

Annex 1 (integral part of the call for admission to the PhD programme Architecture and Arts - Iuav School of doctorate studies a.y.2026/2027)

PhD programme Architecture and Arts - Ordinary scholarships; scholarships funded by foreign states

Duration	3 years
Coordinator	Maria Chiara Tosi
Research fields and objectives	The PhD program Architecture and Arts aims to provide the theoretical and practical education necessary to operate in the fields of Architecture, Town and Country Planning, Spatial Planning/Policies, Design and the Arts, linking contiguous approaches such as those concerning design and analysis tools at different scales, history, spatial policies, building and environmental restoration, technologies, artistic expression and representation, in order to address in the most incisive way the set of issues related to the transformation of anthropic space in its different forms. In particular, the training objectives concern scientific research in the following fields: Visual arts, performative and fashion, Architectural composition, Technological and environmental design, Urban and territorial planning and policies, Design sciences, Structural challenges, History of architecture, Urbanism. The predominantly single macro-area nature of the disciplinary sectors involved and the proven experience of more than forty years of research activities make the Iuav PhD course an attractive and stimulating place where the thematic insights developed in the different research areas, together with the exchange and collaboration between fields of knowledge, favor the acquisition of autonomy and responsibility, as well as strengthening the system of transnational and international relations with research institutions, public administration and the production system. The presence of a specific and consolidated training and the possibility of interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary exchanges and approaches on common grounds, which also involve research carried out in other Iuav areas, makes the education provided particularly suitable for dealing with frontier themes and issues that will increasingly concern the layout and shape of living spaces and will require theoretical and practical in-depth studies. The general objectives of the course are: 1. Provide specific knowledge in each disciplinary field and promote the deepening of research through a comparison with the state of the art of that field of knowledge. 2. Encourage comparison between the different disciplinary areas and fields of knowledge by promoting opportunities for dialogue and joint training. 3. Facilitate relations with the territory, the business world and civil institutions by promoting the launch of joint applied research projects with third parties. In the perspective of maximum interdisciplinarity, multi-disciplinarity and trans-disciplinarity, some posts are dedicated to themes, problems or needs for research and development that are transversal to the IUAV research strands or emerged from relations with the territory or reported by third parties. In these areas, the development of doctoral research is favoured in an innovative way with a "problem-oriented" approach. Specific research is identified by the board of the Doctoral School, with particular regard to the subject areas to which any external funding is tied. The reserved posts for scholarship holders funded by foreign countries or international mobility programs, require: - doctoral candidates to <u>be fully funded by public or private entities</u> in their country of origin or other foreign countries; - <u>selected doctoral candidates</u> will be offered an initial common basic training, preparatory to the development of specific doctoral research; - then, based on the background of the doctoral candidates, their research interests and funding entities, a research project will be formulated to be developed under the supervision of one or more professors or researchers identified within the faculty and agreed with the coordinators of the field of reference research; On-site training may be concentrated in a specific period of the year, to be agreed with the scientific committee; for the remaining periods, appropriate distance training and supervision will be identified, subject to the following: - the on-site (in-service) training must not be less than four weeks; - during the distance learning period, the comparison with the supervisor of the thesis and with the scientific area/responsible committee must be at least monthly; - a quarterly research progress report accompanied by an activity report shall be submitted to the Area of Reference Committee; - the deadlines set for the different intermediate and final deliveries must be respected.

In particular, the training objectives concern scientific research in the following areas:

[Architectural Composition](#)

[Design Sciences](#)

[History of Architecture](#)

[Structural challenges](#)

[Technological, environmental and building physics design](#)

[Urban and regional planning and policies](#)

[Urbanism](#)

[Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Fashion Studies](#)

Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Fashion Studies

The PhD area in Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Fashion Studies aims to build the basis for a shared reflection between theoretical, creative and applied research. The training program aims to provide a knowledge of transdisciplinary methodologies and paradigms that interrogate the respective research objects in an enlarged cultural field. The objective of the doctorate concerns the training of researchers or professionals who will be able to work, besides the academic field, in the area of cultural production, curatorship, artistic practices, production, communication and market systems related to the arts. The horizons covered by this work include scientific research in the field of visual arts, visual and media cultures, and aesthetics and politics of performance. The research is conducted from perspectives that do not limit the image to its historical, iconographic, or philological framework. Additionally, the study focuses on fashion as an industry and cultural medium with an intrinsically multidisciplinary nature, exploring its relations with modernity, contemporaneity, and the construction of the imaginary. Within the framework of a doctoral school that focuses on the cultural and cognitive production potential of the project, the theoretical horizon is to be understood as an exploration of devices, articulations, knowledge immanent to the objects of the cultures and artistic creations of reference.

