



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

SCUOLA DI ARCHITETTURA URBANISTICA  
INGEGNERIA DELLE COSTRUZIONI

**POLITECNICO DI MILANO**  
**SCHOOL OF**  
**ARCHITECTURE, URBAN PLANNING AND**  
**CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING**

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**SUPPLEMENTARY FINAL EXAM REGULATIONS**  
**FOR THE LAUREA MAGISTRALE (EQUIVALENT TO MASTER OF**  
**SCIENCE) PROGRAMME**  
**ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN**

**INTRODUCTION**

The current regulations are intended to specify the procedures related to the final exam of the Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) programme in Architecture and Urban Design, as foreseen by the “Supplementary regulations of final exams for Laurea (equivalent to Bachelor of Science) and Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) of the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering, to which the programme belongs.

**CONCLUSION OF THE DIDACTIC CAREER**

The Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) Programme in Architecture and Urban Design concludes with a final exam. This consists of presenting and discussing a final thesis, i.e. an original architecture project developed under the guidance of a thesis supervisor (relatore).

The thesis is a dissertation about an architecture project that can be developed at different scales, with particular attention to the theoretical-practical aspects that contribute to the definition of the project, with reference to architecture urban planning and historical restoration tools/skills. The thesis must also highlight the analytical, critical and design skills acquired by the candidate. The project must be presented through adequate graphic images and a written dissertation.



The thesis may as well consist of a theoretical-critical essay on topics coherent with the didactic contents of the Study Programme..

The design perspective and its central importance to the student's course of study must be the key elements in thesis elaboration.

### **Candidates**

The thesis can be written individually or in groups which should not exceed a maximum of three students. Each student's individual contribution must be recognisable within the thesis.

### **Co-authors of thesis elaborated by a group**

The group members may not all present the thesis project in the same graduation session. If a thesis project has already been presented by one of the group members, the group members presenting the thesis in a subsequent sessions must clearly state whether the thesis is identical or it has been changed. If this last case, the thesis title must be different from the initial one; in any case, each student's individual contribution must be recognisable within the thesis

### **Supervisors and co-supervisors**

Supervisors must have the characteristics foreseen by the "Supplementary regulations of final exams for Laurea (equivalent to Bachelor of Science) and Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) of the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering (art. II.1.4).

Should the project require to deepen specific topics, one or more co-supervisors may be foreseen. No counter-supervisor is foreseen.

### **Joint laurea university agreements**

In the event of agreements between Politecnico di Milano and other Italian or non-Italian universities relating to joint degrees, candidates must respect the details of the agreement in terms of supervisor choice procedures and thesis writing, presentation and discussion.

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE DRAWING UP OF A *Laurea Magistrale* THESIS**

### **Thesis writing**

Thesis dissertations must be written and discussed in Italian.

For the English track of the Study Programme, theses can be written and discussed in English. Theses written in Italian must have an English language abstract and those written in English must have an Italian language abstract.



On well-motivated student request theses can be written in other languages on authorisation by the President of the thesis Board that will examine the candidate. In such cases, however, the thesis must be presented and discussed either in Italian or in English. The abstract in Italian language must also be present.

### **Thesis contents**

Design theses must be made up of a range of elements which can be summarised as follows:

#### *Descriptive report*

- The descriptive report must place the project within a wider ranging architectural argument referring to studies and research. A bibliography must be compiled according to recognized academic conventions. The contents of the report must relate to: the themes and goals of the project, the relationship with the context, reasons behind design choices.

#### *Graphic elaboration*

- Tables illustrating the project must be coherent in number and format with the themes dealt with and the composition of the group. Students are free to choose format and technique, paying the maximum attention to design quality and graphic elaboration.

#### *Scale models*

- One or more models made with freely chosen techniques in appropriate scale can also supplement the thesis project.

