

## Global Research Academy

### Call for applications

The Global Research Academy is an initiative jointly organised by Freie Universität Berlin, King's College London, and University of São Paulo. The academy is designed to encourage doctoral student collaboration across disciplinary boundaries generating new, innovative perspectives on graduate research and education. Participate in this unique interdisciplinary international experience to acquire advanced academic skills with doctoral students from different countries and backgrounds, establishing international networks.

The programme's theme is "**Sustainable Cities**" and scholars will work in interdisciplinary groups to reflect on real problems in modern cities and develop innovative solution proposals collaboratively.

**We are seeking ten PhD students from Freie Universität Berlin** to be part of a cohort of 30 PhD students from across the three partner institutions. Scholars will spend the first part of the academy in London and Berlin in summer 2022, before travelling to São Paulo in early spring 2023. Applications are welcome from doctoral students from all faculties who registered for a research degree at FU Berlin in 2020 or later.

**Dates of the academy:** 16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2022 in London and Berlin and February 2023 São Paulo. Participants must attend the academies in all three cities. **There are no fees for attending the academy**, flights and accommodation expenses will be covered by the students' host institutions. In addition, participants must commit to working remotely on collaborative assignments related to the programme for approximately 10 hours in June/July and 25 hours between August 2022 and January 2023 (roughly 1h per week on average).

#### Mentors:

- Professor Sérgio Costa (Sociology, Freie Universität Berlin)
- Dr Robert Cowley (Geography, King's College London)
- Professor Fabio Kon (Computer Science, University of São Paulo)

**Proposed Structure**

The academy programme will include three types of activities: lectures and seminars for critically assessing theories and concepts linked to sustainable cities, workshops for training academic soft skills (oral presentation, advanced academic writing, grant proposal writing, participatory research and sustainable research methodologies, gender and diversity training, academic ethics), and a series of collaborative work sessions. In these sessions, doctoral fellows will be divided into groups including students from different countries and various study areas. These groups will interact with a range of local stakeholders, which may include local government officials, industry representatives, NGOs and others to discuss and develop sustainable responses to specific urban problems.

The groups will be expected to agree and develop a research theme to work on after the first session of the academy in London & Berlin, to be presented at the academy in São Paulo in 2023. Students taking part in the academy will develop a deep understanding of urban issues from a diversity of lens, learn about urban structures in three countries, develop research links with peers from a large range of backgrounds, acquire soft skills and an interdisciplinary mindset to problem solving and research, in addition to connecting to world-renowned researchers at top universities and key stakeholders in these countries.

**How to apply:** Applications are welcome from doctoral students from all faculties who registered for a research degree at Freie Universität Berlin in 2020 or later. To apply, candidates should complete the application form, which can be found [www.fu-berlin.de/sites/brazil/PM-register-gra](http://www.fu-berlin.de/sites/brazil/PM-register-gra) and send it to [saopaulo@fu-berlin.de](mailto:saopaulo@fu-berlin.de) with the subject line “Global Research Academy”, including your provided ID number, alongside a two-page CV and the declaration signed by your supervisor.

**Deadline for submission: April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**