Learning spaces – Future and Past of the Campus Concept

Summary

The Academy of Architecture and Urban Studies at Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech) invites applicants for a 4-year PhD position on learning spaces. The PhD candidate is expected to apply qualitative research methods to delve into the interaction between the physical environment, digital environment and the variety of learning processes at the institutions of higher education (HEI) in the context of architecture and city planning, with a particular focus on the historic development of the campus concept and its relevance in the rapidly changing learning landscape. This four-year PhD position is full-time and fully funded.

Research field:	Building and civil engineering and architecture
Supervisor:	Prof. Dr. Kimmo Sakari Lylykangas
Availability:	This position is available.
Offered by:	School of Engineering Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture
Application deadline:	Applications are accepted between January 01, 2024 00:00 and January 22, 2024 23:59 (Europe/Zurich)

Description

Learning spaces of HEIs has been identified as an under-researched area (Temple 2008, Ellis and Goodyear 2016, Byers et al. 2018). The literature on methods to evaluate the complex relationship between learning spaces and student learning is both scarce and fragmented (Leijon, Nordmo, Tieva, & Troelsen, 2022).

The PhD project reviews methods or models to evaluate the very complex relationship between learning spaces and learning, in the light of the historic development of the campus concept and the contemporary concepts such as Innovative Learning Environment (ILE).

Universities have to rethink what a campus space can be to ensure that HEI remains an embodied and communal experience (Eringfeld 2021). There is a growing number of concepts on innovative learning spaces: technology-enhanced learning spaces, smart learning environments, hybrid learning spaces, active learning classrooms, learning studios, learning commons, and maker spaces (Khamitova, 2023). People, space, interaction and learning are intertwined. The appropriateness of learning spaces may not be based on universal metrics but should be evaluated against university's mission and vision (Khamitova, 2023).

In the recent architecture competitions, the role and the functions of a public library institution have been redefined in a fundamental way. Can we identify any respective developments in the role and the definition of campus? What kind of physical environments can support the rapidly changing learning landscape in HEIs?

Requirements

The applicants are required to fulfill the following requirements:

- A Master's degree in architecture, architecture history or urban studies. Prior contributions or interests related to the research topic and experience in relevant research methods are not fundamental requirements, but they are appreciated.
- Proven ability to carry out independent research and to work as a part of a team. In addition, the PhD candidate is required to have a strong interest in the presentation and publication of scientific results in high-quality scholarly journals.
- Good command of the Estonian and the English language (speaking and writing).

The successful PhD candidate is expected to work full time for a duration of 4 years as a part of the Academy of Architecture and Urban Studies. The doctor´s degree awarded at TalTech is called Doctor of Philosophy, in brackets followed by a name of the narrower curricular specialization.

The PhD candidate will join the Engineering Sciences PhD Program, with the main speciality Building and Civil Engineering and Architecture, at Tallinn University of Technology. Additional funds will be provided for research trainings, conferences and international mobility.

To get more information or to apply online, visit https://taltech.glowbase.com/positions/738 or scan the the code on the left with your smartphone.