

Research School
Transformations in Architecture & Planning
at the Faculty for Architecture & Spatial Planning, TU Wien

Call for participation

The successful completion of the dissertation is an important first step on the path to an academic (or praxis) career. This step requires solid support from the university and among peers. **The Research School is a three-year program that offers doctoral candidates at the Faculty A+R a structured support program to help them navigate the scientific expectations of their qualifications.** It brings a group of doctoral candidates with similar research interests and thematically comparable dissertation projects together to create a critical mass of knowledgeable scholars who inspire, empower and help each other in their quest for PhD. Senior coordinators and mentors provide participants with practical skills that help them on their way to their doctoral degree and create a platform for thematic exchange and mutual learning.

What's in it for you?

- **Courses** on academic production skills (*writing classes, writing retreats, paper workshops*) and transformative competencies (*transdisciplinary research methods, research ethics*) with ECTS credits
- Research colloquia for presenting your research and **international networking** with leading scholars in the field
- Events for **transdisciplinary exchange, reflection and learning** with actors from architectural and planning praxis
- A **platform for informal exchange and peer learning** with thematically related doctoral students from the faculty
- Resources for the **bottom-up development of own complementary formats**

Thematic scope: Socio-ecological transformations, architecture and planning

Architecture and spatial planning are essential to scientifically grasp and practically achieve socio-ecological transformations. They produce important transformation knowledge in transdisciplinary processes and aid the realization of much needed transformations towards greater sustainability. The related amalgamation of research and praxis, however, creates a significant challenge regarding academic qualification and scientific excellence, making doctoral research a balancing act of producing outputs for the academic community (*i.e., scientific knowledge*) and the praxis community (*i.e., societal impact*). The Research School tackles this issue.

The Research School invites applications from doctoral students whose dissertation projects address questions of socio-ecological transformation from a variety of angles, ranging from analytical perspectives on the sustainability of infrastructures, space and place to concrete design or interventionist approaches to the transformation of the built environment, as well as research delving into the transformation of architecture and planning regarding governance, practice, instruments, methods, education, or similar. It hence welcomes projects that deal with issues such as efficiency and sufficiency, just transitions, urban obsolescence and transformative innovation, re-use and circularity, or sustainable urban and rural development, and view them through a decidedly architectural and/or planning lens.

How to apply

The Research School offers **15 places**. All **doctoral students at the Faculty A+R** are eligible, provided that they (1) are enrolled in one of the faculty's doctoral study programs, (2) can demonstrate that their research fits with the Research School's thematic scope, (3) have a topic and supervisor, and (4) the supervisor's explicit support to participate in the Research School.

Applications must include:

- **Letter of motivation**, explaining why the applicant wants to join & that s/he meets the abovementioned application criteria (*max. 1,5p.*)
- **CV** incl. doctoral candidate's affiliation with the faculty, the research field and topic of their dissertation, and the supervisor(s) (*max. 3p.*)
- Informal, written **endorsement for participation** by the applicant's main supervisor (*CC-ing the supervisor to the application-email also suffices, provided that the applicant has talked to and received the support by the supervisor*).

All parts of the application must be compiled into **a single PDF** and **emailed to johannes.suitner@tuwien.ac.at** within the application period.

The application period runs from **December 15, 2025 to January 31, 2026**.

A decision will be made by the Research School's coordinators, the Deans of Study, and representatives of the AKG and Fachschaft Doktorat. The decision will be communicated in **mid-February** individually via e-mail. The Research School will kick off early March 2026.

We are looking forward to your applications and supporting you in your quest for your PhDs!

Lorenzo, Margaret, Elisabeth, Johannes

Additional information on the three-year work programme of the Research School, including descriptions of planned formats and involved individuals from the Faculty A+R can be found in the faculty website.