



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

ACPCL | Architecture and Creative Practices
for the City and Landscape
MS programme

University of Bologna
Department of Architecture

ACPCL Thesis GUIDELINES

1. Objectives

The main objective of the following guidelines is to help students in graduating on time with a smooth and clear understanding of the required steps.

Although a Master's thesis can be easily associated to a professional project, it must fit some academic requirements which make it a unique product. It possibly answers to real challenges and concrete market opportunities or limitations but must also set some theoretical approaches following a scientific-based methodology which allows to assess and validate the final outcomes. Unlike a professional job, which basically aims to meet the client expectations while managing the rules and constraints of the context, a thesis is asked to produce a useful result to improve the knowledge about the investigated subject.

2. Thesis typologies

The final thesis must be written in English language according to an adequate language proficiency. There are three thesis typologies:

- a) **Scientific research Thesis** on a defined topic, which is expected to lead a significant and original step forward in the knowledge of the discipline.

It consists of 90,000-120,000 characters document, including sketches, diagrams, figures, which discusses the advances in specific topic grounded in ACPCL main challenges.

The theoretical thesis must be followed by a supervisor, at least one co-supervisor up to a maximum of three.

The day of the graduation, the student:

- presents orally his/her work and related results with the support of slides / videos projection
- submit the final work in paper and digital format to the Examining Commission.

- b) **Project research Thesis** on a defined topic applied to a specific challenge or site according to a knowledge framework within a real context.

It consists of 30,000-40,000 characters document, including sketches, diagrams, figures, and at least 20 drawings (16:9 slides format) graphically representing the project.

The day of the graduation, the student:

- presents orally his/her work and related results with the support of slides / videos projection
- presents the final work in paper and digital format to the Examining Commission.

For both the above typologies, the candidate(s) must demonstrate:

- Critical ability,
- Mastery of the topics,
- Advance in the specific field,
- Design attitude and capacity,
- Ability to operate autonomously,



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- Communication skills.

The final work can be developed individually or in teams of preferably two people.

The work is developed in a time frame which depends on the complexity of the topic and the capacity of the student(s).

- c) **Self-reflective portfolio Thesis**, where the candidate critically examines his/her projects track records pointing out the achieved results, experiences, outcomes within an overall reflection of the gained progress.

It consists of at least 10,000 characters document and 15 slides (16:9 format) graphically representing the candidate track record.

The day of the graduation, the student:

- presents orally his/her slideshow
- presents the final work in paper and digital format to the Examining Commission.

The candidate(s) must demonstrate:

- Design attitude and capacity,
- Ability to operate autonomously,
- Communication skills.

A template for the thesis final book is provided.

3. Grading

The Commission evaluates the candidate's work according to the following criteria:

- presentation quality and ability,
- communication, quality of the final drawings, models, book,
- project relevance and consistency.

The final grade assigned for

a) Scientific research Thesis

b) Project research Thesis

ranges between 0 and 10 points which are added to the starting grade generated by the candidate track record within a scale over 110.

The final grade assigned for

c) Self-reflective portfolio Thesis

ranges between 0 and 3 points which are added to the starting grade generated by the candidate track record within a scale over 110.

3. Supervisors

All the teaching staff can be involved as potential supervisors; however, it is highly recommended to contact the preferred professor in advance to possibly agree any possible subject or topic for your



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thesis. A table with offered thesis is realized every year. These are based on selected case studies or challenges connected with design studios.

If the thesis is developed abroad the external reference person should serve as co-supervisor.

Up to three co-supervisors are admitted.

Steps:

- Choose the supervisor
- Agree a thesis typology and its contents
- Eventually agree a thesis internship
- Update the study plan
- Timely register for the graduation session

By the deadline for meeting the requirements, published on the ACPCL website, the graduating student must:

- verify that their supervisor has approved the thesis title;
- conclude the career by taking all the exams included in the study plan and be up to date with the payment of university fees;
- fill out the Almalaurea online questionnaire.

By the deadline for uploading the thesis, published on the Degree Course website, the graduating student must upload the digital volume and attached tables to Studenti Online.

By the deadline published on the Degree Course website, the supervisor must approve the thesis.

4. Degree commission

The degree commission normally accounts at least three members among tenured professors and researchers, of which at least two tenured professors, chosen from the ACPCL teaching staff.