ACADEMIC REGULATIONS
Master's degree programme
in
ARCHITECTURE FOR HERITAGE

Department of Architecture and Design
Collegio di Architettura e Design

Academic Year **2025/2026**

SUMMARY

Art. 1 – Specific learning objectives and career prospects

1.1 Specific learning objectives

The Master's degree programme in *Architecture for Heritage* trains architects with a focus on the conservation, enhancement, management, and promotion of architectural and landscape heritage. Over the two-year programme, students gain specialist skills through a curriculum that includes single-subject courses, multidisciplinary integrated courses, design studios, workshops, seminars, study visits, as well as internship opportunities in Italy and abroad.

The programme enables students to develop specific knowledge in various fields, including architectural and urban restoration, architectural and urban design, architectural history, urban planning, economic valorisation, building technology, building physics, materials science, structural engineering, architectural representation and surveying, exhibition design, and museography. The educational model is designed to provide future architects with the critical and exploratory tools required for professional practice, offering a multidisciplinary training path. By engaging in different fields that contribute to the development of compatible and economically and culturally sustainable projects, students not only gain the knowledge and skills necessary for professional practice but also learn to work with a wide range of professionals involved in the planning and implementation of interventions on heritage assets at different scales.

The Master's degree programme in *Architecture for Heritage* places particular emphasis on practical and applied aspects. These are mainly addressed within the design studios, where students work on design simulations based on real case studies. Thanks to the involvement of multiple instructors from different disciplines, students are exposed to a variety of skills required of an architect, both in project development and construction management, and in coordinating multidisciplinary teams working in the field of architectural and landscape heritage restoration and intervention.

1.2 Career prospects

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

Professional profile	Main functions and competencies
Architect	Functions: The professional profile that the Master's degree programme aims to train has the necessary skills to work as an architect across the various design stages—preliminary, detailed, and executive—defined by law. Graduates will be able to: 1. develop projects at architectural, urban, and landscape scales, with specific expertise in the protection and enhancement of the existing cultural heritage; 2. coordinate multidisciplinary teams working across different scales in the design of conservation, restoration, and enhancement interventions for architectural and landscape heritage; 3. hold high-responsibility positions in public and/or private institutions and organisations involved in the protection, restoration, reuse and enhancement of cultural heritage (such as Superintendencies, Regional Directorates, Museum Hubs, Regional and Local Authorities, Restoration Companies, Non-profit Organisations, Foundations, etc.). Competencies: Graduates in Architecture for Heritage will acquire competencies in the following areas: • Design, coordination, and supervision of works for the protection, conservation, restoration, rehabilitation, maintenance, and safety of architectural and landscape heritage; • Analysis, knowledge, diagnostics and monitoring of existing built heritage; • Design of reuse interventions for architectural heritage, addressing issues of compatibility (historical, functional, technological, infrastructural, structural, social, environmental, and economic) and accessibility, through: (a) assessment of technical feasibility, (b) economic

- valorisation of works, (c) estimation of transformation and investment costs, (d) evaluation of public and public–private interventions in terms of pre-feasibility and feasibility;
- Architectural and urban-scale design of interventions involving the integration of new elements into existing contexts, following analysis of the setting and verification of compatibility and sustainability;
- Development and coordination of urban regeneration, recovery and enhancement plans, with particular attention to the conservation of cultural values and the identity features of the existing environment;
- Feasibility studies and design of initiatives for the promotion, valorisation, management, and communication of architectural and landscape heritage;
- Coordination of multidisciplinary design teams;
- Integrated documentation in support of design, promotion, valorisation, management, and communication interventions concerning architectural and landscape heritage.

Potential Employers:

Graduates in Architecture for Heritage may:
- Work as self-employed professionals, individually or in associated firms, upon passing the state Examination for Professional Practice (Esame di Stato) and registering with the professional board;
- Work as employees in architecture firms;
- Hold positions in the technical, cultural, and administrative departments of local and national public bodies (such as Superintendencies and Regional Offices);
- Find employment in companies operating in the production of goods and services.

