Politecnico di Torino

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Bachelor's degree programme in ARCHITECTURE

Department of Architecture and Design
Collegio di Architettura e Design

Academic Year **2025/2026**

The English translation of this document is provided as a support to the student community and has no legal effects. The Italian version shall constitute the sole authentic text and will be referred to for any legal matter.

SUMMARY

Art. 1 - Specific learning objectives and career prospects

1.1 Specific Learning Objectives

The Bachelor's degree programme in Architettura/Architecture provides students with a broad cultural foundation across the various fields of knowledge traditionally associated with architecture.
Graduates will be able to design simple civil buildings using standardized methodologies and to carry out both direct and instrumental surveys of contemporary and historical buildings. They will also be able to contribute to the architectural design process at different scales—from conception to execution and management—with analytical and critical thinking skills. These competencies can be applied in architectural firms, in public administration and in the private sector.

1.2 Career prospects

The Bachelor's degree programme aims to train a variety of professional profiles. The career prospects and main functions and competencies associated to each profile are illustrated below.

Professional Profile	Main functions and competencies
Civil Construction Technician (Junior Architect, registered in section B of the professional register – Chamber of Architects)	Functions: Civil construction technicians can manage the complexity of the architectural design process at various scales. They support specialists (architects, engineers, etc.) in research within the fields of architecture and civil engineering and in the design of buildings and other civil works. They also apply and implement appropriate procedures and techniques to design and oversee the construction, and to maintain such works, as well as to monitor technical systems and equipment and ensure their functionality and safety. Civil construction technicians are also involved in cost estimation and economic evaluation of building works. Graduates may qualify to practise as Junior Architects after passing the State Examination for Professional Practice (esame di stato), as established by Italian law. It is important to note, however, that the "Junior Architect" title is specific to Italy and is not recognised by the EU, as a minimum of four years of study is required to qualify as an Architect under EU regulations. Competencies: Civil construction technicians have a solid knowledge of the history and theories of architecture, related arts and human sciences. They apply this knowledge to conduct historical and documentary research in support of design work, with specific expertise in architectural theory, related arts and human sciences. They are able to interpret complex relationships between people and the built environment, as well as between buildings and the natural environment. They can use this understanding to produce documentation for various stages of urban, architectural, and technological design, in line with regulatory and administrative frameworks. They actively contribute to the design process by using both traditional and contemporary architectural drawing techniques and graphic conventions at different scales. They are proficient in applying visual and multimedia communication methods. They also have basic knowledge of real estate market trends and are able to assist in property valuation. Potential employers: In addition to pursuing a freelance career, graduates of the Bachelor's degree in Architecture may work for technical and design firms, public authorities responsible for land use planning, development and heritage protection (Regions, Provinces, Municipalities, Superintendencies for Architectural and Environmental Heritage, etc.), construction companies, and, more broadly, in all public and private organisations operating in the fields of architecture and civil engineering. It is important to specify once more that the title of "Junior Architect" is a peculiarity of the Italian system and is not recognised by the EU, which requires at least four years of academic training to obtain the professional title of Architect.

