



PhD Scholarship Opportunity

Participatory approaches for building climate resilience in Venice

Venice and its lagoon are at the forefront of climate change impacts, offering a unique “living laboratory” for developing solutions relevant to coastal cities worldwide. As a dynamic and fragile social-ecological system shaped by centuries of interactions between human and natural processes, the lagoon faces growing challenges linked to climate change adaptation and resilience, increasing human-nature disconnection and limited public awareness.

This PhD position aims to explore how environmental and climate awareness can act as a leverage point for more inclusive and effective pathways for mitigation, adaptation, and resilience in the Venice Lagoon. With a focus on participatory processes and community-driven approaches, the position will advance how environmental and climate knowledge is shared, co-produced, and translated into meaningful action. Research activities may include the development and testing of innovative engagement methods (such as digital immersive tools like virtual reality) and transdisciplinary participatory processes that connect communities, researchers, and decision-makers, and that enhance mutual understanding of climate risks and ecosystem changes in the lagoon.

The fully funded, 4-years position is hosted by Ca' Foscari University of Venice within the PhD programme in Science and Management of Climate Change. The position is co-funded and co-supervised by the International Center for Climate Change Research and Studies (CSRCC). The project will be developed in collaboration with Ca' Foscari laboratories working on Marine Ecology, Human Computer Interactions, and Sustainability Transformations. The PhD project will be closely connected to the Venice Climate Assessment Report, a major transdisciplinary initiative led by CSRCC, which aims to bring together current knowledge on climate change impacts, risks, and response options for the Venice lagoon.

We welcome candidates from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, including but not limited to environmental sciences, environmental humanities, social sciences, sustainability sciences, planning, and related fields. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in transdisciplinary research, community engagement, and real-world impact.

The role offers:

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CSRCC

- The opportunity to develop an original, transdisciplinary research project in a highly dynamic and globally relevant context
- Close collaboration with academic supervisors from multiple disciplines and with an applied research center working at the science-policy interface
- Engagement with local stakeholders in Venice, alongside international research and policy networks

This PhD is ideal for candidates motivated to connect knowledge with action and to contribute to innovative, participatory approaches to climate challenges in Venice and beyond. We strongly encourage applications from motivated candidates eager to work in one of Europe's most vibrant hubs for climate-change research.

Applications close on Wednesday May, 6 2026 at 1 PM (Italian Time). For application details, please refer to the official Call for Applications on the Ca' Foscari University website: <https://www.unive.it/web/en/2161/annual-call>

Interested to know more? Do not hesitate to contact us: info@csrcc.it