Continuing Studies	Knowledge required for continuing studies
The degree programme, - structured around design ateliers, single-subject courses and integrated multidisciplinary teaching - provides graduates with a comprehensive education that enables them to pursue both advanced professionally- oriented specialisations (focused on the practical application of design) and more theoretical studies. Graduates of the Master's degree programme in Architecture for Heritage may further specialise in a specific field with second-level Specializing Master's programmes, doctoral programmes, or Postgraduate Schools, depending on their individual interests and aspirations. Among the opportunities offered by Politecnico di Torino that are closely aligned with the themes addressed in the Architecture for Heritage programme, particular mention should be made of the Postgraduate School in Architectural and Landscape Heritage and the PhD Programme in Architectural and Landscape Heritage.	To be admitted to third-level education (PhD programmes, specialisation schools, second-level Specializing Master's programmes), graduates must demonstrate—within the specific areas they have chosen to explore in greater depth (such as restoration, architectural design, history of architecture, building services in historic buildings, heritage assessment and promotion, exhibition design and museography, etc.)—a solid academic background combined with mature critical thinking skills, strong independent judgment, 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/), graduates from this Master's degree programme can work as:

ISTAT code	Description
2.2.2.1.1	Architetti

Art. 2 – Admission requirements

Italian regulations on enrolment in Master's degree programmes require Italian universities to check that applicants meet the following requirements:

- have a **three-year Bachelor's degree or university diploma**, or **other educational qualification obtained outside Italy** and recognized as suitable for admission;
- meet specific curricular requirements;
- have an **academic performance considered suitable** for admission.

The provisions issued by the Academic Senate, along with the implementing regulations adopted by the competent academic bodies, establish that for students coming from certain academic backgrounds and with specific academic results, the curricular requirements and the academic performance considered suitable for admission are considered automatically fulfilled. For all other applicants, a detailed evaluation must be carried out by an appointed evaluator.
This evaluation may result in either admission or non-admission.
Admissions to the Master's degree programme under the responsibility of the Collegio di Architettura e Design is allowed only in first semester.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have earned:

- a Bachelor's degree in class L-17 (or in class 4 under Ministerial Decree 509/99), or
- a three-year university degree or diploma, or another academic qualification obtained abroad and recognized as suitable under Art. 6, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree 270/04.

The degree programme, aimed at training professionals in Architecture and Building Engineering-Architecture in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC, also requires, as a mandatory curricular requirement, the completion of the essential learning activities listed in the table for the L-17 class of degrees in Architectural Science.

Applicants who do not meet the curricular requirements are required to make up for their unfulfilled curricular requirements (missing credits) before enrolment, by means of:

- **enrolment in single courses in order to make up for unfulfilled curricular requirements**: this is possible for students who need to earn up to a maximum of 60 credits. Students who enrol in single courses for this reason are allowed to include in their Personal Study Plan exclusively the courses assigned by the evaluator.
  or else,
- **credit transfer at Bachelor's level**: this is possible for students who need to earn more than 60 credits. In this case, students need to enrol in the Bachelor's degree programme that offers the credits in the specific Scientific Disciplinary Fields (core subjects and commentary subjects) required for admission to this Master's degree programme.

SUITABLE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Applicants must have a suitable academic performance and an English language certificate (B2 level or above, as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment - CEFR).

The academic performance will be assessed as follows.

1) **Applicants from Politecnico di Torino**

a) Applicants who have a degree in class **L-17** (or in class 4 under Ministerial Decree 509/99, or a three-year university degree or diploma, or another academic qualification obtained abroad and recognized as suitable under Art. 6, paragraph 2 of Ministerial Decree 270/04) are eligible for admission if:

- they graduated in less than or in 4 years ([1]) and the weighted average grade ([2]) of exams is greater than or equal to 27/30;
- they graduated in more than 4 years but less than 5 years ([1]) and the weighted average grade ([2]) of exams is greater than or equal to 28/30

The weighted average grade is calculated on all accrued course credits (graded on a scale of 30) counting towards the achievement of the Bachelor's degree, after having subtracted the worst 28 credits.