Surveyor and draftsman of maps and floor plans	Functions: Surveyor and Draftsman – Maps and Floor Plans • Conducts and processes architectural, urban, and territorial surveys and 3D modeling, both for existing structures and new developments. • Contributes to the historical analysis and interpretation of architectural works and their urban and territorial contexts. • Develops professional communication materials, including written, graphic, and multimedia content, to support architectural and urban planning projects. Competencies: • Possesses solid technical skills to support specialists in civil engineering research and in the design of buildings, roads, railways, airports, ports, and other civil infrastructure. • Proficient in the use of tools and methodologies for data surveying and the drafting of related floor plans, site surveys, and maps, in accordance with established standards of representation and description. • Demonstrates expertise in architectural and urban design drawing conventions, including graphic standards across various scales and methods of visual and multimedia communication. • Skilled in technical drawing, 2D and 3D modeling, architectural design, and the production of detailed technical documents and renderings. Potential employers: In addition to freelance practice, the holder of a Bachelor's degree in Architecture may find employment in technical firms and design companies, as well as in public institutions responsible for the management, planning, development, and preservation of the territory (such as Regional, Provincial, and Municipal authorities, Land Registries – NCEU and NCT, Superintendencies for Architectural and Environmental Heritage, etc.). Opportunities also exist within construction companies and, more broadly, in all public and private entities operating in the fields of architecture and civil engineering.
Continuing studies	**Knowledge required to continue studies**
Graduates of the Bachelor's degree in Architettura/Architecture may continue their studies by enrolling in a Master's degree programme in LM-4 Architecture at Politecnico di Torino or at other universities in Italy or abroad. Alternatively, they may choose to enrol in a first-level Specializing Master's programme in fields related to architecture, building engineering, or civil engineering.	The degree programme—through its structure based on design ateliers, lab activities, single-subject courses, and elective credits (including workshops, university-wide elective courses, student team activities, and student-led design initiatives)—offers a well-rounded education. It prepares graduates to pursue both professionally oriented specialisation paths focused on the practical application of design and more theoretical or methodological in-depth studies. To be admitted to second-cycle education (either Master's degree programmes or first-level Specializing Master's programmes), graduates must demonstrate a solid knowledge base, combined with critical thinking skills, sound independent judgement, and effective communication abilities.

1.3 Professional profiles (ISTAT codes)

With reference to the list of professional profiles classified by ISTAT (Italian National Institute of Statistics, https://www.istat.it/en/), a graduate from this Bachelor's degree programme can work as:

ISTAT code	Description
3.1.3.5.0	Tecnici delle costruzioni civili e professioni assimilate

Art. 2 - Admission requirements

To be admitted to this Bachelor's degree programme, applicants must hold a high school diploma (as required by current regulations) or an equivalent qualification obtained abroad, recognized as valid. Additionally, they must have or attain an appropriate level of initial background knowledge.

To be admitted to the degree programme, applicants are also required to take a mandatory admission test, governed by a specific Ministerial Decree and organised by Politecnico di Torino in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR), which are valid nationwide in terms of content, structure, number of questions and timing.

The number of admissible students is determined annually by the Governing Bodies of Politecnico based on locally programmed admissions. Offers of admission are made based on the order of a ranking list of all applicants, within the limit of available places.

Unless otherwise specified by the Ministry itself, admissions require applicants to take a mandatory admission test, governed by a specific Ministerial Decree. The test includes questions on subjects defined annually by the Decree. The required initial knowledge level corresponds to the contents of the national high school curricula established by the Ministry.

In particular, for enrolment in this Bachelor's degree programme, applicants must take an admission test (TIL-I), administered in different sessions according to a specific calendar published on the recruitment web pages.

Applicants who score below 30% in the Mathematics section will have to fulfil some supplementary academic obligations (in Italian, Obblighi Formativi Aggiuntivi - OFA).

They will be invited to attend tutoring math classes during Year 1 and they must attend a supplementary course. This course, called C.I.A.O. - Corso Interattivo di Accompagnamento Online (Interactive Online Support Course), is normally offered in the week before the beginning of classes. It seeks to help applicants fill in the gaps in their Math knowledge through specific online tutoring sessions.

The OFA requirements will be considered fulfilled if, by the end of Year 1, at least one of the following conditions is met:

- students pass one the Mathematics exam of Year 1;
- students pass the final test of the CIAO course by correctly answering at least 6 out of 15 questions. This test will be offered three times during the academic year.

For more information regarding the admission test and the enrolment procedures reference is made to the Call for applications for admission available at https://www.polito.it/didattica/iscriversi-studiare-laurearsi/iscrizione/corsi-di-laurea/bandi-regolamenti-e-graduatorie .

This Bachelor's degree programme is taught both fully in Italian or fully in English.

