



Collegio futuro curriculum (November 2021 – July 2022)

Scope

Student profile

Collegio futuro is aimed at doctoral students from different research disciplines, including natural and life sciences, social sciences and humanities. The thematic focus is related to environmental issues; however the research experience in environmental sciences is not prerequisite for joining the college. Collegio futuro is particularly addressing students who want to broaden their knowledge beyond their own research field and are open for discussion in an interdisciplinary setting.

Connectivity to existing education paths

Collegio futuro program includes three on-site Workshops and five short online meetings, which are distributed over a time period of 8 months. These activities build a closed educational unit corresponding to 4 ECST credits in total and may be embedded into the existing graduate education.

Format

Introductory lectures given by academics during the workshops will provide relevant impulses, but will by no means stay the central hub in the knowledge construction. The main approach will be the inquiry- and project-based learning, strengthening particularly the competences in interdisciplinary communication.

The projects dealing with the hands-on environmental issues will be chosen and initiated during the first on-site workshop and worked out during the subsequent online meetings. The inputs from important stakeholders, including policy makers and citizens might be included in online sessions.

Students will have an opportunity to examine the chosen problem from different perspectives and explore the links across the disciplines by searching for the common language, common definitions and common principles. This kind of training will provide a learning environment where the intense discussion, critical thinking, as well as system thinking will be possible.

The follow-up workshops will provide a deeper insight into topics and motivate students to look for possible research directions.

Timeline

Workshop I (Heidelberg), 29 November 2021 – 1 December 2021

1st Collegio Futuro Online Jour Fixe, 21 January 2022; 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

2nd Collegio Futuro Online Jour Fixe, 18 February 2022; 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

3rd Collegio Futuro Online Jour Fixe, 18 March 2022; 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

4th Collegio Futuro Online Jour Fixe, 22 April 2022; 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Workshop II (Milan), 23 – 25 May 2022

5th Collegio Futuro Online Jour Fixe, 17 June 2022; 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Workshop III (Warsaw), 26 -28 July 2022

Content

Project work - hands-on environmental issues

Workshop in Heidelberg: initiation of projects

The activities at this workshop will be kicked-off by introductory lectures on the actual environmental problems, including the state of art and knowledge gaps in related scientific fields as well as relevant socio-political issues. The following sessions will be dedicated to the project work allowing the students to select the problem they want to work on and to initiate the projects.

During the workshop sessions the participants will be able to

- become acquainted with the offered topics
- organise themselves in working groups and define their objectives
- set their agenda for the online meetings and discuss the necessary inputs
- present their project outline to the other groups

Online meetings: project development

During the monthly online meetings students will work out their chosen topic further, they will provide short reports to each other and inform other groups on progress of their work.

The sessions will include

- Invited guest contributions (giving inputs or giving feedback to projects)
- Student contributions
- Discussions and reports to other groups

Workshop in Milan: short on-site exchange

Workshop in Warsaw: presenting outcome

Special focus: Environmental, economic and policy issues related to plastics

Workshop in Milan

The scope of the meeting is to return an overview on the environmental, economic and policy issues related to plastics, with the final ambition to provide PhD students with the knowledge and the tools to develop an interdisciplinary research project on this issue.

Special focus: educational perspectives of *Collegio futuro* and future demands on PhD education

Round table with project partners (and students) related to the topic: “The European green deal – placing new demands on education and training of doctoral students”

Debate will be initiated during the workshop in Heidelberg and continued during the workshops in Milan and Warsaw.