

Dresden Leibniz Graduate School

Sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities and regions

Description of the Major Research Topics

The DLGS – Dresden Leibniz Graduate School is a joint activity of the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development, Dresden (IÖR), and the Technische Universität Dresden (TUD). The DLGS launches a continuous call for fellowship applications at doctoral level for up to three years in Dresden, Germany. The DLGS is oriented towards making cities and regions more sustainable, resilient and inclusive. Doctoral Candidates investigate new concepts, policies and instruments for promoting social development, economic growth, and environmentally sustainable urban and regional development

On September 2015 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The Agenda outlines a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development. SDGs are universally applicable considering different spatial realities, capacities and levels of development.

Taking United Nations ideas as a general framework, the major DLGS research interest is to concentrate interdisciplinary efforts towards building more sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities and regions. Specific research interests integrate social, economic and environmental aspects, recognizing and promoting their interlinkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions. Doctoral theses at DLGS are supposed to contribute to the theoretical discussion and to methodological issues through the analysis of empirical cases.

The DLGS is interested in the analysis of sustainability, resilience and inclusiveness in the following fields:

1 Economics

- 1.1 Economic policies for adequate and affordable housing in less developed countries
- 1.2 Efficient provision of public infrastructure and public transport / understanding the political economy of public infrastructure provision
- 1.3 The fiscal capacity to finance inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities
- 1.4 Inequality and the development of resilient and sustainable cities

2 Urban and regional development and planning

- 2.1 Integrated policies and plans towards resilience
- 2.2 Aging as a challenge for urban and regional development
- 2.3 Revitalization strategies for increasing the resilience of urban regions
- 2.4 Regional partnerships and their role in increasing urban and regional resilience
- 2.5 Eco-cities as drivers for environmentally sustainable urban and regional development
- 2.6 Smart cities - technology and innovation as drivers for faster growth and for enhancing adaptive capacity to threats

3 Landscape planning

- 3.1 Methods for strategic environmental assessment in the urban context of less developed countries
- 3.2 Green infrastructure policies and social integration in the informal settlement
- 3.3 Nature based solutions for urban planning in emerging countries
- 3.4 Offset strategies - a tool for compensating for urban impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services?

4 Sociology

- 4.1 Advancing peaceful co-existence of different groups of inhabitants in cities
- 4.2 Power relations in public spaces
- 4.3 Gender relations in urban spaces
- 4.4 Increasing social inequalities between cities and rural areas
- 4.5 Migration in urban areas
- 4.6 Gentrification and social movements

Applicants are to choose one of the above topics (1.1 to 4.6) and elaborate a detailed research proposal accordingly. Each proposal is to include the topic the applicant wishes to address, and refer to theoretical and/or methodological questions. Please use the numbering of the above topics.

The time frame of the DLGS doctoral program is three (3) years. Applicants are to have a sound academic background in Spatial Planning and Development (including City and Regional Planning and Landscape Planning), Economics, Sociology, Geography, or Environmental Sciences.

Deadline for application and submission of a research proposal as part of the application materials: **September 15, 2017.**