Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus

TWIN2EXPAND: Twinning Towards Research Excellence in Evidence-Based Urban Planning and Design

Project Coordinator: Dr. Nadia Charalambous, Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus (UCY), Nicosia, Cyprus

Title: Special Scientist for Research

Positionç: One (1)

Category: Part-time (70 hours per month) 1-year contract with possibility of renewal for another 2 years.

Place of Work: Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus, Nicosia.

The Department Architecture of the University of Cyprus accepts applications for a Part-time Researcher (70 hours / month). Work can be partially performed remotely. Some travel abroad is required.

Terms of employment:

The duration of employment will be one (1) year with the possibility of renewal for another two (2) years, starting from 02/01/2023. The monthly gross earnings will be € 944,416. Employee contributions will be deducted from this amount. The Research Programs do not provide for the payment of a "13th salary".

Research project

TWIN2EXPAND is a project funded by Horizon Europe. It aims to enhance research capacities in evidence-based urban design and planning (EBDP) as a field of critical importance in the R&I of integrated approaches and technologies for effective spatial planning and sustainable urban governance. The project facilitates a partnership among University of Cyprus, three leading institutions in the field (University College London; Chalmers University of Technology; Polytechnic University of Turin) and one pioneering SME practicing EBDP (Space Syntax Limited). By addressing urban sustainability, TWIN2EXPAND will contribute to achieving targets of the Cyprus Smart Specialisation Strategy, the EU Green Deal and the Sustainable Urban Development Goals. The strategic objectives of the project are to enhance research excellence and promote interdisciplinary research and networking in the EBDP field, and to make a broader impact on the scientific community and society. TWIN2EXPAND embraces the international networking ethos of the SDGs to achieve scientific excellence in the R&I of the built environment, fully embedding it within the quadruple helix by fostering collaboration with local authorities and other stakeholders. It aims to achieve a scientific and integrative approach to urban planning and governance as the entry point into effective transitioning to sustainable development. Focusing on emerging concepts and challenges in the field, the project proposes a generalised conceptual and working model of evidence-based urban design and planning. By embedding open science practices within the project's activities, TWIN2EXPAND will make significant contributions to research excellence, scientific advances and societal progress, implementing three pathways to maximise substantive real-world impact:

i) innovative capacity-building in research management and excellence in the EBDP field.

ii) co-creation of evidence-based urban design and planning knowledge and

iii) emphasis on translation of scientific knowledge to professional practice knowledge.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Researcher will work as part of a team comprising the Project Coordinator, a Senior Researcher, a Postdoctoral Researcher and administrative staff, and will interact with team members from the partner organisations on a regular basis, both via email and in face-to-face meetings. The role of the Researcher is to support the project team and actively contribute to all aspects of the project, including project management and administration, capacity-building in research and management, best-practice in evidence-based urban design and planning (EBDP) research, research on the application of EBDP in different planning contexts, dissemination and communication activities.

The role includes participating in the project's working groups studios on research capability, research excellence and research impact, as well as in training activities aimed at UCY staff. This will require a certain amount of travel (1-3 times per year). The focus of the Researcher's work will be collaborating with the Postdoctoral Researcher in carrying out the project's research component (The Application of EBDP in Different Planning Contexts) under the joint supervision of staff from Chalmers University of Technology and UCY.

Responsibilities:

- Project management and administrative support
- Management of project's social media
- Organisation of project activities
- Attendance at working groups and trainings
- Desk-based research (literature reviews, data collection and analysis)
- Qualitative research (interviews and questionnaires)
- Fieldwork research (site visits, observations, post-occupancy evaluations)
- Writing of reports, scientific papers and non-scientific articles

Qualifications and Skills

Required:

- Master's Degree in Architecture, Urban Design, Urban Planning or related fields (urban studies, geography, built environment disciplines)
- An interest in evidence-based design and planning
- Excellent English-language skills (both verbal and written)
- Excellent communication skills in multi-cultural environments
- Excellent Microsoft Office skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Flexibility to perform a wide variety of tasks to support the implementation of the project
- Attention to detail and ability to meet deadlines
- Ability to travel abroad for required activities
- Some experience of conducting research (qualitative and/or quantitative) either in an academic or a professional environment

Desirable:

- Studying for a Ph.D. in Architecture, Urban Design, Urban Planning or related fields (urban studies, geography, built environment disciplines)

- Experience working on research projects
- Experience working in a related professional environment
- Experience of research management and administration
- Experience of managing social media profiles
- Design and/or GIS software skills (QGIS, ArcGIS, InDesign, AutoCAD or other)
- Knowledge of Space Syntax theory and methodology
- Experience of qualitative and/or quantitative research, especially literature reviews, designing and carrying out interviews, data collection and analysis
- Knowledge of the Greek language

About University of Cyprus

The University of Cyprus, established in 1989, is a vigorous community of scholars engaged in the generation and diffusion of knowledge. The main objectives of the university are twofold: the promotion of scholarship and education through teaching and research, and the enhancement of the cultural, social and economic development of Cyprus. High-calibre scholarly research is one of the main pillars of development of UCY and has been a central tenant in its mission statement since the University's establishment. In recent years, the University has become internationally recognized as a leading research institution for its contribution to the advancement of science and culture. This recognition has brought the University substantial external research funding as well as a number of highly prestigious chairs of excellence. UCY comprises 9 faculties, 22 departments and 11 research units. The Department of Architecture leading this ESR project, and the department's research labs, offer expertise on both the design and sustainability of housing as well as on the educational framework needed to address the design of sustainable housing environments, focusing on the synergistic relationships between economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability.

Application and Selection Procedure

Please provide the following information, in PDF format, via e-mail to: charalambous.nadia@ucy.ac.cy, before the closing date **(20 November 2022)**:

- personal data (name, address, nationality, countries of residence, academic degrees)
- letter of motivation (maximum 2 pages)
- CV in EUROPASS format
- certificate of English proficiency
- transcripts of your academic degrees (translated into English, by a sworn translator; including ranking of degree classification)
- two referees' letters

Selection process

There will be a two-step selection process:

1. After reviewing the applications received, the TWIN2EXPAND recruitment committee will make a short list of candidates. Applicants will be selected on their potential for meeting the project and role requirements, academic excellence, organisational skills, their adaptability to work in a multicultural environment and their capacity to conduct research. The same procedure will be followed in all cases to ensure comparable selection.

2. Interviews will be conducted by project team members (3 members - committee). The interviewers will include the Project Coordinator and the Senior Researcher.

Recruitment will be a transparent, open and equal process following the guidelines of the [European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#).

Contact

Please contact the Project Coordinator:

Dr. Nadia Charalambous (charalambous.nadia@ucy.ac.cy)

At least the top three candidates who meet the required qualifications will be invited for an interview.

Candidates will be notified by the entity via email of the outcome of their application.

Having in mind the provisions of the General Regulation for Data Protection of the EU 2016/679 of the European Parliament, the University of Cyprus collects and processes your personal data in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation

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The University of Cyprus (UCY) is committed to promoting inclusivity, diversity, and equality, as well as the elimination of all forms of discrimination in order to provide a fair, safe, and pleasant environment for the entire university community, where students and staff members will feel supported both in their professional and personal development, within and beyond their multiple identities. To this end, UCY seeks to create the necessary conditions that will encourage and respect diversity, and ensure dignity both in the workplace and society at large. Moreover, UCY has adopted specific policies to promote equal opportunities, as well as respect and understanding of diversity, while it is committed to promoting and maintaining a working, teaching, and learning environment, free from any form of discrimination, whether direct or indirect.