



POLITECNICO DI MILANO

Doctoral Programs

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Name of the Doctoral Program:

Urban projects and policies

1.2 Department of Politecnico di Milano coordinating the Doctoral Program:

Dipartimento di Architettura e Pianificazione

1.3 Other departments of Politecnico di Milano involved (optional):

1.4 Other Universities involved (optional):

1.5 Partnerships with external institutions (optional):

1.6 Main Disciplinary Areas involved:

Land Use Planning, Urban Design, Urban Economics, Urban History, Public Policy Analysis, Transportation Planning

2. OBJECTIVES AND CONTENTS

2.1 Objectives of the Doctoral Program:

Urban policies and projects evaluation, together with innovation of real estate and infrastructure products are the tools used by the program to pursue more specialised planning methods and techniques, and more reliable urban experts roles and profiles. The interrelation between physical and socio-economic design practices is the basis of a research programme which involves urban planning, design, law, economics and history.

2.2 Contents of the Doctoral Program:

The program is aimed at the improvement of the technical and procedural understanding to pursue a better quality and transparency of expert contribution to the decision process. Two are the main goals:

- (1) to develop themes and design methods of urban policies and projects — with reference to financial, economic and technical dimensions of the urban production systems and to the real estate market dynamics;
- (2) to define conceptual frameworks which — even if through different languages and focuses — may be helpful to the urban experts for developing a successful interdisciplinary co-operation.

The main research areas of the program are: planning methods and techniques (the major domain of the expert knowledge and practice); expert roles and decision procedures (the domains in which

experts are involved in a social discourse and in which the technical field becomes the object of political and legal choices).

The program offers four research streams:

- urban project methods and techniques;
- urban policy and plan techniques and procedures;
- Spatial features of social exclusion;
- Mobility and land use

The program theoretical framework is based on the general assumption that — whatever the client and planner/designer intentions — urban projects, policies and plans have at least a common feature: they are tools functional to the social relation control through the control of the spatial ordering.

2.3 Professional skills achieved by graduated Doctors

The program is aimed at satisfying the public and private demand of professionals able to promote, design, negotiate and implement urban development and redevelopment projects. The program designs three main professional profiles having in common the evaluation theme applied to projects, policies and plans:

- researchers in urban policy and project evaluation, with skills for reacting to the growing market oriented planning policies; skills for conducting real estate market analysis; analysis and evaluation of financial, economic and administrative feasibility of an urban project/policy; finance and budget planning; impact simulation of urban policy/project; land use planning and taxation;
- researchers in urban planning and real estate market, with skills for identifying the interests involved in the urban production system, for analysing conflicts and devising mediation tools, compensations and balances between the actors, and for facilitating the public-private partnership);
- researchers in urban design, with the skills (a) for constructing physical projects taking into account the socio-economic dimensions and constraints of the urban transformation processes; (b) for exploiting the decayed parts of the city and mobilise resources for developing comprehensive urban projects; (c) for satisfying the needs of urban project social communication.

2.4 Program outline:

Y.	Sem.	Introductory courses	C	Main courses	C	Elective courses and research training	C	Dissertation	C
1	1	Principles of territorial government	8						
1	1	Land use planning theories	5						
1	1	Urban planning	5						
1	1			Land use planning systems	5				
1	1			Urban projects evaluation and management	5				
1	1			How to carry out research in a Phd program: setting, methods, and cases	5				
1	2			Theory and practice of urban design	5				
1	2			Geographies of development: economy, society and space through the republican age	5				
1	2			Globalization and change of the urban society	5				
1	2			Real estate development	5				
1	2			Bibliographical research	10				
1	1/2							Dissertation	30
2	1			Mobility and land use	5				
2	1			Economic regulation	5				
2	1			Milan as an urban region: origins of a geographical concept	5				
2	1			Urban market analysis	5				
2	2			The use of cities: people and policies	5				
2	2			The urban issue in the twentieth century	5				
2	2					Stage	20		
2	1/2							Dissertation	10
3	1/2							Dissertation	60
			18	CREDITS	75	CREDITS	20	CREDITS	100

Note: doctoral students can choose to take the courses which are suited to both their educational goals and dissertation proposal. However, a minimum amount of 60 credits is required for both the introductory and main courses. C = Credits. (1 credit = 25 student-hour).

2.6 Introductory and main courses:

The courses are aimed at improving student's knowledge and research skills within fields related to the doctoral program: land use planning, urban design, urban land economics, urban history, public policy analysis. Lecturers are chosen mainly among the faculties. Each seminar requires four meetings, during which 16 hours are devoted to lectures and discussions on papers and case studies. About 24 hours of housework are required for reading textbooks, collecting informations, and organizing a short paper to be reviewed by the lecturer and the peers. Students get five credits at the end of each seminar. Undergraduate students, if authorized by the Chairperson of the doctoral program, can attend a seminar or more.

