



The Advanced School of Specialization and Study Center for the Maintenance and Conservation of Historic Centers in Unstable Territories – hereinafter referred to as ALTA SCUOLA – was established in 1999 by the Umbria Region and the Municipalities of Orvieto and Todi, which are currently its founding members.

Since its inception, the Advanced School has promoted numerous technical-scientific and cultural activities, also engaging with international partners through European projects such as INTERREG (with Spain) and KEP Italy (with Moldova and Romania), as well as through intercultural and scientific exchanges with countries including France, South Korea, Algeria, and Brazil.

In July 2022, during the event “**Intercultural Dialogues**,” a project for an **International Summer School** in the form of an Advanced Training Course was conceived together with the participants. The first edition took place in Orvieto and Todi in August 2023, lasting one week. Following its excellent reception, the initiative was repeated in July 2024 and July 2025.

The **fourth edition** is now scheduled to take place from **July 19 to 26, 2026, under the theme “NATURAL HAZARDS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE” - PRESERVATION STRATEGIES**. This edition will also maintain a flexible and intensive teaching approach, including classroom lectures, fieldwork exercises, practical demonstrations, and technical visits.

Professors and professionals from prestigious institutions have already joined the initiative, including:

- Copernicus Academy
- ISPRA
- UNESCO Chair of Florence
- University of Rome Tor Vergata
- Civil Protection of the Emilia-Romagna Region
- National Research Council (CNR) – Water Research Institute
- Eurocube
- University of Blida 1 (Algeria)
- Order of Architects of Mali
- Federal University of the Amazon (Brazil)



- UFMS – Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (Brazil)
- State University of Londrina (Brazil)

To date, students and professionals from Algeria, Brazil, and Mali have already confirmed their participation. Approximately **50 participants**, including attendees and accompanying persons, are expected to arrive in Orvieto and Todi. Each delegation will be led by a coordinator who will also participate as a speaker, delivering a presentation focused on the context of their home country.

The proposal is fully consistent with the **statutory mission** of the Advanced School, which includes the provision of high-level international studies and advanced scientific training aimed at researchers and scholars in the fields of geology, geotechnics, hydrology and hydraulics, agriculture and forestry, architecture, urban and landscape planning, seismology, and disciplines related to the conservation of artistic and monumental heritage.

The statute also provides that the Advanced School **promotes and organizes conferences, courses, seminars, and workshops** at both national and international levels, and establishes **active relationships with similar institutions worldwide** in order to foster scientific and technical cooperation with qualified scholars and researchers.

In a global context marked by **climate change and at a time of significant international tensions**, international cooperation in the field of environmental and territorial policies is now more essential than ever. Through this initiative of intercultural scientific dialogue, the Advanced School aims to promote the image of the cities of Orvieto and Todi, the Umbria Region and its territory, as well as that of the entire country, highlighting their environmental, cultural, and scientific excellence. The objective is to position Italy as an international reference point for the study, management, and protection of environmental, historical, and cultural heritage.