Students who want to attend the English-taught programme must have an English language certificate (B2-level or above), as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of enrolment.
Students with a non-Italian high school diploma who want to attend the Italian-taught programme must have an Italian language certificate (B2-level or above), as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at the time of enrolment.

Art. 3 - Programme curriculum

3.1 Programme overview

The Bachelor's degree programme is organized in three specialist tracks taught in Italian and one taught in English. It is structured over six semesters—with the possibility of completing part of the educational path abroad—organised according to thematic "rooms":

- INSTRUCT: first and second semesters
- PLACE: third semester
- BUILD: fourth semester
- ENQUIRE: fifth semester
- EXPLORE: sixth semester

This thematic organisation of the academic years and semesters allows:

- students to focus on a key theme and better understand the connections among the different disciplinary areas;
- the coordination of courses to ensure a coherent and well-structured educational path.

INSTRUCT
The first two semesters focus on providing a foundational understanding of the theories, methods and tools necessary to comprehend the complexity of architectural design and architecture as a discipline. These semesters introduce interdisciplinary relationships among architectural composition, building technology, architectural drawing and surveying, architectural history, structural engineering, urban planning and basic mathematics.

PLACE
The third semester concentrates on the relationship between architecture and territory, through studies and analyses in urban and town planning, including elements of the history of architecture and the modern city.

BUILD
The fourth semester offers an in-depth cultural and technical understanding of the relationship between: design and context (site), design and performance requirements in terms of wellbeing and comfort, design and structural performance, and design and construction processes.

ENQUIRE
The fifth semester explores a body of knowledge ranging from restoration theories to design theories and real estate valuation theories, along with the study of the history of cities from antiquity to the contemporary age.

EXPLORE
The sixth semester allows students to choose courses for other related disciplines as well as interdisciplinary design ateliers with different combinations of subject areas. This enables them to experiment with various approaches and thematic areas, helping them make more informed decisions for their further studies.
The programme provides students with a selection of course and atelier combinations aligned with the thematic study paths described above.

Over the six semesters, students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to earn the Bachelor's degree in Architecture through single-subject courses, labs and multidisciplinary design ateliers.
Single-subject courses focus on core theoretical and technical knowledge and provide the foundation needed to undertake the design experiences in the ateliers.

Labs (e.g., drawing, architectural surveying, and geomatics) combine lectures with group-based practical exercises using specialised equipment and/or software. The labs in the first semester of the third year (Design Theory, History of Architecture and the City) emphasise student engagement through exercises focused on each topic.

Ateliers focus on architectural design at different scales and depths of investigation and are scheduled throughout the three-year programme. Teaching is delivered through traditional lectures, design atelier work, and—starting from the second year—through critical discussion and interaction on design work with instructors from different disciplines, often co-teaching.

From the second year onward, students choose among the design ateliers based on their interests. Each student must include one of the six design ateliers offered in the relevant semester in their study plan.

In the second semester of the third year, students can choose a course from related disciplines and an interdisciplinary atelier, to enhance and expand the knowledge and skills acquired in the mandatory courses of the previous semesters. This enables students to further specialise in specific fields in preparation for a Master's degree.

Starting from the second semester of the second year, students may include elective credits in their study plan (as an alternative to a 300-hour internship). These credits may be earned through elective courses (free choice credits), courses at other universities, national and international design and construction workshops, research activities and participation in student teams.

3.2 Organization of educational activities

The list of courses (compulsory and optional), curricula, possible organization of courses into modules, any pre-requisites and exclusions and the list of the faculty members responsible for the courses are available at:

- Architecture: https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.offerta_formativa_2019.vis?p_a_acc=2026&p_sdu=80&p_cds=459
- Architettura: https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.offerta_formativa_2019.vis?p_a_acc=2026&p_sdu=80&p_cds=458

The list of the Scientific Disciplinary Fields (Settori Scientifico Disciplinari) for each activity (specific subjects and complementary subjects) is available at: https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.vis_aiq_2023.visualizza?sducds=80458&tab=0&p_a_acc=2026

Art. 4 - Student career

The Student Guide is published on the Teaching Portal every year before the beginning of the academic year. There is a specific Student Guide for each Bachelor's degree programme. The Student Guide is available on the web site of the degree programme.

