomes;
- 71-80 cum laude (Good) – the results meeting expected outcomes;
- 61-70 bene (Satisfactory)- the results satisfying expected outcomes;
- 51-60 rite (Enough) - the results which despite its imperfections satisfies expected outcomes;

Negative evaluation:

41-50 insufficienter (insufficient) –the results which do not satisfy expected outcomes due to significant imperfections;

40 and less grade - sub omnicanone (fully unsatisfactory) – the results which do not satisfy expected results;

In the case of positive evaluation, a PhD candidate is awarded doctoral degree. When the assessment is negative, a PhD student is given additional academic year for reviewing and redoing the thesis. In the case of fully insufficient evaluation, a PhD student loses the right to submit the same PhD thesis.

Fields of employment of graduates:

Urbanists will be employed in state, public and private sectors as well as in civil society organizations. The qualification of an urbanist is highly demanded at Tbilisi Mayor's Office and Mayor's Offices in other Georgian cities and self-governing agencies (municipalities) as well as certain ministries with relevant profile (i.e. Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Environment) and other government bodies. Their potential employment places can also be higher education institutions and research organizations, also private companies profiling in architecture and construction, city planning and some other fields, international organizations working on urban development and land use and non-governmental organizations.

Financial support of the program:

Each PhD student involved in the double-degree program will have to fund their studies. Involvement of the students into international programs will occur via their academic advisors through advisor's professional/academic contacts and their involvement in international projects.

Material and technical base of scientific research

Doctoral program and existing resources: (Staff members involved in program implementation, scientific networks, infrastructure). The PhD program will allow the students to develop their career in city management and planning and urbanism. LEPL Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University has the base to prepare PhDs and provision of the knowledge pertinent to their broad scientific interests and modern standards. Consequently, the PhD students will acquire the research skills in line with modern standards and accumulation of knowledge at a specific stage of their education and in a specific direction.

Number of Phd students annually accepted to the program: 5

Teaching and research components of the PhD program:

a) Teaching components (60 credits)

Mandatory courses /activities– 40 ECTS				
	Name of the course	ECTS/hours	Semester	Lecturer/s
1.	Assistantship to the professor	5/125	Autumn/Spring	
2.	Doctoral seminar	5/125	Autumn/Spring	
3.	Academic writing	5/125	Autumn/Spring	
4.	Teaching methods	5/125	Autumn/Spring	
5.	Design of the PhD dissertation/PhD project	10/250	Autumn/Spring	Joseph Salukvadze
6.	Research methods in urban studies	10/250	Autumn/Spring	David Sichinava
Elective courses – 20 ECTS				
1.	Using information and communication technologies in teaching and learning and creation of e-courses.	10/250	Autumn/Spring	

2.	Science management	5/125	Autumn/Spring	
3.	Modern approaches to the university curriculum design	10/250	Autumn/Spring	
4.	Data visualization and analysis using Geographic Information System (GIS)	10/250	Autumn/Spring	Vladimer Chkhaidze

b) Research Component (120 ECTC)

Mandatory – 120 ECTS			
	Type of activity	Number of ECTS	Semester
1 .	Doctoral colloquiumI	30 ECTS	Autumn/Spring
2 .	Doctoral colloquiumII (research/project design)	30 ECTS	Autumn/Spring
3 .	Doctoral colloquiumI (Dissertation approbation)	30 ECTS	Autumn/Spring
4 .	Preparation of dissertation and defense	30 ECTS	Autumn/Spring