# Internship Opportunity for PhD Students

***Project: "City Soundscape and Sense of Place in the Planning Context"***

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## Scientific Context

Urban environments are complex multisensory spaces in which sound plays a key, though often overlooked, role in shaping people's perception and experience of place. The project *"City Soundscape and Sense of Place in the Planning Context"* aims to investigate how urban sounds—both natural and human-made—contribute to the identity, attractiveness, and liveability of urban areas. This research recognizes that sound is not merely a by-product of city life, but an essential component of the urban landscape that affects emotional, cognitive, and behavioral responses to space.

While visual dimensions of urban design are well established in planning practice, the acoustic dimension remains less explored. Yet, with growing concerns about noise pollution, environmental quality, and social well-being, the need to understand and integrate sound into spatial planning has become increasingly urgent. This project seeks to bridge this gap by developing a framework for analyzing, interpreting, and representing urban soundscapes as a part of the sensory and cultural identity of places.

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## Scientific Issue to Be Tackled

The main research issue addressed during the internship is the exploration of methods for studying the *role of sound in the perception of urban environments*. The intern will investigate how different soundscapes influence people's sense of place, attachment, and well-being, and how these insights can inform sustainable urban design and planning. Key questions include:

- How can sound be measured, recorded, and represented in the context of urban analysis?
- What types of urban sounds contribute positively or negatively to the perception of a place?
- How can planners, landscape architects, and local communities use sound data to promote more sustainable and inclusive cities?

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## Missions and Activities of the Student

The PhD intern will participate in the broader research activities of the project and will be encouraged to develop an independent line of inquiry within its scope. Possible missions include:

1. **Fieldwork and Data Collection:**
    - Conduct soundwalks and field recordings in selected urban areas.

    - Use soundlab devices such as microphones, recorders, and cameras to document the acoustic environment.
    - Experiment with immersive technologies (e.g., VR goggles) to explore multisensory representations of place.
2. **Data Processing and Analysis:**
    - Analyze recorded sounds using acoustic and spatial analysis tools (e.g., GIS-based sound mapping, spectral analysis).
    - Integrate sound data with other spatial, social, and environmental datasets to identify patterns and relationships.
3. **Interpretation and Conceptualization:**
    - Reflect on the relationship between sound, identity, and the perception of urban spaces.
    - Contribute to the conceptual framework linking soundscapes with planning and design theories.
4. **Dissemination and Collaboration:**
    - Participate in team meetings, workshops, and discussions within the project.
    - Contribute to the preparation of publications, presentations, or exhibitions related to the project outcomes.

The internship provides an opportunity for the student to engage in interdisciplinary research combining urban studies, soundscape ecology, planning, and sensory geography.

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## Conditions of the Internship

- **Location:** The internship will take place at the Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences campus, within the Institute of Spatial Management.
- **Facilities:** The student will have access to a dedicated desk and workspace, as well as to the university's SoundLab facilities. Available equipment includes professional microphones, sound recorders, cameras, and virtual reality goggles.
- **Supervision:** The intern will be supervised by members of the research team and will collaborate with researchers and technical staff working on the project.
- **Duration:** 1-3 months

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## Links with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and EU GREEN Vision

This internship is aligned with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**, which aims to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. By focusing on sound as an integral part of urban quality, the project contributes to creating healthier and more equitable living environments.

Moreover, the project supports the broader **EU GREEN** vision of promoting environmentally responsible and human-centered urban development. Understanding and managing soundscapes is part of the transition towards low-noise, ecologically sensitive, and culturally vibrant cities. Through this internship, the PhD student will gain experience in sustainability-oriented research and contribute to shaping new paradigms for urban planning that integrate sensory and emotional dimensions of urban life.