University of Zagreb

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE

announces

CALL FOR APPLICANTS
for enrolment in the Postgraduate University Doctoral Programme in *Architecture and Urban Planning,*

for achieving the academic degree doctor of philosophy
in the scientific area of technical sciences, scientific field of architecture and urban planning
in the academic year 2026/2027

The Doctoral Programme in Architecture and Urban Planning is dedicated to the development of contemporary research that contributes to the understanding and improvement of architecture, urban planning and spatial development. The goals of the study programme are:

– promoting advanced scientific, interdisciplinary, teaching and professional approaches that develop research methods and contemporary knowledge in the field of architectural design, urban planning and spatial planning;

– encouraging scientific work and training students to work in higher education, scientific and research institutions and professional practice;

– educating highly qualified experts capable of independently devising and implementing research, developing various aspects of architectural and urban planning disciplines and shaping complex architectural and urban concepts in relation to contemporary social, spatial and environmental challenges.

Through intensive seminars, research workshops and mentoring, the study programme supports the development of clearly defined research topics and original scientific contributions to the field of architecture and urban planning. Encouraging individual research based on an understanding of the complex relationships between the built and natural environment and the social, cultural, technological and economic processes that shape them. The starting point is the assumption that research and innovation represent an important foundation for thinking about and shaping the future development of space and society as a whole. During the study, special attention is paid to four thematic areas: heritage, project, city, and scape, with an emphasis on the international exchange of knowledge and research experiences through active participation in research projects.
The doctoral programme lasts six (6) semesters. Teaching and research activities are distributed by semester as follows: Intensive seminars (I semester); Research workshop (II semester); Methodological workshop with potential mentors (III semester); intensively mentored work on the formulation of a research thesis (IV semester), the development of doctoral research (V semester) and the preparation of a doctoral dissertation (VI semester and beyond). By defending the doctoral thesis, the doctoral student is awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the scientific area of technical sciences, scientific field of architecture and urban planning.

1. Who can apply

Applicants who have completed:
- university graduate study, technical field of architecture and urban planning (at least 120 ECTS)
- university integrated undergraduate and graduate studies, technical field of architecture and urban planning (at least 300 ECTS)
- university specialist studies, technical field of architecture and urban planning (at least 60 ECTS)

Applicants who have completed university graduate studies, university integrated undergraduate and graduate studies, and specialist studies in another scientific or artistic area and field can also apply if their scientific and research interest is directed towards the field of architecture and urban planning, as evidenced by the previous work and results. The Council of postgraduate doctoral studies reserves the right to determine the obligation for the aforementioned persons to take supplemental exams that test their knowledge of architecture and urban planning, which is a prerequisite to attend lectures at this postgraduate study, and the contents and mandatory reading for the exam are defined by the Council of postgraduate doctoral studies in accordance with the study programme of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Zagreb.
In this generation, classes are conducted in Croatian, but all applicants should have an active knowledge of English. Mentoring in English is possible. Certain sessions are possible as a field course outside the city of Zagreb.

2. Application materials

Application consists of:

2.1. Application form
Application form is available through the internet page www.arhitekt.hr. It has to be printed out, filled in and signed. By his or her signature, the applicant confirms that information is correct, especially the part pertaining to the way of covering the costs of tuition fees and the statement about the foreign languages the applicant speaks.

2.2. Citizenship certificate
Citizens of the Republic of Croatia submit the copy of citizenship certificate, while foreign citizens submit the appropriate citizenship certificate.

2.3. Curriculum Vitae
Curriculum Vitae should be a clearly and chronologically ordered document, so that the following is visible: flow of applicant's former education and work experiences, academic and professional achievements etc. Recommended extent of the curriculum vitae is two (2) pages of A4 format.

2.4. Proof of completed studies
Diploma represents the proof of completed university or (under)graduate study. The applicant submits certified copy of the diploma of the completed study (or studies). In the application process, foreign citizens also submit certified copies of the original diplomas.

2.5. Certified transcript of the grades achieved at the previous study
Applicants have to submit the transcript of all of the grades achieved at an earlier study (or studies), with the calculation of the average grade not lower than 3,5. The transcript has to be original, certified with a stamp and signature of the responsible person of the institution which issued the transcript.

2.6. Two recommendation letters

Letter of recommendation is submitted in a separate closed envelope, certified with a signature of the referee across the flap on the back of the envelope. The applicant has to submit two (2) recommendation letters. At least one referee should be a doctor of science. In the specific case when one of the referees is the future mentor of the candidate, the third recommendation letter is required. For one of the two main recommendation letters it is preferable (but not required) that it has been issued by the lecturer who had been the student's mentor for his or her diploma thesis. The referees can be university lecturers, scientists, renowned professionals, employers etc. The recommendation letter has to, among other things, state how long and in which capacity has the referee known the applicant, assess his or her previous work, capabilities and achievements, assess the predispositions for scientific-research work and attendance of doctoral study. The letter of recommendation can also be in English.

