ABC-PhD is the Doctoral Program of the Department of Architecture, Built Environment and Construction Engineering (ABC), Politecnico di Milano. It has been established in 2012, following a complete reorganization of the area in three complementary departments (ABC, DASTU and DICA), based on the experience of four independent PhD Programs that trained about 400 PhD holders in 30 years.

Today, ABC-PhD is one of the most multidisciplinary PhD program in Italy (it refers to 16 different scientific sectors) and trains about one hundred PhD Candidates, distributed among the eight strategic research fields of the Department:

1. Advanced Construction Materials and Innovative Building Technologies
2. Energy and Environmental Efficient Buildings
3. Risk Prevention and Emergency Management
4. Architectural and Urban Design
5. Complex Buildings
6. Preservation and Enhancement of Built Heritage
7. ICT and Smart Construction
8. Built Environment Economy and Management

ABC-PhD Candidates are trained for research through research itself, with a personally tailored training plan, embodied in ABC Department’s research activities, and an individual supervision. Their work is reviewed two times a year, at more than twelve different “deep review tables” where members of the PhD Board and external experts meet Candidates to tune up their research projects and research products with the most updated advancements and results.
Our mission is to train PhD Holders able to reach outstanding positions at an international level not only as scientists or intellectuals but also as professionals or entrepreneurs.

For this, ABC-PhD Candidates are not only expected to produce knowledge advancements in their field, to be assessed through appropriate confrontation with peers. They are also pushed to network with their stakeholders; they are raised to be resilient, not frightened by the uncertainty and failure risks of innovations; they are trained in communication, management, networking and other transferrable skills, taught to cooperate in a competitive environment and to exploit their creativity.

Our PhD Program is working to become – in few years from its start – the Italian point of reference for training the highest experts in all the most critical subjects related to the sustainable transformation and management of the Built Environment (environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability).

ABC-PhD holders are problem setters, trained to model complex environments, to understand complex questions and to apply critical thinking. They are also problem solvers, trained to turn uncertainty in methodology and doubts in reliable solutions.

For this, ABC-PhD Doctors are expected to be able to shoulder the responsibilities of R&D activities, to plan and to manage control tasks, to help the development and the critical optimization of policies and projects, in particular concerning built environment and built asset. Moreover they are expected, as Candidates, to gain strong relations with stakeholders.

ABC-PhD experience provides our Candidates with competencies at the highest-level and the best occupational opportunities at an international level, either for an employment (in architectural and engineering design enterprises, in public bodies and wherever highly qualified personnel is acknowledged) or for an academic career (in universities as well in research centres).

Requirements to enter the selection are described in a public Call, published each year in the Politecnico di Milano PhD School site; (stay tuned and, please, refer to it). Basic requirements are the same for every position but selection criteria may change, according to the skills needs, in case of thematic scholarships.

ABC-PhD scholarships are generally awarded by Politecnico di Milano. Companies and other external institutions may fund additional ones, in the same or in other specific Selection Calls, (stay tuned with PhD School site!). ABC-PhD has a very good ranking for additional scholarships: in the last two years, we have been able to double the initial number of scholarships, thanks to research grants and industrial co-funding. ABC-PhD is also open to share resources and training activities with other Universities, Research centres and Industrial partners, a chance that makes the global number of available places even higher.

The selection process is highly competitive (about 1/10 of the applicants is awarded with a scholarship) but we are pleased to receive applications from every eligible applicants with a clear propensity for research activity and a true interest in Architecture, Built Environment or Construction Engineering.

For further information, please visit the following web site: https://beep.metid.polimi.it/web/abcphd/ or contact the School of Doctoral Programmes - Politecnico di Milano at phdschool@polimi.it.

About specific aspects of the Program and its activities, please refer to dottorato.abc@polimi.it and ask ABCPhD secretary or the Head of the Board of the PhD Program: PhD-ABC@polimi.it