

SciencesPo
URBAN SCHOOL

CALL FOR CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Academic year 2026-2027



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WORLDWIDE
for Politics

*QS Ranking



ABOUT US



The Urban School is one of the eight graduate schools of Sciences Po, a leading international university based in Paris. Founded in 1872, Sciences Po is a highly selective institution specializing in the social sciences, including political science, economics, law, sociology, and international relations. It is widely recognized for educating future leaders in the public and private sectors, both in France and globally.

Within this environment, the Urban School focuses specifically on the challenges facing cities and urban regions. It offers interdisciplinary Master's programmes that address key urban issues such as governance, ecological transition, social inequalities, infrastructure, and sustainable development.

The Urban School stands out for its combination of academic rigor and practical experience. Its programmes bring together students from diverse backgrounds and prepare them to work in complex, global urban environments.

With its strong international dimension, the Urban School trains future urban professionals capable of understanding and addressing the major transformations shaping cities around the world.

WHAT IS A CAPSTONE PROJECT?



Every year, the Urban School invites public, private, and non-profit partners to set a real-world challenge for a group of first-year master's students. For nine months, the team, supervised by an academic tutor, works for 1.5 to 2 days on your project. The aim is to produce a strategic and operational analysis ready for implementation.

Taking part in a capstone project allows you to benefit from a strategic and independent perspective that can shed light on your challenges from a fresh, analytical angle. You can explore your issue in depth through surveys, comparative analyses, and benchmarks, and produce deliverables that can be directly applied to your decisions or projects.

All comparative research produced within the Urban School's capstone projects is conducted to the highest standards of social and urban inquiry: sources are systematically verified, arguments are held to rigorous evidentiary proof, and every project meets the ethical and methodological requirements that define serious academic work.

[Discover last year's projects](#)

SOME OF OUR PARTNERS



A PRACTICE-ORIENTED APPROACH

For partners, capstone projects are also an opportunity to engage directly with the urban dynamics, policies, and planning frameworks of Paris. Paris is not a benchmark or a model to be replicated: it is a metropolis under serious social, economic, demographic, and environmental pressure. A capstone project is a concrete way to examine what Paris is doing, and to bring that into productive comparison with other cities.

IN-DEPTH FIELDWORK

The capstone project uses on-the-ground experience (site visits, interviews, public meetings, etc.) and collaboration with partners as a powerful driver of professional development, fostering creativity and innovation in the formats and solutions devised.



ORIGINAL AND ACTIONABLE OUTPUTS

A capstone project is a valuable and innovative way to explore a topic, inform decision-making, or drive changes in policy or business strategy.

Taking part in a capstone project allows you to benefit from a fresh perspective—grounded in research and independent—with original findings that can be directly applied to your decisions or projects.



CONTRIBUTING TO THE EDUCATION OF FUTURE PROFESSIONALS

In this way, you will help shape the next generation of urban and regional policy-makers, whilst contributing to public debates on the major transformations taking place across our regions. Finally, you will have the opportunity to showcase your involvement at the Urban School Lab's annual event and within Sciences Po's various communities (professional, student, and academic).

TOPICS OF THE PROJECTS

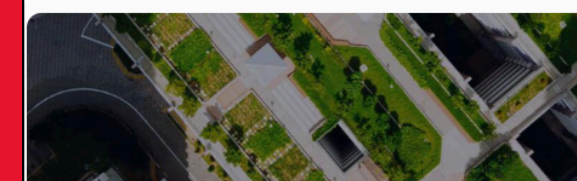


The call for proposals addresses major contemporary urban and regional challenges, including:

- Regional governance and the management of complex projects
- Ecological transitions and regional transformation
- Housing, transport and infrastructure
- Public health and regional policies
- Land economics, resource efficiency and zero net land take (ZAN)
- Digital technology and urban innovation

The call remains open to any proposal that aligns with the educational and scientific objectives of the Urban School.

