



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
IN ARCHITECTURE - CONSTRUCTION ARCHITECTURE

CONCLUSION OF THE COURSE OF STUDY

This Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) Study Programme concludes with a final exam involving presentation and discussion of the laurea thesis. The thesis consists of an architecture project developed in-depth from the starting point of work carried out in one of the LM laboratories attended and completed by the student. This work must be approved by a member of the Programme of Study teaching staff.

The thesis must develop an important architectural theme paying special attention to theoretical and practical aspects contributing to project definition and the structuring of work in accordance with the specific skills acquired in the various laboratories. Theses must also highlight the analytical, critical and design skills acquired by the candidate. The design perspective and its central importance to the student's course of study must be the key elements in thesis elaboration.

Candidates

Theses can be written individually or in groups of a maximum of three students. Each student's individual contribution must be recognisable within the thesis.

Supervisors and co-supervisors

Supervisors are teaching staff attached to the laboratories in which thesis projects were developed. Other School teaching staff involved in the laboratory's teaching activities or those chosen by students on reasonable grounds can act as co-supervisors. Teaching staff from other Politecnico schools, other Italian or non-Italian universities and experts in specific fields held to be important to the thesis by students and supervisors can also act as co-supervisors. Supervisors are asked to guide students' work leaving space for independent work by the latter. Supervisors are also responsible for guaranteeing the quality of the resulting thesis. A co-examiner is not required.



Joint laurea university agreements

In the event of agreements between the Politecnico di Milano and other Italian or non-Italian universities relating to joint laurea, 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 AN LM THESIS

Thesis writing

Thesis dissertations must be written and discussed in Italian.

For the PSPA in English 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 CU Dean. In such cases, however, theses must in any case be presented and discussed in Italian or English and the written text must comprise an Italian or English language abstract.

Thesis contents

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

- Descriptive report
- Graphic elaboration
- Models

Descriptive report

- The descriptive report must involve a title setting out the theme chosen by the candidate locating the work within a wider ranging architectural argument referring to studies and research. A bibliography must be compiled according to recognised academic conventions. The contents of the report must relate to: the design theme, the relationship with the context, reasons behind design choices (type, composition, structure, technical aspects) and the principal quantitative project data.

Graphic elaboration

- Plates 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 plate format and technique paying the maximum attention to design quality and graphic elaboration. Plates must deal with and represent the following elements in scale: relationship with context, architectural development, detail scale and any three dimensional representations.

Scale models

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

The indications shown above are guidelines only. All materials making up laurea theses must be agreed with thesis supervisors.



FINAL EXAM REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF LM THESES

Final Exam

To access Laurea Magistrale Study Programme final exams 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 assess each student's eligibility 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

Thesis dissertation submission

The online thesis submission/approval process involves:

- registering on a laurea session via Online Services > Registration/withdrawal from laurea exam session;
- The online deposit of the final version of the thesis in PDF format via the platform BiblioPolimi at the link: <http://www.biblio.polimi.it/>, in: Resources> Thesis> Deposit
- online thesis approval by supervisors via Online Services > Thesis Management within the deadlines fixed.

In the period between thesis submission and approval deadlines supervisors can:

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

A printed copy of all dissertations and scale models must be personally presented by candidates during Laurea Magistrale final exam discussion.

THESIS DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

Thesis discussion

The final exam consists in thesis discussion and generally takes place at the Laurea Magistrale Board of which the supervisor is a member. In the course of this discussion, 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.



Laurea boards

For Laurea Board make-up refer to the AIUC School's Supplementary Regulations for the Final Laurea and Laurea Magistrale Exams especially Chapter I.1 Laurea Boards and Chapter I.2 Operational Boards.

Teaching staff responsibilities

For teaching staff responsibilities refer to the AIUC School's Supplementary Regulations for the Final Laurea and Laurea Magistrale Exams especially 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' Laurea Magistrale marks. 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 as magna cum laude is awarded to a student's whole course of study and not to theses alone. Magna cum laude proposals must in any case be agreed unanimously by all the Board's members. Magna cum laude can only be awarded where laurea marks are greater than or equal to 114 (one hundred and fourteen) points out of 110 (with at least 7 points in the Board's assessment) before rounding up or down.

AWARDS

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

PREVIOUS REGULATIONS

Students on regulations issued prior to 270 Regulations must respect the norms published here.

SPECIFIC OLD SYSTEM NORMS

Students studying for the Single Cycle Five Year Old System Programme can present a compilation style thesis as an alternative to the design thesis.

The points awarded to such theses will be -1 to 10.