The duration of the Bachelor's path is calculated on the basis of the number of academic years in which the applicant has been enrolled at the university, starting from the first enrolment in the Italian university system:
- for full-time students: the duration of the Bachelor's path is equivalent to the number of academic years of enrolment.
- for part-time students: each year of enrolment is counted as half-year.
- for full-time students taking part in the "Dual Career" programme: each year of enrolment is counted as half-year, as for part-time students.

In the event of credit transfer, the duration of the Bachelor's path must be increased proportionally to the number of credits that have been recognized by Politecnico (10-60 CFU =1 year, etc.). The worst 28 credits must be subtracted proportionally to the number of validated credits.

(1) Applicants must have graduated by the end of the December Graduation Period
(2) The weighted average is calculated as follows: ∑(grade*credits) / ∑credits

a) admissions by merit-based evaluation of the Evaluation Committee

Applicants who do not have the above-mentioned average must undergo a merit-based evaluation. The details of this evaluation are available in the section below "Merit-based evaluation for applicants from Politecnico di Torino and from other Italian universities".

2) Applicants from other Italian universities

Applicants who have a Bachelor's degree awarded by another Italian university must have a weighted average grade of all the exams ≥ 24/30. They must also undergo the merit-based evaluation referred to in the next paragraph. The weighted average grade (∑(grade*credits) / ∑credits) is calculated on all accrued course credits (graded on a scale of 30) counting towards the achievement of the Bachelor's degree, after having subtracted the worst 28 credits.

Merit-based evaluation for applicants from Politecnico di Torino and from other Italian universities

The merit-based evaluation aims to ascertain specific requirements (weighted average grade and portfolio) in order to verify that prospective students have the knowledge, competencies and aptitude to the contents and learning objectives of the Master's degree programme.
The merit-based evaluation focuses on the applicant's knowledge in the thematic areas covered by the Bachelor's degree programme in Architecture – Class L-17, in connection with the chosen Master's degree programme.

A positive evaluation (offer of admission) allows applicants to enrol in the programme only in the academic year in which the evaluation has been given. Admitted applicants who do not complete the enrolment process within the deadlines are required to apply again and retake the admission test in the next academic years.

Students from Politecnico who have been admitted to the programme and have advanced some Master's courses (taken during their Bachelor's path) are allowed to enrol without retaking the admission test also in the next academic year, provided that they meet the other admission requirements.

3) Applicants with a non-Italian educational qualification

To be admitted to Politecnico Master's degree programmes, applicants must have an academic qualification awarded by an accredited/recognized foreign university, earned after completing at least 15 years of total education (including primary school, secondary school and university).

Applicants who have attended a university programme lasting five or six academic years (different from the 3+2 system) without completing it must still meet the minimum requirement of 15 years of total education (of which at least 3 years at university level) and they must have earned at least 180 ECTS credits or equivalent. Pre-university courses or foundation years cannot be counted towards the minimum number of credits or the minimum numbers of years of total education mentioned

above.

In addition to having an adequate academic background and certified knowledge of the English language (minimum B2 level), students applying to a degree programme delivered in Italian or partially taught in Italian must also have an Italian language

certificate (minimum B2 level), as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), as an admission requirement.

The applicant's academic performance and the consistency between the degree programmes offered by Politecnico and the applicant's previous academic background are assessed by the professors designated by Coordinator of the Collegio. The evaluation is carried out on the Apply@polito platform under the section called "Applicants with a non-Italian qualification."

A positive evaluation (offer of admission) allows applicants to enrol in the programme only in the academic year in which the application has been submitted. Admitted applicants who do not complete the enrolment process within the deadlines are required to apply again to the programme in the next academic years.

