

OPEN PhD POSITION

Transport Research Centre (TRANSyT) – Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM)

Transform (“*Urban Mobility Cultures in Transition: Socio-spatial implications of transformative practices*”) is a Doctoral Network funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. Transform investigates the efficacy of transformative practices as mechanisms for initiating and consolidating transitions in urban mobility cultures, and analyses the resulting socio-spatial effects.

TRANSyT is a Madrid-based multidisciplinary research centre focused on mobility and transport. It addresses their economic, social, environmental, and spatial dimensions to provide innovative solutions for society.

PhD topic: **Shaping Mobility Transitions: Rebuilding the Concept of Urban Space**

This doctoral thesis (3 years, fully funded) explores **the role of urban space in mobility transitions** by integrating urban planning and mobility studies. It examines sustainable mobility models, such as superblocks, the 15-minute city, and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), across European contexts to analyse their co-evolution with urban planning. The research aims to **develop a conceptual framework that highlights urban space as a catalyst for mobility shifts**, offering strategic tools for policymakers to design more inclusive, resilient, and efficient cities.

As part of the training programme, the candidate will **collaborate with leading European institutions through secondments**, fostering interdisciplinary exchange and broadening the thesis's impact within the Transform network.

Supervisors

Julio A. Soria-Lara
Professor at UPM
Transform coordinator

Iria López-Carreiro
Assistant professor at UPM



Required background

- A Master of Science in Architecture, Urban and Spatial Planning, Urban Design, Urban Studies, Civil Engineering, Transport Engineering, Human Geography, Smart Cities, or equivalent. (MSc students are encouraged to apply if they fulfil the conditions by August 2025)
- At the time of incorporation into the position, **candidates must not have resided in Spain for more than 12 months within the previous 36 months.** (*Check MSCA-DN Eligibility Conditions – Researchers section*)

Required skills

- Proficiency in written and spoken English (C1 or higher).
- A strong interest in collaborating within an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research environment as part of a Europe-wide network.
- Self-motivation, strong organisational skills, and the ability to take personal responsibility for completing tasks.
- Good communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

Valuable skills

- Ability to write high-quality scientific papers (e.g., well-graded theses, publications, etc.).
- Experience with qualitative research methods (e.g., interviews, focus groups, workshops, case studies, etc.).
- Experience with ArcGIS software.
- Spanish B2 level is preferred but not mandatory.

Expected incorporation date

July – September 2025

Annual gross salary

€32,000, expandable up to €38,000 depending on the family allowance

HOW TO APPLY

Please send an email to carlos.roidan.hernandez@upm.es with the subject “*HRS2025/126 Postgraduado no doctor/ Postgraduate non-doctoral researcher*”, attaching the following documents: (1) CV (mandatory), (2) Motivation Letter (mandatory) and (3) Recommendation Letter (optional).

More details can be found in the [official website offer](#) and the [project webpage](#)

Submit your application before April 21st 2025