

URGENT research framework for a partner institution

The name of the partner organisation: Nirma University

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Departments or other academic units at your organisation concerned with URGENT-related topics:

1 Institute of Architecture and Planning

Current and past projects implemented at your institution and concerned with URGENT topics:

Project title	Funding agency	Project topics concerned (2-3 keywords)	Type of the project (research, education, mobility, capacity for the organization or external stakeholders building, promotion etc)	Possible links to URGENT (joint activities, agreements, ...)
Preparation of DPRs for proposed projects in Kerala and Puducherry under World-Bank funded Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency (ENCORE) Programme	National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Coastal Zone Management – Eco tourism – Livelihood Opportunities – Carrying Capacity 	Consultancy	
Heritage documentation to prepare a compilation of more than 3000 heritage properties in Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad world heritage city trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UNESCO – heritage documentation – heritage properties – City resilience 	Consultancy	
Residential Building Energy Demand	Ministry of Science and Technology,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Green Building Design 	Research	

Reduction in India (RESIDE)	Department of Science and Technology	– Energy Consumption		
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PHD Programs available

PhD in Architecture

Topics of PhD thesis (or other graduate works if you do not have a PhD program)

S. No.	PhD Scholar	Working PhD Thesis Title
1	Jaydeep Bhagat	Impact of Built form on Neighbourhood Walkability
2	Gitanjali Rao	Working title: Assessment of unique and everyday values of sacred living cultural landscapes justifying its delineation as a mechanism for aiding resilient, integrated and sustainable transformation. / Historic Urban Landscape and Socio-Ecological Systems framework for Integrated and Sustainable Development of Cultural Landscape/Sacred scape along the river valley
3	Jitendra Menghani	Impact of Neo-Liberalisation on Urban Form of Indian Cities: An Urban Morphological Perspective
4	Foram Bhavsar	Spatial Forms and its Implications on the Resilient of a City
5	Parag Mistry	Developing Urban Carrying Capacity Assessment Framework for Sustainable Urban Development for Indian Cities.
6	Shweta Suhane	Urban Forestry & its Governance
7	Archana Gaiwad	Social Life in the City: Relevance/Role of Community Open Spaces
8	Vibha Gajjar	Role of Urban Ecosystem Services in sustaining Urban Ecology of cities- The case of Ahmedabad city
9	Dhaval Chauhan	Bus Rapid Transit and Transit-Oriented Development: A Case of Ahmedabad

10	Pratima Singh	Disaster Resilience in Urban India
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Key personalities at your organisation publishing on URGENT -related topics:

Name	Key words (2-3) describing research interests	Personal webpage, if applicable
Prof. Utpal Sharma	Housing Design, Environmental Planning , Urban and Regional Planning	
Dr. Swati Kothary	Environmental Mangement, Urban and Regional Planning, Urban Governance, Environmental Planning , Nature Based Solutions	
Dr. Aparna	Disaster Management, Gender Studies, Sustainability, Urban Planning, Rural development, Environment	
Prof. Shweta Suhane	Landscape architecture, Sustainability, Urban Forestry and Urban Green, Landscape Urbanism, Urban Ecology and sustainable development, Urban Governance, Bio Mimicry Architecture, Climate Change and Resilience, Urban Landscape, Green Building Design	
Prof. Sneha Ramani	Urban Landscape, Sustainability, Ecology	
Prof. Purvi Panchal	Green Building Design	
Prof. Dhaval Chauhan	Urban Design, History of Architecture, Landscape Urbanism	
Prof. Jaydeep Bhagat	Architecture & Design, Urban Design & Urban Housing, Landscape Urbanism	
Prof. Vibha Gajjar	Architecture and design pedagogy, Urban Ecology and sustainable development	
Dr. Neeru Bansal	Environmental Planning, Infrastructure Planning, Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Environmental Policy and Law, Environment Impact Assessment, Environmental Governance, Renewable Energy,	

Current research profile of the organization in relation to URGENT topics:

The research at the university is promoted at all levels. There are PhD scholars who are doing research on URGENT cross cutting themes. Research is also conducted every year by about 80 undergraduate students and many of them take topics related to URGENT cross cutting themes. produce theses research Besides this, many faculty members are also engaged in Minor Research Project and are conducting 1/2 year research that is fully funded by the university.

Ambitions of the organization (in terms of research topics) or aspired activities in relation to URGENT topics (i.e. research collaboration agreements, PhD supervision, internships for PhD students to Eu partners)

PhD program has 10 scholars enrolled. More recent enrollments can be supported with additional Guide/ Joint Supervision from EU. EU Partners can also become examiners to ones in penultimate stage. We look forward to signing MoUs with all partners and are particularly interested to do joint studios/ student exchange/ faculty exchange/ joint field work and explore areas for joint research with University of Catania as we belong to the same domain.

Obstacles and barriers hampering the aspired developments

Our programs are relatively new, and we are adding new programs each year. The Urban Design course will start in July 2022, and we hope to start our master's in planning. B Arch program and PhD are ongoing programs. The success of these programs is dependent on market response. Starting new courses was a problem looking at the pandemic.

Enabling conditions and positive factor behind your current successes in relation to URGENT -related research developments, and/or making you hopeful about your ambitions:

University is very supportive in terms of space and finance. As Nirma is based out of Ahmedabad, we have access to high-quality professionals and academicians.

Specific capacities you want to develop to reach you aspired URGENT-related research goals, such as equipment, training for academic or technical staff, access to international databases, external experts support or PhD supervision etc etc

The specific capacity we want to develop and improve are:

1. PhD Supervision
2. Setting up environmental/ infrastructure/ energy lab
3. Initiate training programs on green and blue infrastructure (GBI) for stakeholders at various levels of governance like the Government of Gujarat, Town Planning and Valuation Department.
4. Access to the international database
5. Joint research collaboration and publication

Are there any national research or development policy objectives that support your current or aspired URGENT-related research developments? Please expand on this, if so

- Climate change
- Funding is not readily available from the Government of India for private universities
- Funding is an issue

What are specific enabling conditions or obstacles for the development of research training at your organization – in general, and in URGENT-related fields

Research training is a part of

1. B Arch curriculum
2. Urban Design studies
3. PhD – research orientation
4. Having more masters or higher-level courses need to be introduced for broader research in GBI
5. International support

Obstacles

- Lack of postgraduate students and full-time PhD scholars
- Market dependent success of the program
- Issues in research funding – universities have provisions for major and minor research projects.