With regard to the specific teaching and research activities that accompany the transversal training provided by Bembo Writing Workshop, the course of studies of doctoral students in the field of Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Fashion is indicatively structured with a full-time commitment in the first year, while in the following two doctoral students are committed to following the activities proposed by the scientific committee of the field and to carrying out their research, with annual checks and reviews.

Conferences and conventions on relevant topics are held annually.

In the past, there have been conferences focused on the theme of the 'Exposed Body', which resulted in the publication of the book 'The Exposed Body', edited by Angela Vettese and Camilla Salvaneschi, Gli Ori, Pistoia 2023. The theme chosen for the 2023 academic year is "Disappearances". The general themes are chosen by the Scientific Committee so as to find topics that are of interest to the three fields of study (Visual Art, Performing Arts and Fashion studies) that are close to each other but have different training needs. The annual (or biennial) theme is developed with the participation of scholars, theorists and artists, often from abroad and in contact with non-Italian educational, museum or production institutions. They may sometimes give lectures ex cathedra and engage in dialogues with multiple parties. Students are always invited to intervene so that the initiatives take on a seminar-like trend.

Architectural Composition

The specificity of the themes and study paths in Architectural Composition is aimed at investigating the links between thinking and making the project, analyzed within the structural relations between landscape, the city, and the architectural work. The PhD programme looks with particular interest at the "city of the present," viewed — in light of the Venice School's distinctive tradition of urban studies — as a privileged site for the critical observation of the processes through which built space is transformed.

For the field of composition, it is central to assume specific architectural works and projects as privileged objects of research, particularly those in which a theoretical dimension of an authorial nature is evident. Through this authorial dimension, architecture brings the theme of responsibility in the compositional act back to the center of its reflection.

In this framework, architectural composition is understood as a discipline aimed at the study and research of the principles and rules underlying design invention. From this perspective, the project is regarded as a specific form of knowledge production: not the application of external or predetermined knowledge, but the domain in which theoretical, historical, and constructive questions are interrogated and reformulated through the analysis of the design process.

To make meaningful progress in the investigation of these compositional principles and rules, it is necessary to conduct a critical analysis of the primary sources and documents of the design process being researched. The enhancement and interpretation of this heritage also rely on the conscious use of tools for critical reflection and representational practices, understood as an integral part of the cognitive process. In compositional analysis, great importance is attached to the concepts of character and appropriateness, along with the speculative notions of figure, icon, myth, and symbol. These notions make it possible to integrate the historical, typological, morphological, and technical dimensions of architecture and to develop an interpretation of its poetic and emotional qualities, considering the narrative, spatial, figurative, iconic, and symbolic dimensions of architectural invention.

Regarding the practical tools of representation, compositional research presupposes the use of critical redrawing as an instrument of inquiry, essential for reconstructing and visualizing compositional concepts and techniques. Alongside redrawing, the construction of three-dimensional models and the identification of specific representational techniques — capable of making the character of the research object explicit — also play a significant analytical role. These practices are consistently accompanied by observations and critical reflections aimed at situating the analysis within its cultural context.

Research into the compositional principles and techniques of architectural work also implies the ability to bring to light forms and gestures laden with memory and meaning. For this reason, the transmissibility of concepts, principles, forms, values, and techniques plays a central role in disciplinary research.

In its essential aspects, compositional research requires the integration of logical and analytical thought with an understanding of the structures of the imagination. The privileged point of reference for research in this field remains the European traditional sphere of extraordinary historical and theoretical density—placed in comparative dialogue with the experiences of the Mediterranean and Latin America.

The PhD programme, which lasts three years, is structured to accompany doctoral students progressively in the definition, development, and refinement of their research. Throughout each year of the programme, doctoral students present three progress reviews and take part in regular meetings with supervisors and tutors. During the first and second years, research activities may also be carried out at universities or research centers, in Italy or abroad, provided that they are consistent with the doctoral research project.