*The indications shown above are guidelines only. All materials making up the thesis must be agreed with thesis supervisor.*

### **Digital Archive**

In order to create a digital archive of the thesis projects of the Study Programme, starting from the degree session of July 2019, the candidates is invited to hand in a copy of one or more graphic elaborations (in PDF/TIFF format or on CD/DVD), freely chosen from the ones presented upon the thesis dissertation; materials may be published on the School's website and that of the Study Programme, and may be used to award prizes and nominations for the best thesis projects.



## **FINAL EXAM REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE THESIS**

### **Final Exam**

To access Laurea Magistrale Study Programme final exam students must have obtained all the university credits required by the Programme of Study educational regulations. Students must register for final exam sessions online within the deadlines specified for each session. The Registrar's Office will then verify the completion of all formal requirements that make the student eligible for the laurea session. If students decide not to attend the session they must withdraw from it online. Withdrawal from exam sessions can only be reversed at the next session.

The Laurea Magistrale session calendar is published on the university site: [www.polimi.it](http://www.polimi.it)

### **Thesis dissertation submission**

The online thesis submission/approval process involves:

- registering on a laurea session via Online Services > Registration/withdrawal from laurea exam session;
- online submission of definitive thesis versions in PDF format on the POLItest platform within deadlines made public by TEDOC;
- online thesis approval by supervisors via Online Services > Thesis Management within the deadlines fixed.

In the period between thesis submission and approval supervisors can:

- *approve* theses definitively;
- temporarily *delay* thesis approval, in which case, students will have to re-submit until definitive approval of the thesis by the supervisor takes place, within the fixed deadlines;
- definitively *fail* a thesis, in which case, students will not be able to take their laurea exams at the graduation session under way.

*Students must in any case follow the procedures set out in the specific section:*

[http://www.tedoc.polimi.it/Tesi-di-Laurea/Consegna-tesi-di-laurea-\(vecchio-ordinamento-e-specialistica\)](http://www.tedoc.polimi.it/Tesi-di-Laurea/Consegna-tesi-di-laurea-(vecchio-ordinamento-e-specialistica))

A printed copy of all dissertations and scale models must be personally presented by candidates during Laurea Magistrale final dissertation, on graduation day.



## **THESIS DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION**

### **Thesis discussion**

The final exam consists in the thesis dissertation and generally takes in presence of the Graduation Board of which the thesis supervisor is a member. The Board assesses the candidate's capacity to analyse and work in a self-aware and independent way on theoretical and practical architectural aspects, the quality of the student's subject knowledge and ability to summarise and present.

### **Graduation (Laurea) boards**

For composition of the Graduation Board candidates can refer to "Supplementary regulations of final exams for Laurea (equivalent to Bachelor of Science) and Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) of the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering, in particular to chapter I.1.

### **Teaching staff responsibilities**

For teaching staff responsibilities refer to "Supplementary regulations of final exams for Laurea (equivalent to Bachelor of Science) and Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) of the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering, Art I.2.2.  
- University Teaching Staff Duties.

### **Thesis assessment**

From -1 to +8 points are awarded for the final exam which, added to the weighted average of the marks obtained in the two year study period, determines students' graduation mark. Weighted averages are calculated on the basis of all a student's marks in the individual exams excluding magna cum laude. These latter will be assessed by the Laurea Board in support of potential magna cum laude proposals; magna cum laude is awarded to a student's whole course of study and not to the thesis alone. Magna cum laude proposals must in any case be agreed unanimously by all the Board's members.

Magna cum laude allocation can only take place if a student's marks calculated according to Art. II.3.2 of the AIUC School's Supplementary Regulations are higher or equal to 111/110 before rounding up or down.

## **AWARDS**

For awards refer to the AIUC School's site and that of the relevant Programme of Study.



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## **PREVIOUS REGULATIONS**

Students enrolled in programmes established prior to Ministerial Decree 270/04 must also respect the norms published hereabove and in the “Supplementary regulations of final exams for Laurea (equivalent to Bachelor of Science) and Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science).