It contains information and deadlines on:

- academic calendar;
- supplementary academic obligations (Obblighi Formativi Aggiuntivi - OFA);
- Personal Study Plan and Annual Personal Study Plan;
- free choice credits;
- internships;
- tuition fees;
- dual career;
- classes and exams;
- class delivery;
- foreign language learning;
- studying abroad/mobility programmes;
- exam rules;
- transfers in/out and internal transfers;
- interruption, suspension, withdrawal, forfeiture;
- credit transfer.

Art. 5 – Final Examination

For the final examination student are required to prepare individually and independently a project presented in graphic, written, and/or multimedia form in the period between passing their last exam and the graduation session.

Specifically, students are required to produce a Portfolio that includes a selection of design and theoretical experiences developed during their studies, as well as other activities previously approved by the Academic Advisor of the degree programme coordinator, such as workshops, design competitions, internships, etc.

Students must demonstrate their ability to synthesise the skills acquired throughout their studies —through design boards and a written text. They must also show their ability to critically evaluate the work produced during the educational path.

Overall, the preparation of the Portfolio requires a workload of approximately 75 hours, equivalent to 3 ECTS credits.

The Portfolio must be submitted online by the deadline indicated in the Student Guide (unless otherwise specified in the News Board of the Teaching Portal) for subsequent evaluation by the Graduation Examining Committee.

The official languages for the final project are Italian and English. With the authorisation of the Academic Advisor of the degree programme, it may be submitted in another foreign language.

The Committee is responsible for assessing whether the final project meets the following objectives:

- summarise the knowledge acquired and demonstrate the interrelations among concepts
- demonstrate critical thinking and the ability to synthesise what has been learned during the educational path
- communicate personal inclinations and interests in line with the educational path of the degree programme.
- use technical and scientific language correctly and appropriately.

The final grade is determined by the Graduation Examining Committee, which evaluates the overall average grade of the exams on a scale of 110. Additionally, the Committee may add up to a maximum of 5 points to this average, considering:

- the evaluation of the written paper;
- the number of years it took the student to complete his/her studies;
- the evaluation of the educational path carried out partially or fully in English;
- other information about the student's course of study (for instance, the number of exams passed with honours, experience abroad, extracurricular activities etc.).

Honours may be awarded upon achieving a final grade of 110, at the discretion of the Committee and by a qualified majority (i.e. at least two-thirds of the committee members).

More Information and Deadlines:

- Student Regulations
- Student Guide

Diploma Supplement:

In compliance with article 11, paragraph 8, of Ministerial Decrees No. 509/1999 and 270/2004. Politecnico di Torino issues the Diploma Supplement, a document that can attached to a higher education qualification. It is designed to improve the transparency of international qualifications, as it provides the description of the curriculum successfully completed by the student. This certificate follows the European model developed by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO – CEPES: it is issued in two languages (Italian-English) and it is composed of approximately 10 pages.

More information at: https://www.polito.it/en/education/applying-studying-graduating/academic-experience/certificates-and-other-documents

Art. 6 – References

6.1 Student Regulations

The Student Regulations define the rights and responsibilities of students and set out the administrative and disciplinary rules that all students enrolled in a degree programme or in a single learning activity at Politecnico must abide by.

6.2 Other Regulations

Particular aspects of students' academic progress are governed by specific Regulations or Calls for Applications published on its website.
In particular:

- The Tuition Fee Regulations specify the annual tuition fees that students must pay. The procedure for requesting a tuition fee reduction is explained in a dedicated guide.
- The University Regulations on Funds for Student Mobility Abroad outline the principles and rules for awarding and disbursing mobility grants. Standard procedures apply to all types of mobility programmes with unified Calls for Applications published twice a year at https://www.polito.it/en/education/applying-studying-graduating/studying-abroad
- The Code of Ethical Conduct also applies to students.