



Call for Application

PIONEER Winter School Cologne 2027

Pushing SDG 11: How can we make cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable while simultaneously turning them into colourful, livable and exciting places to inhabit



Application deadline: 25 October 2026



1–5 March 2027 (on-site component)



TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences, Cologne

What to expect?

The programme provides participants with both structured learning and an international academic exchange setting, excursions (Planned: [UN Campus Bonn](#) and [Recultivation Research Center](#)) and complemented by a social programme. The Winter School is organised as an Erasmus Blended Intensive Programme (BIP), combining virtual and in-person participation formats. The virtual components will take place in February 2027 and after the Winter School in April.

The programme is designed to promote interdisciplinary exchange and collaborative learning on inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and communities. This year we will pay particular attention to the constructive encounter between approaches from the technical sciences and from art and design. One of the key outcomes will be a joint open-access publication, edited by the organisers and based on participants' contributions as well as the discussions and presentations during the Winter School.

Participation in the Winter School can be supported by Erasmus+ funding. Participants should contact the International (Relations) Office at their home university at an early stage for information on the relevant application procedures, deadlines and grant amounts of the Erasmus+ funding. If Erasmus+ funding through the home university is not available, participants are expected to secure their own funding.

Programme

The Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) consists of:

Virtual Components



1 February 2027, 13:00–14:30 (CET)



15 February 2027, 13:00–14:30 (CET)



5 April 2027, 13:00–14:30 (CET)

On-site Component



1–5 March 2027 TH Köln

A preliminary version of the programme is available [here](#).



Who should apply?

We invite early-career researchers from the ten PIONEER partner universities, including Master students, doctoral candidates, and early-career postdoctoral researchers. It is also open to participants from other universities working on sustainable cities and regions.

Application Process

Please complete the online application form by 25 October 2026. Applicants will subsequently be asked to submit:

- a short CV (maximum one page), and
- an extended abstract (maximum 1,000 words) describing the specific project you intend to present/work on during the PIONEER Winter School.

Please apply exclusively via the [application form](#).

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by the scientific committee. Selection will be based on:

- the relevance of the proposed contribution to the theme of the Winter School
- its academic quality
- interdisciplinary potential

Keynote Speakers

Prof. Dr. Luuk Dorren (Bern University of Applied Sciences)

Prof. Dr. Johanna May (TH Köln)

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Olma (AVANS University of Applied Sciences)

Scientific Committee

Prof. Dr. Eike Permin (TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences)

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Olma (AVANS University of Applied Sciences)

Dr. Carlo Federico dall'Omo (Università IUAV di Venezia)

Dr. Cristina Catalanotti (Università IUAV di Venezia)

Contact

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Interested in joining the
PIONEER Winter School in Cologne?
Scan the QR code to apply.

