

PhD Summer School on the Economics of the Green and Digital Transitions: Innovation Policies for a Global Europe

Introduction

The rapid advancement of digital technologies, including AI, and the climate emergency are among the most pressing challenges of our time. The European Union has framed these challenges as a need for a twin transition. The challenges are global, impacting how the countries compete in developing and regulating digital technologies, participate in Global Value Chains of production, consumption and pollution, navigate labour markets implications, and collaborate internationally in developing technologies that benefit all. Designing and implementing effective industrial and innovation strategies will be crucial.

This Summer School aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to address these challenges within a “Global Europe” framework – exploring the EU’s role and strategic positioning in the face of global challenges, including its approach to international cooperation, competition, and leadership in the green and digital transitions.

UNU-MERIT and The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on European Inclusive Open Strategic Autonomy (EU-IOSAC) at the Luiss Institute for European Analysis and Policy (LEAP), in partnership with the University of Strasbourg and with support from the UNESCO Chair in ST&I Policies for sustainable Development in Latin America and the Young Scholar Initiative (YSI) of the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) is pleased to announce a Summer School on the Economics of the Green and Digital Transitions: Innovation Policies for a Global Europe. The school is organised at UNU-MERIT, United Nations University, in Maastricht, The Netherlands, 16-20 June 2025.

Programme overview

The Ph.D Summer School bridges research from innovation studies, economics of technical change, international economics, industrial policy and innovation policy, offering a holistic understanding of the complex dynamics shaping contemporary policy landscapes.

The programme offers a balanced curriculum of theoretical lectures, applied lectures using state-of-the-art quantitative methods, and policy discussions. The programme offers also an enriching environment to connect with colleagues and experts in the field. Participants will present their work in dedicated sessions, discussed by senior faculty.

Throughout the Summer School’s week there will be several networking opportunities: a welcome reception to kick-off the event with a casual evening of introductions and conversations, daily networking lunches with faculty and visiting scholars and a social

dinner, providing an networking opportunity with faculty and fellow participants. These events are designed to foster collaborations and create opportunities for future research partnerships and mentorship.

Topics and faculty

The programme will cover the following topics in relation to the digital and green transitions, and their interaction.

Scientific developments

Lectures by: [Prof Robin Cowan](#) (UNU-MERIT and University of Strasbourg) and [Dr Stefano Bianchini](#) (University of Strasbourg).

Technological developments

Lectures by: [Prof Önder Nomaler](#) (UNU-MERIT) and [Prof Maria Savona](#) (Luiss University and SPRU – University of Sussex).

Sustainable development: Inequality

Lectures by: [Prof Bart Verspagen](#) (UNU-MERIT) and [Dr. Tania Treibich](#) (University of Maastricht).

Sustainable development: Labour Markets

Lectures by: [Dr André Lorentz](#) (University of Strasbourg) and [Dr Tommaso Ciarli](#) (UNU-MERIT and SPRU – University of Sussex).

International development

Lectures by: [Prof Carlo Pietrobelli](#) (UNU-MERIT and University Roma Tre) and [Dr Filippo Bontadini](#) (Luiss University and SPRU – University of Sussex).

Through a combination of both theoretical and applied lectures, students gain insights into the theoretical foundations and real-world implications of these critical areas of study.

Target Audience

This Summer School is ideal for Ph.D candidates and early-career researchers in economics, innovation studies, political science, public policy, and related fields with an interest in the green and digital transitions and in the theoretical and empirical tools to analyse them.

Key information and application

- **Event date:** June 16-20, 2025
- **Location:** UNU-MERIT, Maastricht, The Netherlands.
- **Cost:** Participation is free for selected students (travel and accommodation are not covered).
- **Applications deadline:** 07/04/2025
- **Application link**

Application Requirements:

- Curriculum vitae.
- Short motivational statement.
- Most recent research paper (or PhD chapter also in draft format).

Applications will be evaluated based on their fit with the Ph.D Summer School's topic, the students' previous experience and the quality of the submitted research paper. Applicants will be notified of the decision by April 22nd 2025.

Important Dates

- **Application Deadline:** April 7, 2025
- **Notification of Acceptance:** April 22, 2025
- **Summer School Dates:** June 16-20, 2025

Contact: jmsummerschool2025@gmail.com

A detailed program schedule with specific session timings and topics will be available on the [website](#).

We encourage all eligible candidates to apply. Join us for an engaging and stimulating week of learning and discussion.



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