- ✓ The first year is devoted to defining the research topic, establishing the theoretical framework, and initiating analytical work. Admission to the following year is based on the submission and defense of the results achieved.
- ✓ The second year is devoted to the further development of the research, with particular attention to its analytical and critical framework and to experimentation with the compositional tools identified. Admission to the third year is subject to evaluating the results achieved and the activities carried out.
- ✓ The third year is devoted to the completion and finalization of the doctoral thesis. The Scientific Committee of the field assesses the regularity and quality of the activities carried out over the three-year period, including participation in seminars, conferences, research activities, and disciplinary exchange, and proposes the candidate's admission to the external evaluation of the thesis prior to the final examination.

Each year, the programme also includes theoretical seminars and conferences on topics relevant to the field, as well as seminar activities devoted to design discussion and critique. These form an integral part of doctoral training and provide opportunities to explore the relationship between theoretical research and design practice in urban and architectural contexts of particular relevance to the modern and contemporary condition.

Overall, The PhD programme aims to provide doctoral students with the necessary skill and knowledge to conduct independent and original research in the field of urban and architectural studies, contributing to the advancement of knowledge in this area.

Urban and regional planning and policies

Scientific research in this field promotes a sound grasp of theoretical and methodological frameworks, developing the 'policy approach' as a framing tool applied to the various instruments of urban and territorial action (plans, programmes, projects, and more or less integrated initiatives). This approach, characterised by a focus on the processes (political, administrative, technical, social) involved in defining the problems that policies aim to address, in (re)defining the 'public interest' nature of the issues addressed, in the interaction between the various actors who mobilise and/or are involved in the development and

implementation of policies, and in the intended and unintended outcomes of the various policies implemented, is deepened in particular in relation to:

- the theory and practice of designing, implementing and evaluating public policies and plans, at various scales and in relation to different thematic areas (ranging from urban policies to territorial heritage and the landscape, and from local development to the management of processes of change at a global scale);
- citizen participation in policy-making and conflict resolution;
- land-use practices, the production of common goods and their regulation.

The cross-disciplinary nature required by these areas of action, as opposed to traditional disciplinary fields, is underpinned by a focus on interdisciplinary research practices. As regards the specific teaching and research activities that complement the interdisciplinary training provided by the Bembo Writing Workshop, the study programme for PhD students in the Urban and Territorial Planning and Policy programme is broadly structured as follows:

- ✓ **First year:** a programme of lectures and seminars, from January to July, including a module on theories, one on methodologies, and a third on the presentation and discussion of recent research practice. Special sessions will discuss the bibliographical essay required for the end of the first year evaluation, and the issue of formulating a proper "research question" for the thesis.

For admission to the following year: at the end of the year, PhD students must submit a bibliographic essay (state of the art) on a topic agreed with the relevant scientific committee, demonstrating their ability to contribute to the development of the field of urban and regional planning and policy.

- ✓ **Second year:** Second year: PhD students are generally engaged in planning and advancing their thesis research, which in many cases includes a period of study abroad; progress reports are to be discussed with the Academic Committee, focusing on topics, methods and specific issues, and, where appropriate, seminars may be organised to address specific matters relevant to the research programme.

For admission to the following year, a thesis progress report is required in which the research question is clearly articulated, along with the methodology or methodologies adopted to address it, the research work already carried out, and the work plan for completing the thesis..

- ✓ **Third year:** PhD students focus on completing their research and writing their thesis. At least one meeting will discuss the intermediate progress of the thesis, which by the end of the year must be submitted as a complete draft to the Academic Committee.

Technological, environmental and building physics design

The PhD research in the field of "Technological, Environmental and Building Physics Design" addresses multiple aspects of Architectural Technology and Environmental Applied Physics related to architectural design at different scales, as well as the transformation, recovery, and management of the natural and built environment. The possible training paths cover, for example, the following areas:

- Materials and construction systems;
- The relationship between urban/architecture design, technical construction aspects, and environmental peculiarities, especially in fragile contexts;
- Building envelope inspection techniques;
- Techniques and technologies for environmental analysis and control, aimed at human well-being or at the preservation of cultural heritage;
- Air conditioning and ventilation of buildings;
- Lighting and acoustics in buildings and urban districts;
- Energy efficiency of buildings and urban districts;
- Efficient energy production and renewable energy sources;
- Sustainability, meant as the preservation of ecological, social, and cultural aspects.

