The Doctorate Course in Preservation of the Architectural Heritage was first held at Milan based Politecnico back in 1983. On the strength of a solid, long-standing research tradition, today overarching attention will be paid to crucial, contemporary themes of cultural heritage and built landscape. The methodologies adopted are meant to foster the development of innovative research processes; they allow to investigate and share extremely relevant, up-to-date topics that describe the architectural heritage being the high spot of research, as a complex domain of preservation, a strategic field and, at the same time, one of the chief resources of European economy and future.

The tutorial activities will be contributed by professors from prestigious schools of architecture and engineering promoting and participating in the debate under way on an international scale, and will deal with a broad range of issues requiring multi-disciplinary knowledge and competence. Foremost experts from CNR (National Research Council) and administration of the cultural heritage in Italy (Mibact) are also involved in teaching and research activities, thereby outlining an unprecedented context in the Italian panorama.

The doctorate course thus becomes the place where theorization, methodology, investigation into the most significant chapters of the protection of historic architecture and cultural heritage are connected to complex, challenging operating research themes, on-site and lab experimentation of analytical and diagnostic stages and, finally, the experimentation at building sites which cater for the foremost Italian restoration works. The PhD Programme in Preservation of the Architectural Heritage is organized in teaching and researching activities, and calls for the acquisition a total of 180 credits. Credits are offered by PhD courses organized by the PhD programme in Preservation of the Architectural Heritage and by the PhD School. In addition to compulsory courses, each PhD candidate will follow a specific study path including other courses. The remaining credits will result from personal study and research for preparation of the PhD thesis.
The academic plan of the PhD programme revolves around 5 main research areas, corresponding to the core courses:
1) Preservation of the Architectural Heritage: Culture and Practice
2) Diagnostics of Materials and Structures and Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings
3) Methods and Themes of Historical Research
4) Construction History
5) Historical Territory and Landscape.

Candidates to the PhD programme will have access to a wide-ranging, diversified academic plan: the programme comprises workshops, visits and intensive courses dealing with innovative themes. Educational activities are often related to research either under way or at an early stage of development, some of which addresses major monumental structures and some of the most renowned sites of the world. To the aim of their thesis research, PhD candidates will have the opportunity to rely on facilities and laboratories, the breadth and width of which provides them with a crucial support to the aim of acquiring “competence for highly qualified research activities” in the domain of architectural and cultural heritage preservation.

The ultimate purpose not only resides in broadening the experiences that the PhD candidates will acquire over the three years of the Programme, where they will have the opportunity to interact with professors, researchers and scholars from different backgrounds. The PhD Programme, in fact, chiefly aims at providing the PhD candidates with a unique training experience which is also unparalleled in domains other than the preservation and restoration of the cultural heritage. The PhD Programme aims at stimulating advances in multidisciplinary research, since the conservation of built environment founds on cross disciplinary approach to knowledge and demands people able to catch questions which can be solved only through contribution of different disciplines. The main goal is to prepare operators and researchers who can make a significant impact on the methods and practice of investigation, conserving, maintaining and managing built heritage, that is historical buildings and sites as contemporary monuments of architecture, and cultural landscapes, in each case in constant contact with developments in studies elsewhere in Europe and in many other Countries.

Graduates of the PhD programme have often found employment in public sector conservation institutions at progressively higher levels, as well as in professional practices and in the business world, in specific specialized fields, or in public and private foreign universities and institutions. In recent years the relationship with Mibac (Italian Ministry for the Cultural Heritage) has been definitely fruitful, when we consider that many among the best PhDs in Preservation of Architectural Heritage have been hired as officers and executives to the above ministry.

Eligible students
Eligible students are those graduated in different scientific fields, such as Architecture, Engineering, Cultural Heritage and Arts and Humanities Faculty

Scholarships
Scholarships can be granted by the M.I.U.R., by foreign Universities, by other private and public Institutions.

Contacts
For further information, please visit the following web site: www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/phd/CBA or contact the School of Doctoral Programmes phdschool@polimi.it.