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More information is available at https://www.polito.it/en/education/applying-studying-graduating/admissions-and-enrolment/master-s-degree-programmes

Art. 3 – Programme curriculum

3.1 Programme overview

The educational path is structured around four thematic semesters, whose specific features are outlined below:

First semester: "Design and Heritage"

In the first semester of Year 1, introductory seminars provide the opportunity to address the "challenges of contemporaneity" by exploring various topics related to the focus areas of the programme and the students' specific interests. In particular, the seminar offered by the programme, "Knowledge and Heritage Active Preservation," tackles issues related to the recognition of heritage values and participatory processes, by engaging disciplines such as architectural history, sociology, and cultural heritage legislation. The relationship between design and heritage is further explored through the single-subject course "Restoration Methodology" and the design atelier "Urban Regeneration and Enhancement Project," which integrates contributions from urban planning and economic valorisation into the design process.

Second semester: "Design and Conservation"

The second semester of Year 1 focuses on "Conservation Design." Students attend the "Restoration Project" atelier, which combines the disciplines of restoration, building services in historic buildings, and materials science for restoration/diagnostics. Alongside, students take the integrated course "Point Clouds and HBIM," which—starting from the acquisition of data for the survey of existing structures—investigates the use of parametric digital modelling. This is complemented by the laboratory course "Historical architecture: construction systems and strengthening criteria" which focuses on understanding the constructive features of architectural heritage through the study of building techniques, historic construction technologies and structural reinforcement methods.

Third semester: "Design and Innovation"

The third semester includes a monographic course titled "History of Architecture and Heritage," centred on modern and contemporary architecture. It also includes two parallel design ateliers: one on the "Adaptive reuse of the built legacy" (covering architectural and urban design, architectural technology, and structural design), and another on the "Use and management design of cultural sites" (focusing on interior architecture and exhibition design, real estate appraisal, and geomatics). The first atelier investigates the potential transformation of architectural assets in historically consolidated contexts, while the second is oriented toward the design of an integrated repurposing intervention, with particular emphasis on museum-related functions.

To further enrich and specialise their educational path, students may choose from a wide range of optional free choice courses, workshops, and initiatives coordinated by the university—such as the "Challenges"—which, through innovative teaching approaches, foster the intersection of research, innovative thinking, and engagement with industry.

Fourth semester: "In-depth Studies"

In the final semester of the programme, students are expected to focus on the preparation of their thesis, a key milestone culminating in the final examination. During this phase, each student is supervised by a supervisor, who plays a crucial role in guiding the development of the project, helping to shape ideas and steer the research effectively. Depending on the needs and complexity of the chosen topic, the supervisor may be supported by one or two co-supervisors, who contribute specific expertise and complementary perspectives to enrich the work. The aim of this phase is not only to produce an academic thesis, but also to foster the student's analytical, critical and creative skills. In particular, the programme seeks to encourage a personal approach to research, strengthen independent judgement and improve communication skills—essential tools for presenting and discussing the results achieved.

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: https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.offerta_formativa_2019.vis?p_a_acc=2026&p_sdu=82&p_cds=462

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=82462&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 Master's degree programme. The Student Guide is available on the web site of the degree programme.

It contains information and deadlines on:
- academic calendar;
- 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

The final examination is an educational milestone of the Master's degree programme. It consists in defending a thesis that must be developed independently and originally by the student under the guidance of a Supervisor, and eventually one or two Co-supervisors.
Students take the final examination (20 ECTS) relying solely on discussions with the supervisor and any co-supervisors.
The fourth semester of the educational path is dedicated to developing a thesis. The thesis topic can involve a complex project (from building scale to urban scale) or a scientific research work based on either a monodisciplinary or multidisciplinary methodological approach.
The workload required to complete the thesis is approximately 500 hours, corresponding to 20 ECTS credits.
The Master's thesis topic is chosen by the student or proposed by the teaching staff of the courses offered during the Master's degree curriculum (monodisciplinary courses, design studios, and workshops). The thesis topic may also be connected to internship activities or with courses attended during the Bachelor's or Master's degree programme at Politecnico or at other Italian or foreign universities (e.g., Erasmus). The thesis explicitly demonstrates—both in its preparation and presentation—the analytical, critical, design, and communication skills developed by the graduate student.