The research activity is linked to the European Green Deal and to its related New European Bauhaus, as well as to topics such as circular economy in architecture, inclusivity at the architectural and urban scale, citizen science, and challenges for renewable energies. Consequently, the research activities align with the National Research Program in the fields of: "Digital, industry, aerospace"; "Climate, energy, sustainable mobility"; "Food products, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, environment".

Additionally, they relate to the National Smart Specialization Strategy in the thematic areas of: "Intelligent and sustainable industry, energy, and environment"; "Digital Agenda, Smart Communities, Intelligent

Mobility Systems". "Tourism, Cultural Heritage, and Creative Industry". By addressing these topics, PhD students acquire skills in:

- Energy simulation tools
- 3D modeling for construction and maintenance process management
- Indoor and outdoor environmental measurements
- Development of machine learning algorithms
- Application of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methods
- Sustainability evaluation tools in architecture
- Sustainable design techniques

Knowledge and skills are achieved through research activities which make PhD students to develop critical analysis capabilities, by identifying interdisciplinary connections in the transformation and maintenance processes of the natural and built environment. These skills contribute to shaping a high-level professional profile, suitable for both academic contexts and public and private sectors, including professional firms, public administration, industry, and advanced services, where innovation and research play a strategic role.

As regards the specific teaching and research activities that accompany the transversal training provided as part of the Bembo Writing Workshop, the programme of the PhD students in the area is indicatively structured as follows.

✓ First year: two cycles of seminars are proposed:

- a course on Life Cycle Assessment applied to architecture and, specifically, to technological design and environmental control. Therefore, the topics cover: (i) the relationship between design, resources and impacts from the urban scale to buildings and materials; (ii) LCA: main concepts, parameters and impact categories; (iii) regulatory implications (EU): the new CPR 2024/3110 and ESPR 2024/1781; (iv) Green Public Procurement and Minimum Environmental Criteria (MEC); (v) MEC requirements in the building and design sectors; (vi) MEC and LCA in environmental sustainability protocols;
- a course titled "Python coding and environmental modelling for scientific research", structured as follows: 2 lessons on Python programming; 3 lessons on Geographic Information Systems (GIS); 3 lessons on energy and environmental simulation of urban districts; 2 lessons on acoustic modeling of outdoor environments; activities of application of the acquired knowledge.

Moreover, a day of discussion with the scientific committee will take place, when the PhD students will present the general idea of the project and some hypotheses for setting up the research work. On the same day, a typical structure of doctoral theses is illustrated;

✓ Second year and Third year: each PhD student will be invited to attend specific seminars and conferences related to her/his research field. In addition, the production of scientific publications and participation in national and international conferences on topics related to the topic of individual research is desired.

Yearly progress reviews take place in a seminar session involving all PhD students. Each student presents their own research topic, work carried out, advancements, results, and future plans. A written progress report is submitted before the seminar. The scientific committee evaluates the report and the oral presentation for annual progression.

Design Sciences

Research in Design Sciences takes an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach, aiming to generate knowledge relating to social, cultural, technological and environmental transformations for the benefit of society. The study focuses on theoretical, historical, and methodological issues in design across its various disciplinary and practical dimensions. Research activities address issues relating to material and immaterial culture, and involve the integration of design with other fields of knowledge, such as engineering, biotechnology, philosophy, arts and the natural, social, ecological and economic sciences. The use of data systems and advanced analysis, management and representation practices plays a significant role, with the aim of constructing interactive devices and tools for producing and sharing knowledge. Research topics are either of a historical-critical nature or developed through design-based and experimental approaches, which are considered an integral part of the knowledge production process.

The themes characterising the field of Design Sciences (for the 42nd cycle) are:

- **Communicative artefacts as tools for emancipation and change**
- **Hyperlocal supply chains, biomaterials, waste and new materials for circular systems**

- **The ecological transition in the exhibition and interior design sectors**
- **Industrial processes and products in the digital age**
- **Historical studies and critical perspectives on design: archives, historiography and theory**
- **Enhancement of cultural heritage**

For further details on research topics see link <https://www.iuav.it/en/node/235>

Educational Objectives: The primary objective of the Design Sciences programme is to equip PhD students with the skills to conduct independent research and master a comprehensive body of knowledge, as well as the critical tools required to interpret the complex contexts in which design practices are situated.

