The PhD Program in Architectural Composition is considered as advanced learning, rooted in the history of the architect's craft, of the profession and of the wealth of architectural techniques. Composition, like in other arts, is interpreted as a complex of conceptual and technical basics that come before the project and to which each project refers. The courses are taught at Campus Bovisa in Milan.

The objective is to train architects with good professional and technical ability, with solid historical/humanistic training and a theoretical base, but also with extensive knowledge of town design and construction techniques, and capable of carrying out architectural design. The PhD course intends not only to supply organized contents and work tools, but also to train to research, criticism and cultural debate.

The faculty is composed of professors in the field of architectural composition, history of architecture, restoration and construction.

The course is based on collaboration between members of the teaching staff and external professors and architects, among those at the forefront of the international debate. This dialectic serves as a reference and as a source for research. The course is divided into integrated phases.

The first phase concerns the general debate about the transformation of the territory and of the city and about the architect's profession. The PhD candidate is required to participate through personal research and contributions. The second phase deals with more specific problems of composition in general and in rapport with architectural design. The third phase consists of increased involvement of the doctoral candidates in more specific research and themes. The themes range from the theoretical debate in Europe and in Italy to the question of the old/new relationship, to the issue of settlement and founded-city structures, to research on the
cultural and figurative identities of landscapes and architecture. Maximum importance is given to the doctoral thesis. The thesis is considered research and must be characterised by cultural and scientific originality. It may or may not have a design aspect.

**Career Opportunities**

The PhD course aims to shape architects with a wide intellectual background and education in the field of architectural design. Expected job openings regard various fields: professional activity based on a cultural point of view; employment with public bodies; research and teaching; architectural criticism and writing.

**Eligible students**

The PhD students are required to fulfill the following requirements: passion for architecture; critical ability and a bent for research; love for drawing and graphic representation; interest in focused thinking, also through writing; ability to relate this thinking to a figurative world based on reality and imagination.

**Scholarships**

Some of the scholarships supplied by the PhD course can be connected to a required topic. The topic is defined in a general way and will be agreed on and defined with the PhD student who obtains the scholarship. Some of the scholarships can be supplied by foreign countries before or after the announcement of the competition.

**Contacts**

For general information, please visit the following web site: www.polimi.it/phd or contact the School of Doctoral Programmes - Politecnico di Milano at dottorato.ricerca@ceda.polimi.it. For further information about the course and curricula, visit the following web site: http://www.dpa.polimi.it/index.php?id=dottorati#ca. For information about administrative issues you may write to: manuela.rinaldi@polimi.it; For further information about the cultural standpoint of the PhD course, write to: daniele.vitale@polimi.it (address of the professor who coordinates the PhD course).