ABC-PhD is the Doctoral Program of the Department of Architecture, Built Environment and Construction Engineering (ABC), Politecnico di Milano.

ABC-PhD is one of the most multidisciplinary PhD programs in Italy (it bridges 16 different scientific sectors) and at the moment trains more than 150 PhD students, distributed among the six strategic research fields of the Department:

1. Innovative projects for architecture, spaces and services
2. Digital, energy and technological transformation for the built environment and the construction industry
3. Advanced materials and components, clean tech and innovative manufacturing and construction technologies
4. Risk reduction strategies for the built environment
5. History, science, technology, management and development of cultural heritage and landscape
6. Cooperation and technology transfer for emerging countries (with a special focus on Africa)

ABC-PhD students are trained to research through research itself, with a personally tailored training plan, embodied in the ABC Department's research activities, and an individual supervision by experts from the Department. Their research work is deeply reviewed twice a year by members of the ABC-PhD Board and external experts, who meet the students to review their projects and research outputs, provide feedback and share insights from the latest international developments in the respective fields.
Mission and vision

Our mission is to enable PhD students to reach outstanding positions at an international level not only as scientists or intellectuals but also as professionals or entrepreneurs.

To this end, ABC-PhD students are not only expected to produce knowledge advancements in their field, but they are also encouraged to network with key stakeholders in the industry and policy making sectors. 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.

In few years from its start our PhD Program is becoming the Italian point of reference to train 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).

Career Opportunities

ABC-PhD Doctors are problem setters, trained to model complex and uncertain environments, to understand multidisciplinary 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 face the responsibilities of R&D activities, to plan and to manage control tasks, to help the development and the multi-dimensional and multi-actor appraisal of policies and projects, in particular concerning built environment and built asset.

ABC-PhD experience provides our students 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 a research career in universities as well as in research centres.

Eligible students

Requirements to apply are described in public Calls, published in the Politecnico di Milano PhD School website (http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/).

Basic requirements are the same for every position, but selection criteria may change, according to the necessary skills regarding to the specific topics. 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.

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, (please check regularly the PhD School website!).

ABC-PhD has maintained a very good performance also in the provision of additional scholarships thanks to research grants and industrial and funding ‘Industrial PhD’ positions. ABC-PhD is also open to share resources and training activities with other Universities, Research centres and Industrial partners, an asset that makes the global number of available places even higher.

We are pleased to receive applications from every eligible applicant with a clear vocation for research activity and a true interest in Architecture, Built Environment or Construction Engineering. The selection process is highly competitive.

We also offer additional PhD positions to students who received external scholarships to support doctoral study (e.g., those issued by the Chinese Scholarship Council). Companies who are interested in granting an employee an “Executive” PhD position, may sign a tailored agreement that can also entail on-purpose training activities.

Contacts

For further information, please visit the following web site: https://bep.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 ABC PhD Office or the Head of the Board of the PhD Program at phd-abc@polimi.it.