The programme aims to develop researchers who can contextualise their research in relation to issues of collective interest and the public good; work in collaborative and interdisciplinary contexts; and interact with public and private institutions, the design sector and the business world.

Particular attention is paid to the relationship between research and context, highlighting the cultural and territorial roots within which the PhD programme is situated — specifically in relation to Italy and Venice — and placing these in dialogue with the most advanced and innovative design trajectories in relation to the environment, society, and culture.

Programme Structure: Alongside the cross-disciplinary training, which includes the Writing Workshop, the Design Sciences training programme is broadly structured as follows:

- ✓ The first year is dedicated to defining and refining the research question, the theoretical framework, and the methodological approach. Admission to the second year requires the submission of a report on activities carried out, a proposed research structure and a progress report. Doctoral students present their work publicly and the programme committee discusses the assessment collectively.
- ✓ The second year is devoted to thematic and methodological exploration, as well as the systematic development of the research. To be admitted to the third year, students must submit a report on their activities and the topics they have addressed, as well as a thesis progress report and its analytical structure, including the state of the art and the methodologies adopted. Doctoral students publicly present the progress of their research, and the programme committee collectively evaluates the outcomes.
- ✓ The third year is dedicated to consolidating theoretical and methodological insights and finalising the doctoral thesis.

Joint activities and seminars: Research and discussion activities take place through regular meetings, particularly thematic roundtables organised two or three times a year. These generally follow biannual sessions presenting research progress. These involve small groups of PhD students and lecturers, and focus on discussing ongoing research based on a previously defined, cross-cutting key theme. Meetings with external guests are also scheduled each year, comprising seminars and participatory activities. These include seminars on research methodology focusing on the fundamentals of scientific research and the specific nature of design research, as well as meetings and seminars relating to research topics proposed by PhD students.

Structural challenges

Scientific research in this area aims to provide PhD students with specific skills in the field of structural design of new and existing buildings, with particular reference to those of historical interest, innovation issues, with specific reference to crisis areas and climate change. The main aspects that we intend to delve into include: material modelling, portions of structure, macro elements and structure as a whole, experimentation, seismic improvement, the use of latest generation structural materials but also the use of traditional techniques. In addition, it covers safety assessment, risk assessment and risk reduction for both existing and new buildings in relation to natural hazards, taking an integrated approach to the challenges of hazard definition, assessment of the behaviour of existing buildings and minimisation of intervention, and the selection of structural systems for new buildings with the aim of preventing the effects of such hazards. The survey methodologies mentioned earlier are extended to address safety and risk reduction related to natural events, including building envelopes, durability and resilience.

With regard to the specific teaching and research activities that complement the transversal training provided by the Bembo Writing Workshop, the course of study for doctoral students in the "Structural challenges" field is roughly structured as follows:

- ✓ in the first year, students attend university-level courses on structural, diagnostic, seismic, and dynamic modelling. For admission to the second year, students are required to undertake theoretical and/or practical research, attend conferences and may have the opportunity to undertake research abroad;
- ✓ in the second year, students acquire and consolidate the necessary knowledge and information to begin drafting their doctoral thesis. In particular, the knowledge gained from attending university courses, workshops, and research recommended by the tutor is put to good use. For admission to the third year, students must finalize their research activities, conclude any research periods abroad, and prepare their thesis;
- ✓ in the third year, the thesis should focus on defining and highlighting its characteristics, particularly the innovative aspects. This can be achieved by leveraging the benefits of studying abroad and comparing physical experimentation with numerical experimentation.

It is also recommended that doctoral students attend the Labsco structure, as it is closely related to structural issues concerning materials, structural elements, and structures.

Additionally, it is beneficial for doctoral students to engage in publication activities, including participation in national and international conferences, with guidance from individual tutors.

Doctoral students are expected to be proficient in managing the most commonly used structural calculation programs and platforms to enhance their confidence and learning in this area.

With reference to further activities, each year the following are also proposed:

- conferences and seminars held by Italian and foreign professors of Science and Technology of Construction. These activities are a moment of in-depth study for doctoral students on structural issues that are the subject of research at national and international level;
- the seminar series titled "Programming in Python for Scientific Research" is delivered in the field of "Technological and Environmental Design", and attendance is highly recommended.

