



**Politecnico  
di Torino**

**ACADEMIC REGULATIONS**  
**Master's degree programme**  
**in**  
**ARCHITECTURE FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

**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 matters.*

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## Art. 1 – Specific learning objectives and career prospects

### 1.1 Specific learning objectives

The focus of the Master's degree programme in Architecture for Sustainability (MASt) is the integration of sustainability — considered in its environmental, economic and social dimensions—into architectural design.

Graduates are awarded a degree that complies with Directive 2005/36/EC and, upon passing the State Examination for Professional Practice (Section A, Architecture sector), they may obtain the professional title of architect pursuant to Article 17 of Presidential Decree no. 328 of 5 June 2001, as amended, and register with the professional board of Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects and Conservators (Section A, Architecture sector).

In line with other international Schools of Architecture with a strong focus on sustainability, this Master's degree programme is entirely offered in English and explores design and research topics relevant to cultural, environmental and economic contexts different from the national one. Students are thus given the opportunity to develop design proposals for different continents, working with international and European regulatory frameworks.

The course catalogue of the programme is designed around all the disciplines contributing to the education of an architect, with sustainability placed at the core of every learning area—both theoretical and design-related.

The contents and teaching methods of the courses are tailored to develop professional competencies capable of managing the complexity of the design process across different fields and scales. This is achieved through a multidisciplinary approach involving seminars, ateliers and elective courses.

### 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	<p>Functions:</p> <p>This professional profile is trained to independently manage comprehensive design tasks, in accordance with all the competencies legally granted to architects. Graduates are capable of working across all stages of public works design, construction management and final testing.</p> <p>They are able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. coordinate multidisciplinary design teams involved in the planning, implementation and management of architectural and urban projects, as well as in the transformation of the built and natural environment;</li><li>2. take on high-responsibility roles in public and private institutions, including as specialists in the energy, economic and social dimensions of architectural design;</li><li>3. carry out design and construction management activities focused on the transformation, retrofitting and conservation of the existing built heritage.</li></ol> <p>Competencies:</p> <p>Architects trained in sustainability are equipped to assess and address formal, spatial, functional, structural, technical-construction, managerial, economic, energy-related and environmental aspects of design. They work with critical awareness of cultural shifts and the needs of contemporary society. They can interpret and solve complex architectural challenges from an interdisciplinary perspective, applying their expertise to the construction, transformation and adaptation of the built environment. Their work connects design with environmental, landscape, and social contexts, grounded in a deep understanding of the demands of sustainable architecture.</p> <p>They also acquire the following specific competencies, enabling them to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. engage in urban, architectural, technological and material design processes, developing sustainable solutions in line with current regulatory frameworks;</li><li>2. develop architectural projects with a focus on modelling, representation and communication;</li><li>3. conduct appraisal and evaluation activities using appropriate tools for public, private, and</li></ol>

	<p>public-private initiatives;</p> <p>4. work for public and private bodies involved in construction and environmental transformation, also taking on the role of RUP (Project Manager for public procurement procedures).</p> <p>Potential Employers:</p> <p>Architects with expertise in sustainability may work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. as self-employed professionals, either individually or in associated practices, upon passing the State Examination for Professional Practice and registering with the professional board of Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects and Conservators (Section A – Architecture);</li> <li>2. in public institutions;</li> <li>3. as consultants for public and private bodies operating in the energy and environmental sectors;</li> <li>4. in energy and environmental certification bodies at various scales (urban, architectural, technological, and material);</li> <li>5. in museums, foundations, and associations—both public and private—developing communication strategies, plans and programmes;</li> <li>6. in public and private organisations operating in real estate, fundraising and project financing, as well as in banking foundations, construction companies, and real estate development firms.</li> </ol>
<b>Continuing Studies</b>	<b>Knowledge required for continuing studies</b>
<p>Graduates may further specialise in specific fields by enrolling in second-level Specializing Master's programmes, PhD programmes, or Postgraduate Schools at the international level, depending on their interests and aspirations.</p>	<p>The programme, through its structure based on design ateliers and monodisciplinary courses, provides graduates with a comprehensive education that enables them to pursue both advanced professional training—focusing on the practical application of architectural design—and more theoretical academic paths.</p> <p>To be admitted to third-cycle education (PhD programmes, Postgraduate Schools and second-level Specializing Master's programmes), graduates are expected to demonstrate—within the thematic areas chosen to deepen their studies—a solid academic background, a well-developed critical capacity for analysis, sound independent judgement, and strong communication skills.</p>

### 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 the merit-based evaluation, 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 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 <sup>(1)</sup> and the weighted average grade <sup>(2)</sup> of exams is greater than or equal to 27/30;
  - they graduated in more than 4 years but less than 5 years <sup>(1)</sup> and the weighted average grade <sup>(2)</sup> 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:  $\sum(\text{grade} \times \text{credits}) / \sum \text{credits}$*

b) 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  $\geq 24/30$ . They must also undergo the merit-based evaluation referred to in the next paragraph. The weighted average grade ( $\sum(\text{grade} \times \text{credits}) / \sum \text{credits}$ ) 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 programme is organised into four semesters, with the opportunity to spend a study period abroad.

The multidisciplinary design ateliers are aimed at applying design methodologies grounded in a sustainable approach, and at developing project solutions using both traditional and/or innovative teaching methods and tools.

The ateliers and courses, delivered across the two semesters of Year 1 and the first semester of the Year 2, are structured to address—sequentially and at different scales—the various dimensions of sustainability (social, environmental, and economic).

The introductory seminars, held in the first semester, are conceived as interdisciplinary experiences aimed at deepening cultural and scientific themes, to help students update their skills in both design-related contexts and in theoretical and applied research.

The monodisciplinary courses offered during the first three semesters provide opportunities to acquire theoretical knowledge and professional skills related to sustainability and architectural practice.

The Master's degree programme also includes elective educational activities (free choice credits) — such as workshops, research essays, elective courses, and challenges—through which students can gain specific experience. Students also have the possibility to do an internship, either in Italy or abroad.

The educational path ends with a Master's thesis (final examination).

### 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=463](https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.offerta_formativa_2019.vis?p_a_acc=2026&p_sdu=82&p_cds=463)

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\\_aig\\_2023.visualizza?sducds=82463&tab=0&p\\_a\\_acc=2026](https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.vis_aig_2023.visualizza?sducds=82463&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 be 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.