

Collegio futuro curriculum

(November 2021 – July 2022)

Scope

Course description

Problem-solving approaches considering the major planetary challenges, from climate change to the loss of biodiversity, demand an understanding of natural, economic and social systems, raising a need for integration of perspectives from different research disciplines.

This training aims at:

- encouraging the students to transfer their learning and expertise to different contexts
- strengthening competencies in interdisciplinary communication and project elaboration
- raising awareness for challenges of socio-economic transformation
- fostering international cooperation among young researchers of 4EU+

Student profile

Collegio futuro is addressing doctoral students from natural and life sciences, economic and social sciences, as well as the arts and humanities, who want to broaden their knowledge beyond their own research field and are open for discussion in an interdisciplinary setting. The research experience in environmental sciences is not prerequisite for joining the college.

Connectivity to existing education paths

Collegio futuro program includes three on-site Workshops and five short online meetings, being 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.

Form of teaching

Introductory lectures given by academics during the workshops will provide relevant impulses, but the main approach will be the inquiry- and project-based learning in multidisciplinary and international working groups. Based on impulse lectures introducing the key topics, the participants will frame the problem, define the project they would like to work on, and agree about the outcome. The supervisors will support the group work by encouraging the participants to transfer their discipline-related knowledge and expertise to interdisciplinary context.

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 projects will be initiated during the first on-site workshop and worked out during the subsequent on-site workshops and online meetings. The participants may suggest further guest speakers and stakeholders, including policy makers and citizens to get an additional input.

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: Project development and project progress report

Workshop in Warsaw: Project development, discussion between the groups and presenting the 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: PhD career perspectives and future demands on PhD education

Workshop in Warsaw

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