History of architecture

Scientific research in this field aims to train highly specialised historians of architecture and the city, capable of tackling with awareness and rigour any problem inherent to the discipline in its broadest sense. The activity program aims, in particular, to familiarise the approaches and methods of the discipline in its long historical path, as well as to promote a flexible attitude in the study and an up-to-date exchange with the international scientific community. Attention is paid to the technical aspects of research, such as the knowledge and use of archives and libraries, the reading of handwritten and printed sources and architectural drawings, the direct analysis of artefacts; the acquisition of the most modern techniques of philological research; the diversity of approaches, including those of parallel disciplines, such as the history of art, the history of technology, the history of ideas; knowledge of and visits to the main Italian and foreign centres for the study of the history of architecture; direct experience of research through the preparation of a thesis; and, finally, methods for presenting the results in oral, written and visual form.

With regard to the specific teaching and research activities that accompany the transversal training provided by the Bembo Writing Workshop, the course of studies for doctoral students in the field of architectural history is roughly structured as follows.

- ✓ First year: first year doctoral students are invited to take an active part in an industry seminar, a seminar given by an internal or external professor of the Scientific Committee of the History of Architecture Research Field, which takes place from October to April. The topics covered concern a well circumscribed topic and they tend to be included in a chronological span that can vary from the Middle Ages to the contemporary. The seminar consists of three ex cathedra lectures, a conference, the assignment of research topics, meetings between the doctoral students and the seminar leader, and a final presentation by the doctoral students after the drafting of a paper. A second, shorter seminar is organised in the second semester.
For admission to the following year it is necessary to successfully pass the two seminars and participate in the activities proposed by the field during the year.
- ✓ Second year: Second year doctoral students will be primarily engaged in research for their dissertation and will be called to account for this research at least once per semester by presenting specific topics, problems and issues to their peers and the Scientific Committee, which may also include external experts on such occasions.
For admission to the following year it is necessary to successfully pass the thesis progress and participate in the activities proposed by the field during the year.

	✓ <u>Third year</u>: Third year doctoral students present their research progress at least twice a year on dedicated days with the participation of all other doctoral students, the Scientific Committee and possibly external professors. Seminars and conferences on topics of interest in the field are also offered every year, as well as seminar meetings involving doctoral students from the different cycles. Each year, one or more study trips are organised, lasting from two to ten days. PhD students are required to prepare presentations to be held on site. <u>Urbanism</u> Scientific research in this field aims to build a background of inquiry and theoretical reflection relevant to analytical and design practices in urbanism, combining research activity with design activity, the latter understood as an indispensable component of cognitive strategies. The training also aims to foster reflection on the theoretical foundations of techniques for analysing and processing territorial information, as well as on their fields of application. The subject of study and research is and will remain, in general, the 'urban project', a term used to refer to a broader field than the 'urban plan' and one that encompasses both the technical-normative dimension and the exploratory and imaginative dimension of physical-morphological conformations. The urban project is also understood as the set of activities through which a specific scientific-professional group seeks to redefine the environmental conditions, including urban and territorial ones, within which social reproduction processes take place. With regard to the specific teaching and research activities that complement the cross-disciplinary training provided by the Bembo Writing Workshop, the doctoral program in urbanism is indicatively structured as follows. <u>First year</u>: cycle of seminars "Doing Research in Urbanism", a cycle of seminars on themes, approaches, attitudes, tools, styles, research experiences in the disciplinary field of Urbanism. For admission to the following year: at the end of the year, doctoral students must present a bibliographical essay (state of the art) on a subject agreed with the relevant Scientific Committee. ✓ <u>First year</u>: cycle of seminars "Doing Research in Urbanism"; a cycle of seminars on themes, approaches, attitudes, tools, styles, research experiences in the disciplinary field of Urbanism. For admission to the following year: at the end of the year, doctoral students must present a bibliographical essay (state of the art) on a subject agreed with the relevant Scientific Committee. ✓ <u>Second year</u>: a Master Class consisting of a two-day seminar focused on a specific topic with experts invited to present ongoing research. Doctoral students play an active role in defining the theme, selecting the interlocutors and introducing and discussing the interventions of the invited guests. The contributions from the Master Class are then collected and edited by the doctoral students and incorporated into the publication of a Doctoral Notebook in Urbanism, which has reached its 12th edition. For admission to the following year: at the end of the year, a presentation by the doctoral students of a thesis draft, including the theme, the object, the research hypothesis, the analytical structure, the positioning, the study case(s). ✓ <u>Third year</u>: the "Bernardo Secchi Walk," a 3 - 4 days "walkshop" held in a selected city, aimed at discussing a specific theme through the direct exploration of urban spaces (Naples 2022, Lecce 2023, Rome 2024, Bassano 2025). In 2026, the activity will take place in Paris, focusing on the concepts of "urban density" and "right distance". Completion of the program: at the end of the year, doctoral students are required to present an advanced version of their thesis, including a detailed table of contents, introduction, chapters, and conclusions. Transitions between years take place in a laboratory setting. Doctoral students are organized into small groups (2–3 members), spanning different cohorts, and formed on the basis of thematic affinities or methodological approaches. Each group develops and presents a collective position paper on the assigned topic, alongside individual presentations of their research. Faculty members and external experts from outside the field are invited to participate as discussants.	
Available places	Scholarships	no. 18
	Posts without scholarship	no. 2
	Places reserved for scholars from foreign countries or scholars from international mobility programmes	no. 2 reserved for scholarship holders from foreign countries; no. 1 reserved for scholarship holders in specific international mobility programmes