SUMMARIES OF THE CAPSTONE'S REPORTS



URBAN PLANNING AND CLIMATE ACTION IN CITIES

Leveraging Land Use Tools for a Resilient Future

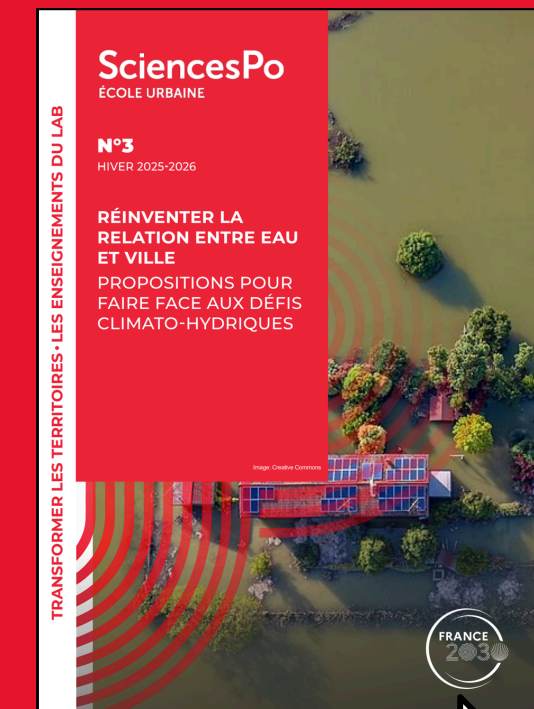
Urban Planning and Climate Action in ...
Projet étudiant

École urbaine

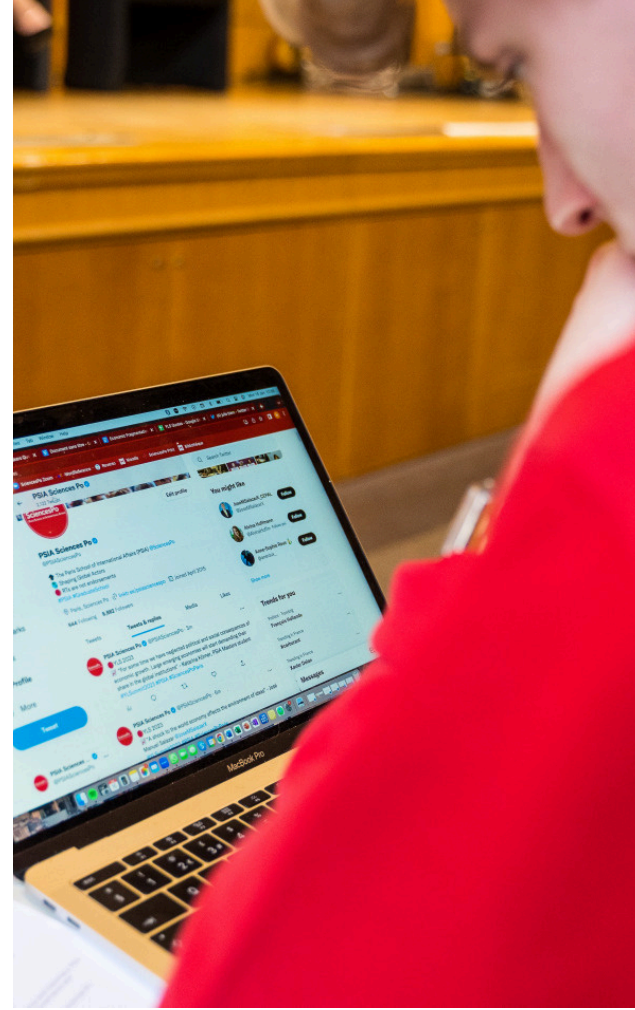
Texte Environnement / éc...

Villes / territoires +2

PUBLICATIONS OF THE CAPSTONE PROJECTS



CALENDAR



APRIL-JULY
2026

Submission of the
projects

JULY 2026

Selection, discussions and
agreements with the
partners

SEPTEMBER
2026

Fine-tuning of the projects, team &
tutor

OCTOBER
2026

Kick-off

FEBRUARY -
MARCH 2027

Mid-term meeting
& field-work

JUNE 2027

End of the project & Urban
School Lab Day presentation

ELIGIBILITY AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS



The call for capstone projects is open to all public, private, or non-profit organisations, based in France or abroad, except those with a political, trade union, or religious remit. The capstone project is an educational tool and not a service provision: it is not subject to performance obligations, and the intellectual property is held by the students, who transfer it to Sciences Po and the partner to enable the dissemination of the results, free of charge.



Sciences Po will cover all costs associated with the capstone project (tutoring, travel and mission expenses for students, as well as training in specific skills – such as mapping, project management, and design, etc.)

Financial contributions required from partners are:

Master Regional and
Urban Strategy

16 000€

Governing Ecological
Transitions in Cities Track

Governing the Large
Metropolis Track

21 000€

Master in Urban Planning

*For the Executive Programme, please contact the
programme coordinators directly.*

APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted to the Urban School by email **between 7 April 2026 and no later than Friday 3 July 2026** to the following addresses:

MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

ilaria.milazzo@sciencespo.fr

Executive Director

bertrand.vallet@sciencespo.fr

Director of the Lab

EXECUTIVE MASTER

charlotte.halpern@sciencespo.fr

Programme Director

Application form to be completed and attached in your email.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE URBAN SCHOOL

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<https://www.sciencespo.fr/ecole-urbaine/en/>

ecole.urbaine@sciencespo.fr

