

# Open call for collaboration: connecting academic researchers with design

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*Bright Cityscapes* is a multidisciplinary program implemented by UPT and FABER, part of the *Timisoara 2023 European Capital of Culture*, whose aim is to create a design laboratory for the city — one interested in observing, responding and acting on contemporary urgencies through the discipline of design, architecture and digital culture. Starting from a situated research on Timisoara's productive and academic ecosystem, the program brings together international thinkers, academia, designers, sociologists, creative networks, institutions and companies.

The program was publicly launched on the 17th of February with the exhibition *Mirroring the Ecosystem*. The exhibition is a reflection board, an inventory and a tangible interconnection of skills, data, places, technologies, and products in Timisoara. Developed to present the trajectory of the whole program, and interested in the visible and invisible expertises acting across the city and its global network of supplies and demands.

You can visit the exhibition in UPT, the Center for robotics, D Building, between the 6th of March and the 2nd of April.

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## THE OPEN CALL

With this call Bright Cityscapes launches its collaboration unit calling upon four academic researchers inside Polytechnic University of Timișoara (UPT) to join four independent designers in a collaborative research-based project.

The collaboration unit of Bright Cityscapes supports proposals by academic researchers, which depart from their expertise with the goal of further exploring their research with the work and collaboration of design practitioners. The project will be developed between April and August 2023.

The value lies in facilitating opportunities for both researchers and designers to learn how approaches from complementary disciplines may be applied to existing contemporary urgencies and lead to the development of innovative solutions that can be shared to a wider public of companies, institutions, citizens and colleagues.

The outcomes of the collaboration will be presented in the official exhibition of Bright Cityscapes in September 2023. In conjunction with other public events of Bright Cityscapes such as conferences, guided tours, interviews, and pedagogical iterations, the exhibition will invite international public and local community to interact with the outcomes of these collaborations and to expand related discussions. The research, processes and outcomes of the collaboration will also be published inside the Bright Cityscapes online platform and publication.

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## WHO CAN APPLY

All UPT researchers, at any level, including master dissertation students graduating in June 2023, are welcome to apply independently or as a team naming a referent person.

● The open call is intended for researchers that are keen to share their research and practice with an independent designer and to facilitate practice-based projects that focus on challenges and issues starting from Timisoara's ecosystem and the designed living environments. Scales of interests are from bodies to planetary systems and involve any discipline of the UPT campus. ●

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## CALL GUIDELINE

The open call invites researchers from all fields of study inside the UPT to apply with a proposal involving their research trajectories, methodologies, analysis, research packs, tests, and laboratory experiments which are already in progress. Experimental approaches as well as ongoing or finished research projects are welcome. The proposals should have the potential to be carried on in new contexts or applications.

Fields of interests are: digitalisation, digital transformation, manufacturing, logistics, material resources, energy systems, sustainability, environment, automation, mechanics, technological innovation, industrial processes, non extractive economy, global networks, telecommunication, cybersecurity, infrastructures, chemistry, geology, robotics, machine vision, computational images, new media and unproven futures studies.

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## APPLICATION GUIDELINE

The proposed research trajectory should indicate a particular **field of interest** and illustrate the **potentials of its application**. The proposal will be a point of departure for the collaboration with the designer, therefore it should underline the possible **contexts of applications** of its research. The proposal should also indicate the relevant **research tools or methods needed** to dive deep into the chosen field.

The proposed **research trajectory** or research pack of each UPT researcher will act as a point of departure for a collaborative project to be developed over five months. Please include relevant sources or citations. The application must be submitted in English.

Please fill in the application form, by the 19th of March 24hrs: [HERE](#)

The application must be submitted in English.

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## SELECTION GUIDELINE

A jury committee will select proposals that dive deep into questions, critical analysis, processes or methods of work concerned with a specific field of interest.

Selected applicants will be notified by the 22nd of March and invited for an interview by the curatorial team. The first round of interviews will be held online. It might occur that a second round of interviews will be held in order to select the four researchers. Once the selection is completed, the four selected research proposals will be matched with a designer selected by the curatorial team on the basis of proximity of interest, research thematic, and skills. All chosen research candidates will be invited to meet the designers online and form working duos. Further details of the overall collaboration and project presentation will be negotiated directly with the selected researchers.

The jury committee is composed of Martina Muzi (curator of Bright Cityscapes), Oana Simionescu (Executive Director of Faber), Loredana Gaiță (Cultural Advisor in Upt) and Liviu Marșavină (Vice-Rector for Research in UPT).

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## COLLABORATION GUIDELINE

Each selected researcher (individual or group) will be provided with a 2000€ (including VAT) research fee and will spend five immersive months developing their research-based project in collaboration with the designer. A production budget will be allocated to the designer for the presentation of the research-based project into an exhibition format. Depending on the match, the methods of collaboration can be discussed and agreed between the duo and the curatorial theme.

The collaboration process involves meetings between UPT researchers, designers and the curatorial team in order to transform step by step the research into an exhibition outcome for the wider public. Further details of the overall collaboration and project presentation will be discussed directly with the selected researchers.

Bright Cityscapes program values equality, knowledge sharing, and accessibility. The final research should be able to communicate the process and outcomes in a way that is accessible and relatable. The final goal of the collaboration is the development of an original collaboration primarily in the format of an exhibition.

The collaboration activities shall remain in the Bright Cityscapes program's interest and are intended for research purposes, not commercial or personal branding. It is not allowed to acquire materials or equipment that do not address the project directly (eg. lab equipment or materials that go beyond the scope of the project).

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Bright Cityscapes is a station within Timisoara's 2023 ECOC official program; it is a multidisciplinary program curated by Martina Muzi and implemented by FABER and Polytechnic University of Timisoara (UPT).

More info at <https://brightcityscapes.eu/>