



Collegio futuro – 2026 Edition

Fighting Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, And Environmental Pollution: Conflicts and Synergies of Different Land Use Options

Call for applications for PhD students enrolled at the University of Milan in the PhD programmes in Environmental Sciences; Agriculture, Environment and Bioenergy; International and public law, ethics and economics for sustainable development

Land use lies at the heart of today's environmental challenges. It both shapes and is shaped by the intertwined crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. As both a major driver and a consequence of these crises, land use plays a central role in shaping environmental sustainability and social equity. The upcoming edition of Collegio futuro invites participants to explore these complex interrelations from multiple disciplinary perspectives. It aims to deepen understanding of how land use practices contribute to and are affected by global environmental change, while fostering discussion on how competing demands for terrestrial and maritime spaces can be reconciled to promote sustainable futures. Conceptualizing the process of socio-economic transformation for sustainable development demands an integration of perspectives from different research disciplines and needs creative and open-minded experts who do not hesitate to step out of their comfort zone and collaborate in an interdisciplinary manner, striving for the best solutions. Collegio futuro seeks to foster these skills essential for tackling our urgent environmental, economic, and societal challenges.

Objectives:

- strengthening competencies in interdisciplinary communication and project elaboration,
- empowering students and young researchers to transfer their knowledge and expertise to different contexts,
- promoting critical and system thinking,
- raising awareness for the challenges of socio-economic transformation,
- encouraging communication of scientific findings to civil society.

Involved Universities: Charles University (Prague), Heidelberg University, Sorbonne University (Paris), University of Milan, University of Warsaw.

Six Doctoral candidates from the University of Milan will be selected to become part of the college, together with colleagues from the other partner universities. Participants will receive lump sum mobility allowances for the on-site activity from the University of Milan, based on the Erasmus+ rates. The training is offered free of charge. Completing Collegio Futuro will award candidates 6 ECTS.

The mobility grant is provided as a lump sum according to the following rates:

- Return travel to and from Heidelberg: 180 euros.
- Accommodation allowance per night: 79 euros.



Who can apply

Collegio futuro is mainly aimed at doctoral researchers who are motivated to discuss in an interdisciplinary environment and seek to expand their knowledge beyond their own research area. Experience in environmental research and communication to society, or engagement in interdisciplinary activities is an advantage, but not a prerequisite. Applicants must be regularly enrolled in the Programmes of Environmental Sciences, Agriculture, Environment and Bioenergy, international and public law, ethics and economics for sustainable development at the University of Milan for the 2025/2026 academic year and until the end of the educational activity (April 2026).

In order to receive the 4EU+ travel and accommodation allowance, they cannot be a recipient of any other EU grant for stays abroad that overlap, even partially, with the physical mobility period.

Study Content

The programme lasts one term and it is structured as follows:

Preparatory sessions (online) January 2025

- **Introduction to Winter school workshops**
 - **Wednesday, 14 January 2026, 13:00 - 17:00 (CET)**
 - Workshop supervisors
- **International policymaking & policy brief as a communication tool**
 - **Tuesday, 20 January 2026, 13:00 - 15:30 (CET)**
 - Prof. Ladislav Miko (Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic & Charles University in Prague)
- **Communication training & Warm-up for the winter school**
 - **Tuesday, 27 January 2026** (*joint session, 1h*)
 - **Wednesday, 28 January 2026** (*groups, 1h per group*)
 - Prof. Thomas Rausch & Tanja Peskan-Berghöfer (Heidelberg University)

Winter school

On campus in Heidelberg, 2 - 6 February 2026

- **Four parallel workshops**
 - Working in interdisciplinary groups; support from supervisors and guest speakers
 - Elaboration on a given subject
 - Development of a communication concept (policy brief or another format chosen by the participants)
- **Exchange with the practitioners** (guest: Enterprise **Heidensplass**, Graz)
- **Presentation and synthesis** of workshops' results on the final day

Venue: Marsilius Arkaden, Im Neuenheimer Feld 130.1, 69120 Heidelberg



The Spring school will start on Monday (02 Feb) at 9 am and end on Friday (06 Feb) at approximately 2 pm.

For further information, the candidates should refer the website <https://www.hce.uni-heidelberg.de/en/educational-offer/collegio-futuro> and/or contact 4euplusmobility@unimi.it and marco.parolini@unimi.it

Application

Please apply by **17/11/2024** using the form you will find at the following link:

<https://www.hce.uni-heidelberg.de/en/educational-offer/collegio-futuro/application>

Please complete the application form and submit it via e-mail to the *Collegio Futuro* coordinator: collegio-futuro@uni-heidelberg.de

Selection process

Selected candidates will be informed by email by the coordinator of the 4EU+ Joint educational activity (Prof. Tatjana Peskan-Berghoefer, University of Heidelberg) by the end of December. The selection outcome will be posted to <https://www.unimi.it/en/international/study-abroad/international-opportunities>.

Personal data processing

Pursuant to EU Regulation 2016/679 ("General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR") and Legislative Decree no. 196/2003, as amended and supplemented, the University undertakes to keep the information provided by the applicant confidential. All data will be processed only for the purposes of participation in the programme. Information on the enforcement of the GDPR is available on the University website at <http://www.unimi.it/ateneo/73613.htm> - pathway: www.unimi.it > University > Privacy.

Signed

La RETTRICE
(Marina Brambilla)
f.to Marina Brambilla

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P. Ass. 5263782 del 10/11/2025
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