

UCC (CORK, IRELAND) BIP – December 2025
Hidden cities:
Artistic Methodologies at Advanced Levels
to Explore Urban Transformation (Public Arts Garage Cork)

INFORMATION SHEET

Dates

6 online Mondays and 6 online Friday student digital drop ins (optional 2 hour drop-ins for students only): **20 Oct to 29 Nov 2025**. Exact timings will be fixed by the teaching team, but we have tended to use Monday 17h-19h CET for seminars, Friday sometime in the afternoon for the student work drop in. The seminars tend to be 1h of presentation followed by some kind of group discussion or activity.

Live encounter at UCC, Cork: **1 to 5 December 2025** (participants are expected to arrive on the 30 November and leave on the 6 December)

Coordination team

Prof. Yvon Bonenfant (UCC): yvon.bonenfant@ucc.ie

Dr. Brice Catherin (UCC): brice.catherin@ucc.ie

Partner Institutions

University of Zagreb, Erasmus University Rotterdam, University of Malmö, University of Lodz, University of Deusto, and some students possible from Ruhr University Bochum, University of Oulu. Any other interested UNIC universities are welcome to contact us.

The founding institutions of the Public Arts Garage, which serves as a model for this BIP, and who will also be attending, are: University of Barcelona; University of Rennes 2; Bauhaus University Weimar; UCC. The Public Arts Garage model was developed by Martin Liebinger with assistance from the wider teaching team.

Expected number & level of students

Minimum of 30 (our approximation), maximum of 80 (our upper limit) including students from Cork. The students will be current PhD students or advanced research master-level students.

Number of teaching hours

Each contributing Faculty member will teach a minimum of 8 hours. Details will be agreed during our organisation meetings. The 8 hours will probably be broken into giving a seminar or workshop (1 to 5 hours) and then supporting the students the rest of the time by being present in various work spaces. The UCC team can send a certificate

confirming you are going to teach these 8 hours if you need it. Ask your own ERASMUS office for the required modalities.

Goals and contents of the BIP

- The BIP will be 'worth' 3 to 5 ECTS. These credits must be attributed by your HOME institution.
- The BIP will bring together PhD students working in practice-inclusive or practice-oriented research in the arts; students who are undertaking arts PhDs but who may be doing purely theoretical work; students from related disciplines; and finally, some students who are working far outside the practical arts in their PhD topics, and are interested in integrating arts methods.
- So far, students have attended from: Practice-based doctoral programmes in theatre, music, dance, visual art and design; art history; architecture; anthropology; environmental studies and ecology; education; business; environmental humanities; gender studies; language and regional studies; philosophy.
- There will likely be: 6 online preparatory lectures/seminars of 2 hours each, followed by the face to face intensive in Cork. (See dates at the top of this document.) The intensive will last 5 days excluding travel; beginning in the late afternoon on the first day and ending in the mid-afternoon on the last.
- See a previous example of the Public Arts Garage model here, but this is long ago in its pilot phase: <https://pag2022.uni-weimar.de/#/home>

Pedagogical content (draft)

- During the online sessions: introductory lectures that prepare them for the live meeting. These will include lectures on contested urban spaces in Cork; the history of incarceration in Cork and the colonial regime; artistic methodologies and ethics; and examples of art projects designed to explore the difficult aspects of Cork's urban history, and other topics of interest, contributed by the teaching team.
- During the intensive, the students will undertake daily workshops and teaching from day 1-4. These will likely cover topics like: 1/ Using artistic and sensory methods to uncover and reveal unusual aspects of urban space. 2/Data in artistic methodologies; data management and configuring data gathering; 3/ Improvisation as a research method in the arts; 4/Spatial exploration and public interventions. 5/ Imagining the audience as co-artists. (The programme will be refined ahead by the pedagogical team.) A range of different of different artistic modalities will be used, drawing from theatrical, visual, spatial, choreographic, tactile, and auditory/musical strategies.
- Finally, the students will be put into small groups that are trans-disciplinary. They will be asked to develop a concept for an artistic intervention in Cork that would reveal a hidden aspect of the city's spatial history. They will present that concept in the morning of day 5.
- Simultaneously, all students are supported to understand how this process embodies a distinct approach to ***methodology***, and to how these methods might influence their own research processes.

- The teaching team accompanies the students during this process and supports them.
- Your institution decides on the nature of the final assessment for your students. At UCC, we use a pass/fail only, ungraded modality to assess the contribution any given PhD student to the process. You can assign a follow up essay, visual presentation or project if you need to.

Foreseen impacts and outcomes of the BIP

PhD and advanced Masters students will enrich their methodological approaches to research with methods derived from Research-Creation in the Arts (practice-research).

We hope that potential PhD supervisors will meet each other, with a view to developing a UNICArt PhD Supervision network.

Dr. Brice Catherin, post-doctoral associate of the UNICArt project at UCC, will be developing evaluation strategies for the BIP, in order to understand better in what ways students felt that being exposed to artistic methodologies helped, transformed, or otherwise affected (or did not affect) their approaches and thinking around research.

FAQ

- In order to know how staff and students can attend the BIP, you have to ask the ERASMUS office of ***your*** institution, since rules are different in every country and each institution.
- If you are interested to be part of the teaching team, please just reach out to us.
- We will organise a series of online preparatory sessions (likely August/September) once the pedagogical team will be complete.
- Our experienced partners (BUWeimar, UBarcelona, URennes2) bring us an existing model, and so don't worry – we know this modality will function!