



2026 BIP PAVIA

Designing public spaces through Nature-Based Solutions

In recent decades, cities have faced various challenges, including mitigating the effects of climate change, evident in the form of heat islands and intense rainfall (“water bombs”), and the need to create sustainable and healthy quality spaces. One possible response to the challenges related to climate change effect is the use of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for designing ecological public spaces. These solutions can reactivate spaces by reintroducing nature into the urban environment and providing citizens with healthy places that enhance well-being in terms of micro-scale temperature and humidity, while also reducing stress on stormwater management.

International projects and best practices based on NBS mainly focus on large cities, often proving unsuitable for other urban contexts. Particularly under-researched contexts for the application of NBS in public space design are the historic centers of medium-sized cities, which are very common in the Italian and European context. In medium-sized cities, urban scale issues are compounded by purely architectural problems, including the relationship not only between buildings and open space but also between the historic fabric and new interventions.

The goal of the Summer School is to address the design of public spaces through the use of NBS in contexts with a strong historical and architectural character, specifically in the city of Pavia (as an example of a medium-sized city). The course aims to deepen the topic through lectures, meetings, and debates, and the development of an architectural project, within the broader framework of the the WaterMiTCities project developed by the AUDe laboratory. Students will be divided into groups to encourage the sharing of ideas, mutual exchange, and enrichment of knowledge and skills.

PARTICIPANT UNIVERSITIES

Università di Pavia, Italy (organiser)
National Technical University of Athens, Greece
University of Lisbon, Portugal
Politechnika Opolska, Poland
Escola Tècnica Superior d’Arquitectura de Barcelona - UPC, Spain

RESPONSIBLE PROFESSOR

Javi Zaldívar
Mario Súnier

DATES & PLACE

6 to 11 July 2026, Università di Pavia
+ online session before the on-site workshop

PRICE

Travel, food, and accommodation expenses covered by the student. (Possibility of Erasmus+ BIP financial aid according to next UPC call).

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

3 ECTS elective

PLACES

5 spots for ETSAB students enrolled at MBLandArch

APPLICATION

deadline: **26th March, 2026**
send email to: **relint.etsab@upc.edu**
with subject: BIP PAVIA_Name Surname
with your: name | DNI | email | phone | current studies
attach: Short CV (one A4 page) including degrees
English language skill
Contact information
Motivation letter (500 words, one A4 page)

relint.etsab@upc.edu

What is a BIP?

blended intensive programme

BIPs are a type of Erasmus Programme that combines a short-term face-to-face activity with a virtual learning component.

They are short, intensive programmes co-organised by several universities, which use innovative forms of learning and teaching, and encourage the use of online cooperation by forming transnational teams of students and academic staff.

ELECTIVE SUBJECT

It is offered as an elective subject of the studies the student is currently doing at ETSAB, and therefore the activity is enrolled in and assessed with a grade and will form an integral part of their academic record.

MOBILITY STAY

When the BIP’s in-person activity takes place outside the student’s home university, it is carried out as a short-term Erasmus mobility stay (between 5 and 30 days).

GRANT

This mobility modality is supported by specific financial grants, subject to UPC call, until funds are exhausted (approximately 70 euros/day).

Those selected will enrol on the 3 ECTS BIP module and will take a short-term Erasmus mobility.



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