Requirements	- Degree obtained according to the old regulations; specialised/master's degree; second level AFAM degrees; degree obtained at foreign universities deemed suitable by the selection board. Please refer to Article 2 of the call for applications. - Certification of knowledge of a foreign language at a minimum level of B2. Please refer to Article 6 of the call.
Application Deadline	Tuesday 5th May 2026, 1.00 p.m.
Documentation to be uploaded via online procedure	<u>Compulsory documents</u> a) <u>Annex 2</u>: duly completed and signed application form b) double-sided copy of a valid identity paper or identification document; c) certification/attestation of knowledge of a foreign language at a minimum level of B2, a foreign language at a minimum level of B2 <u>or</u> <u>Annex 3</u>: a substitute declaration (<i>it is not compulsory for candidates with foreign scholarship or mobility programmes</i>); d) <u>CV</u> in A4 format including a list of any scientific publications; e) <u>Annex 4</u>: text relating to a hypothetical research topic (not binding in the event of admission to the course); f) self-presentation <u>video</u> in mp4 format lasting no longer than 3 minutes where candidates describe their research interests and the reasons why they apply for the Architecture and Arts programme; g) (<i>only for undergraduates who will obtain their degree at an Italian university by the deadline for enrolment in the course referred to in Article 8 of the call</i>) self-certification of the examinations taken including date and grade obtained; h) (<i>only for candidates with a degree obtained abroad</i>) degree diploma in the original language and its translation into Italian or English by the candidate; i) (<i>only for candidates with a degree obtained abroad or who will obtain it by the deadline for enrolment in the course referred to in Article 8 of the competition call</i>) certificate of examinations taken in the original language and relative translation into Italian or English by the candidate; j) (<i>only for candidates on places reserved for foreign scholarship holders or scholarship holders in specific international mobility programme</i>) <u>Annex 5</u>: a document attesting to the possession of a study grant awarded by specific international mobility programmes, public institutions or private entities in the country of origin or other foreign country. <u>Optional, but highly recommended documents (FOR ALL CANDIDATES)</u> a) dissertation with abstract of max. 1,000 characters (including spaces); b) portfolio (max. 12 pages/folders); c) letter(s) of presentation drafted by university professors, scholars or renowned professionals (max 2); d) if indicated in the curriculum, scientific publications (max. 5); e) any documentation deemed useful for assessing the eligibility of the qualification obtained abroad (e.g. course programmes, diploma supplement, certificates from ENIC-NARIC centres).
Admission	Evaluation of qualifications, interview
Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation of qualifications: max. 40 points Evaluation indicators: - relevance of the candidates' qualifications to the profiles characterising doctoral research as described in this annex: max. 10 points; - relevance of the candidates' previous work and/or research experience to the profiles characterising doctoral research as described in this annex: max. 10 points; - relevance of the proposed research topic to the profiles characterising doctoral research as described in this annex: max. 20 points. Candidates with a score of 22/40 are admitted to the interview. Interview: max. 60 points Evaluation indicators:

	- demonstration of scientific preparation in the disciplines of the course, in particular in the topic indicated by the committee pursuant to Article 5(3) of the call: max. 30 points - promptness and dialectical and critical ability in answering questions: max. 30 points. Applicants with a final overall score of 60/100 are eligible for admission to the course.
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