2.7. Description of the scientific-research interest

The research interest statement should be submitted in the form of a structured text of 3 to 5 cards (approximately 1000–1500 words). The aim of the statement is to demonstrate knowledge of the relevant research area, current scientific knowledge and current research challenges, and to explain the potential direction of future doctoral research. The statement of research interest should also state whether the applicant has published papers and previous research on the topic.

The statement should be structured so that within the total text size, the following is explained:

A) Area of interest and problem starting point

A brief description of the area (architecture, urban planning, spatial planning, landscape architecture or related disciplines) that the applicant intends to work on and an explanation of its scientific and social relevance.

B) Overview of previous research

A concise overview of the most important previous research and knowledge related to the selected area, with special emphasis on:
- relevant research conducted in Croatia;
- relevant international research;
- key authors, theoretical approaches and current research debates;
- a list of at least 5 relevant (domestic and international) scientific bibliographic units / basic literature for the proposed research area.

C) Research problems and open questions

A description of questions, topics or aspects that are insufficiently researched or that represent current challenges in the selected area.

D) Preliminary research direction

Indication of a possible research direction or framework topic of the doctoral thesis (basic research objectives and expected contribution to the field).

2.8. Selection of professional works

A selection of professional works is a portfolio presenting selected projects and/or realizations. It can only be of A4 format, with a maximum of 20 sheets. The selection of professional works

is a mandatory appendix for the candidates who have completed the higher-education study of architecture. The candidates of other professions can represent their professional work in an appropriate way, if possible, or join it with appendix 2.9. (list of published papers).

2.9. List of published papers

The list of published papers is a bibliography of published scientific and/or professional papers of the applicant, presented in accordance with standard bibliographical conventions. The list of published papers is not a mandatory appendix (if the candidate has not published written works up to now).

3. Due dates

3.1. **Application** for the doctoral study with all of the appendices has to be submitted as a single package **before Wednesday, September 16, 2026,** in person or by post, to the following address:

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Architecture
Kačićeva 26, HR – 10000 Zagreb

with annotation "Application for the Doctoral Programme in Architecture and Urban Planning"

4. Information for foreign citizens

Applications of foreign citizens are evaluated under the same terms and criteria as the applications of the citizens of the Republic of Croatia. The documents submitted by foreign citizens need to be in the original from or in certified copies (depending on the document, please refer to the section on appendices). If necessary, foreign citizens have to submit certified Croatian translation of the appropriate documents (diploma, transcript of grades).

After receiving the notification of acceptance in the doctoral study programme, the persons who completed their studies abroad have to have their higher-education qualifications accredited. The process should not be initiated before the candidate receives the confirmation of acceptance in the doctoral study programme.

5. The selection process and criteria

The Council of postgraduate doctoral studies will consider all complete and timely received qualified applications and will conduct interviews before the selection of candidates. During the selection process, the Council will demonstrate high regard for total academic and scientific success of the applicant, the results he or she has achieved, and his or her scientific-research potential, relevance of the expressed scientific-research interest and opinions of the referees.

The Council of postgraduate doctoral studies independently and collectively decides on the selection of candidates. The Council reserves the right not to admit a candidate, without providing additional explanations, for whom they decide that he or she does not fulfil the academic standards of this study programme, that he or she has not demonstrated the appropriate level of excellence, motivation and/or scientific-research potential, or the candidate for whom they cannot provide the appropriate study programme or advisor/mentor with regard to proposed thematic area.

Applications which are not in line with these instructions will not be considered.

6. Tuition fee

The tuition fee is 2.900,00 euro for the first semester, 2.200,00 euro per semester for the second and third semesters, and 1.450,00 euro per semester for the fourth, fifth and sixth semesters. This price includes the price of the defence of doctoral thesis. The tuition fee is the same for Croatian and foreign citizens. The tuition fee should be paid when enrolling each semester to the giro account of the Faculty of Architecture, account number: 2360000-1101225521, stating "Doctoral Programme in Architecture and Urban Planning".

7. Additional information

Interviews with the applicants will take place during September 2026, as per upcoming invitation and schedule. Education is expected to start in winter semester of the academic year 2026/2027. Expected schedule is as follows: October 21-24, 2026; November 19-21, 2026; December 17-19, 2026; and January 28-30, 2027.

For further information please contact Aleksandar Višek, student support consultant, phone: +385 (0)1 4639-287 or email: avisek@arhitekt.hr, or consult the web pages of the study: www.arhitekt.hr.

Council of postgraduate doctoral study

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Architecture