



Sustainable Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Finance

Lake Como School of Advanced Studies

at Fondazione Alessandro Volta, Villa del Grumello, Como, Italy

May 4-6, 2026

Call for participation

The school

The summer school in sustainable entrepreneurship, innovation and entrepreneurial finance will provide doctoral students and early career researchers with a unique chance to develop their research, by connecting with internationally renowned scholars in the field. The school includes lectures and seminars on emerging research areas from leading innovation, entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial finance scholars, including the editors of many of the top journals in the field; and paper development sessions, in which participants will discuss their research advancements in an interdisciplinary, international and stimulating setting. Ample informal mentoring and networking opportunities will be provided as well.

The school is organized by four leading universities of Milan: University of Milan-Bicocca, Bocconi University, Politecnico di Milano and University of Milan. The school will be hosted by the Lake Como School of Advanced Studies Foundation, from May 4th to 6th, 2026, at Villa del Grumello, in lovely Como, Italy.

Now in its third edition, the Summer School was launched within the MUSA – Multilayered Urban Sustainability Action – project. The first two editions were made possible thanks to the funding provided by the European Union – NextGenerationEU, under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), Mission 4 Component 2 Investment Line 1.5: Strengthening of research structures and creation of R&D 'innovation ecosystems', set up of 'territorial leaders in R&D'.

The participants

The summer school will welcome applicants reflecting the methodological, theoretical, and empirical pluralism in entrepreneurship and innovation research. About 15 participants will be admitted to the school. The ideal candidate is a doctoral student or early-stage researcher with a research proposal in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation or finance. Possible research topics include (but are not limited to) entrepreneurial decision making, sustainable entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems, and the financing of new ventures.

How to apply

Applicants are invited to fill out the form on the School website <https://seif.lakecomoschool.org/> (see “Application” section) and to submit:

1. A 4-page extended abstract of their research project, thesis proposal or working paper, clearly specifying:
 - a. state of the art of the literature on the topic;
 - b. research questions and expected contribution of the work;
 - c. methods and data used or foreseen;
 - d. expected or preliminary results;
2. An updated Curriculum Vitae specifying the candidate’s academic and research experience;
3. A motivation letter detailing the reason for the application and the candidate’s expectations regarding the school.

All materials should be uploaded by **05 March 2026**. Applicants will be selected by the evaluation committee based on the quality and state of advancement of their research proposal, their curriculum vitae and their motivation.

Notification and registration

Selected candidates will be notified by **18 March 2026** and will then proceed with the registration and fee payment through the School website’s specific section “Registration”, which must be completed by **03 April 2026**. Registration fees will be Euro 250,00 (not including transport and accommodation).

For information regarding the application process, please send an email to:
mariagiovanna.falasconi@fondazionealessandrovolta.it.

Organizing committee

Massimo Colombo, Politecnico di Milano, Milano, Italy
Andrea Fosfuri, Bocconi University, Milano, Italy
Evila Piva, Politecnico di Milano, Milano, Italy
Anita Quas, University of Milan, Italy
Salvatore Torrisi, University of Milan - Bicocca, Milano, Italy
Vincenzo Buttice, Politecnico di Milano, Milano, Italy
Marco Corsino, Università di Milano Bicocca, Milano, Italy
Francesca Di Pietro, University of Milan - Bicocca, Milano, Italy
Luisa Gagliardi, Bocconi University, Milano, Italy
Elisabetta Marafioti, Università di Milano Bicocca, Milano, Italy
Claudio Panico, Bocconi University, Milano, Italy
Clodia Vurro, University of Milan, Italy

Keynote speakers

Thomas Astebro, HEC Paris
Juanita Gonzalez-Urbe, LSE, UK (MGC)
Rachida Justo, IE Business School
Simon Parker, Ivey Business School
Erik Stam, Utrecht University