Thesis Supervisor
The thesis topic must be agreed upon with the Supervisor, who discusses its content and oversees the drafting process. The thesis Supervisor is a tenured faculty member or researcher of Politecnico or an external instructor with a teaching appointment, as defined in the Guidelines for Bachelor's and Master's Final Examinations.
Students are recommended to choose their Supervisor among the tenured faculty members and researchers of the Politecnico Master's degree programme in which they are enrolled.
Tenured faculty members and researchers teaching in other Bachelor's or Master's degree programmes at Politecnico di Torino, as well as external instructors with a teaching assignment in the Master's degree programme, may also be chosen as Supervisors. In the latter case, the external instructor may only serve as Supervisor if supported by a co-Supervisor, to be appointed among the tenured faculty members and researchers of Politecnico di Torino; both names should be clearly stated at the time of the formal thesis topic request.
For theses requiring particular disciplinary insights, the presence of a co-Supervisor is possible, up to a maximum of two co-Supervisors, who may also be external to Politecnico.

Thesis Topic and Development
The thesis is individual and must be defended individually before a designated Committee.
Group theses are allowed (usually 2, maximum 3 members) only for complex and articulated projects, at the Supervisor's discretion, where each member must present their own individual contribution to the thesis. In this regard, the thesis must clearly indicate the part developed by each group member.
The Master's thesis may be written and defended in either Italian or English.
In addition to the Italian or English version, and with authorization from the Coordinator, the thesis may include translations to other languages.
Students must submit their thesis application and request the thesis topic online through a dedicated procedure available in their personal page on the Teaching Portal, under the section entitled "Thesis," in compliance with the Graduation Periods deadlines published in the Student Guide – Thematic Calendar Section.

Thesis Type
There are two types of theses: theoretical and/or experimental research thesis or design thesis.

Theoretical and/or Experimental Research Thesis
The theoretical and/or experimental research thesis must include an original analysis, evaluation or critique; purely compilatory theses are not allowed.
Theoretical and/or experimental research theses can be conducted in all the fields covered in the Study Plan, provided that they are in line with the educational objectives of the Master's degree programme in the LM4 class and may also involve internship activities.
The research thesis must be written in a maximum UNI A4 format and may be accompanied by illustrations and graphic materials (maps, diagrams, drawings, etc.) or multimedia content.
A bibliography documenting the thesis sources must be included.

Design Thesis

The design thesis may concern:

- the further development of a design carried out within one of the design studios or workshops included in the Study Plan, resulting from internship activities or courses attended during study periods abroad;
- a new project topic.

Alongside the project, students must also prepare a written critical report, accompanied by illustrations and graphic materials. A bibliography documenting the thesis sources must be included.

Formats are flexible and must demonstrate the graduate's ability to effectively manage layout and communication aspects. The thesis defence will normally be based on design boards in UNI A0 or UNI A1 format.

Thesis Evaluation

The final grade is determined by the Graduation Examining Committee, which will consider the overall weighted average of all exam grades on a 110-point scale. The committee may add, as a rule, up to a maximum of 8 points based on the following criteria:

- originality of the thesis;
- depth of analysis of the topic;
- methodological rigor;
- presentation and communication skills, as well as the ability to argue and defend one's ideas;
- overall quality of the work, scientific contribution to the field, degree of innovation and experimentation.

Honours ("cum laude"), which rewards not only the thesis but the entire academic path of the student, may be awarded upon reaching a score of 110, at the committee's discretion and by a qualified majority, i.e., at least two-thirds of the committee members.

The committee may grant the dignity of publication (dignità di stampa) only if the final grade is 110 with honours and the committee's decision is unanimous.

If a thesis is deemed by the Committee to be particularly representative of the Master's degree programme (regardless of the final grade), it may be selected for special mention. In this case, the student will be allowed to publish an abstract of the Master's thesis on a dedicated section of the University's website, in both Italian and English.

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.