2.7 Elective courses and research training:

The doctoral program presents in the first year the half number of the seminars or main courses. Moreover, doctoral students will devise a basic reflection on their research project for the thesis (30 credit). During the second year, doctoral students attend to the remaining basic courses, in order to collect the amount of 60 credits required. They are also required to improve their research skill through an individual research project, designed together with the tutor and approved by the faculties (10 credits). Core activities of the second year are the stage at a public administration or firm cooperating with the Phd program, and a stage at a foreign University or agency working in the field of urban planning. Both the stages (20 credits) should be consistent with the dissertation, to be completed during the third year (60 credits).

2.8 Doctoral Dissertation

The varied inter-disciplinary suggestions offered to the Phd student represents a great opportunity for understanding the multiple dimensions of urban projects and policies but, in order to avoid the concurrent risk of redundancy, students should be able to convey them to a clear research project. That is why the topic of the dissertation will be outlined since the first year, in order to lead and specialise the educational process along all the three years of the Phd program. Four seminars for discussing the thesis with the Phd college (milestones) are offered, plus the final examination. Before the end of the first year the Phd student will produce some short papers (one every course or seminar attended) in order to acquire a selective background and better define the theme of the dissertation. In a seminar at the end of the first year the student submits to the Faculty: a) an articulated outline of his research project, with reference to the presented papers; b) a proposal for a stage in Italy and for a stage abroad, both coherent with the theme of the dissertation, and previously discussed with the tutor and the director . The second milestone is at the end of the first semester of the second year. The student will present the working papers related to the main courses of the second year, and discuss the scientific results of the two stages with regard to the thesis. The third milestone, at the end of the second year, will complete (if necessary) the review of the works carried out during the stages, and will deepen the discussion on the advancements of the thesis work. During the third year is settled a fourth milestone, at the end of the first semester, for refining the preparation of the thesis and a final examination at the end of the year.

3. ORGANISATION

3.1 Faculties (the first line indicates the Chair of the Doctoral Program)

Family Name	First Name	Position*	Institution
Gabellini	Patrizia	PO	Politecnico di Milano
Bolocan Goldstein	Matteo	RI	Politecnico di Milano
Bonfantini	Bertrando	RI	Politecnico di Milano
Boscacci	Flavio	PO.	Politecnico di Milano
Castellano	Aldo	PO	Politecnico di Milano
Cecchi	Raffaello	PO	Politecnico di Milano
Curti	Fausto	PA	Politecnico di Milano
Dente	Bruno	PO	Politecnico di Milano
Lanzani	Arturo	PA	Politecnico di Milano
Mantini	Pierluigi	PA	Politecnico di Milano
Mazza	Luigi	PO.	Politecnico di Milano
Merlini	Chiara	PA	Politecnico di Milano
Moroni	Stefano	RI	Politecnico di Milano
Pasqui	Gabriele	PA	Politecnico di Milano
Ponti	Marco	PA	Politecnico di Milano

*Position: PO = Full Professor; PA = Associate Professor; RI = Lecturer; AL=Other

3.3 International scope: collaboration with foreign universities (optional)

Foreign universities	Type of collaboration (*)	Formal Agreement (Y/N)
London School of Economics	EA	N
Pennsylvania University	EA	N
Ryerson University Toronto	EA	N
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	EA	N

*Type of collaboration: RP=Research Project; EA=Educational Activities; DJ=Double/Joint PhD; OT=Other (specify)

3.4 Collaborations with other institutions

Institution	Type of collaboration (*)	Formal Agreement (Y/N)
Associazione Interessi Metropolitani	EA	NO
Centro Studi e Sistemi di Trasporto	EA	NO
Clas Centro lavoro analisi sociali	EA	NO
Comune di Milano	EA	NO
GestiCredit, Fondi Immobiliari	EA	NO
Metropolis	EA	NO
Pirelli Real Estate	EA	NO
PIM. Centro Studi	EA	NO
Provincia di Milano	OT (financing of scholarships)	YES
Assolombarda	OT (financing of scholarships)	YES

(*) Type of collaboration: RP=Research Project; EA=Educational Activities; DJ=Double/Joint PhD; OT=Other (specify)

3.5 Support Committee

Family Name	First Name	Institution	Position
Biffi	Emilio	Pirelli Real Estate	Director
Ferrero	Cesare	Università Bocconi	President
Font	Antonio	Master en Projectació Urbanística de la Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	Director
Minotti	Luciano	Piano Intercomunale Milanese. Centro Studi	Director
Senn	Lanfranco	Clas. Centro lavoro analisi sociali	Director
Soprani	Umberto	GestiCredit, Divisione Fondi Immobiliari	Director
Thornley	Andy	The Planning Studies PhD programme	Chair
Torrani	PierGiuseppe	Associazione Interessi Metropolitan	Director
Biondi	Vittorio	Assolombarda	Manager
Gasparini	Daniela	Provincia di Milano	Councillor

4. EXPECTED NUMBER OF STUDENTS:

Students with grant	5
Students without grant	5

5. INFRASTRUCTURES FOR THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM:

5.1: Laboratories for experiments: NO

5.2: Mainframes and computers: NO

5.3: Personal computers for student's exclusive use: YES

5.4: Workplace (desk+telephone) for each student: YES

5.5: Other facilities

Contacts:

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