



POLITECNICO
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PhD School - Politecnico di Milano

Regulations of the PhD Programme in
Mechanical Engineering
Cycle XLI

Location: Milano Bovisa

1. General Information

PhD School - Politecnico di Milano

PhD Programme: **Mechanical Engineering**

Course start: September **2025**

Location of the PhD Programme: **Milano Bovisa**

Promoter Department: **Department of Mechanical Engineering**

Scientific Disciplinary Sectors: **ING-IND/12 (Mechanical and Thermal Measurements), ING-IND/13 (Applied Mechanics), ING-IND/14 (Mechanical Design and Machine Construction), ING-IND/15 (Design Methods for Industrial Engineering), ING-IND/16 (Manufacturing Technology and Systems), ING-IND/21 (Metallurgy).**

PhD School Website: **<http://www.polimi.it/phd>**

PhD Programme Website: **<http://www.mecc.polimi.it/dottorato/>**

2. General presentation

The PhD Programme in Mechanical Engineering of Politecnico di Milano offers top-level knowledge in one of the most profitable sectors in Italy and Worldwide; it is a key instrument to access Academia at national and international level and to achieve prominent positions in large international companies devoted to research and development, innovation and design. The primary employment market is composed of leading companies and organizations dedicated to innovation, research and technical development, high-tech SMEs and governmental departments. The research topics of our Programme fall in the category Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing Engineering of the QS World University Rankings, where Politecnico di Milano currently ranks 12th in the world (QS Rankings by Subject 2025). Our Programme masters more than 280 PhD Candidates, 33% of them international. Female presence accounts for 20%. The Programme undergoes annually to institutional evaluation at national level (Accreditamento ANVUR); in 2024 we received full recognition by the Agency.

The PhD Programme is run by a Coordinator and a Faculty Board. The Coordinator chairs the Faculty Board, oversees the preparation of the annual educational programme and organises the general educational activities of the PhD course (see Attachment A1). The Faculty Board is responsible for the educational programme and for teaching and administrative activities related to the PhD course (see Attachment A2).

The Programme covers a number of different disciplines, being devoted, in particular, to innovation and experimental activities. It relies on the development of an interdisciplinary and integrated high-level educational offer, by focusing on a comprehensive scientific proposal, from conception to realization; the core of our research lines falls within the societal trends identified at international and national

levels: sustainable transport, health and wellbeing, clean energy, innovation and job creation. We also have ongoing collaborations with national and international most renowned research groups and laboratories.

The PhD Programme in Mechanical Engineering covers a number of different disciplines, being devoted, in particular, to innovation and experimental activities in six major research lines:

Dynamics and vibration of mechanical systems and vehicles: this research line is organized into five research areas, namely Mechatronics and Robotics, Rotodynamic, Wind Engineering, Road Vehicle Dynamics, Railway Dynamics. It features modelling of linear and non-linear dynamic systems, stability and self-excited vibrations, active control of mechanical systems, condition monitoring and diagnostics.

Measurements and experimental techniques: The Mechanical and Thermal Measurements (MTM) group has its common background in the development and qualification of new measurements techniques, as well as in the customisation and application of well-known measurement principles in innovative fields. MTM major research focus is oriented towards the design, development and metrological characterisation of measurement systems and procedures, the implementation of innovative techniques in sound/vibrations, structural health monitoring, vision, space and rehabilitation measurements.

Machine and vehicle design: this research line is involved in advanced design methods and fitness for purpose of mechanical components. Advanced design methods refer to the definition of multiaxial low and high cycle fatigue life prediction criteria, and the assessment of structural integrity of cracked elements, the prediction of fatigue life criteria of advanced materials as polymer matrix composite materials (short and long fibers), the definition of approaches to predict the influence of shot peening on fatigue strength of mechanical components. Gears, pressure vessels and helicopter components are dealt with. Optimal design and testing of vehicle systems create a synergism between the theoretical and the experimental researches on ground vehicles.

Manufacturing and production systems: this research line gives relevance to the problem of optimal transformation of raw materials into final products, addressing all issues related with the introduction, usage, and evolution of technologies and production systems during the entire product life-cycle. PhD activities, in particular, are developed within the following research fields: Manufacturing Processes (MPR), Manufacturing Systems and Quality (MSQ).

Materials: this research line is focused on the study of production process and characterization of materials, for structural and functional applications. Excellent research products were obtained both on fundamental research topics (e.g. nanostructured materials, foamed alloys, chemical phenomena in liquid melts, microstructural design etc.) and on applied research (e.g. failure and damage analysis, texture analysis, high temperature behaviour, coatings for advanced applications, etc.). The research projects carried out in recent years addressed specifically the following research topics: Steelmaking and Metallurgical Processes, Advanced Materials and Applied Metallurgy.

Methods and tools for product design: two main research topics are addressed in this field: PLM-Product Lifecycle Management, which includes process modelling, engineering knowledge

management, product innovation methods, systematic innovation principles and methods, topology optimization systems, and data/process interoperability, and Virtual Prototyping, which includes virtual prototyping for functional and ergonomics product validation, haptic interfaces and interaction, reverse engineering and physics-based modelling and simulation, emotional engineering.

Within this scenario, our purpose is to train highly skilled profiles, qualified to meet academic and industrial most challenging demands: our graduates are prepared to embrace careers and industrial paths at the forefront of technology, responding efficiently to a call for innovation and top-level research. We aim at preparing scientists who intend to be mainly involved in the field of Industrial Engineering, addressing theoretical and experimental activities in four major research areas:

3. Objectives

The main target of our Doctoral Programme is to provide PhD candidates with specific training in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and to strengthen their research skills in industrial and academic contexts. At the end of the PhD Programme our students will be able to carry out innovative projects on product, process and manufacturing systems, by properly considering functionality, constructive and energetic issues, while selecting materials, manufacturing processes, configuration and management strategies for manufacturing systems and measurement control services and devices.

In addition to field-related competences, we foster the development of soft/transferable skills by integrating in the doctoral path specifically designed courses and activities delivered by our Doctoral School. In fact, one of the distinctive skills developed during the PhD experience is the ability to transfer knowledge effectively, adapting it to different contexts, audiences, and communication occasions. This skill enables PhD graduates to work effectively in teams and disseminate their research results both within their specific community and to broader, more diverse audiences. The PhD program aims to help candidates communicate technical information, both orally and in writing, tailored to academic or non-academic recipients. This goal is supported by courses offered by the PhD School, including Technical Communication classes. Additionally, candidates participate in activities promoting experiential learning ('learning by doing'), the typical learning method of the PhD journey.

4. Professional opportunities and job market

The PhD Programme in Mechanical Engineering offers top-level knowledge in one of the most profitable sectors in Italy and worldwide; it is a key instrument to access leading enterprises and to achieve prominent positions in large international companies devoted to research and development, innovation and design. The primary employment market is composed of leading companies and organizations dedicated to innovation, research and technical development, high-tech SMEs and governmental departments.

The latest survey run by PoliMi Career Service showed that our PhD holders are 97% employed after one year, in national and international companies (50%) and academic and non-academic research institutions (50%) engaged in innovation, research and technical development. On average, the survey showed that people earning our PhD title are paid 35% more than the corresponding employees with a

master title.

5. Enrolment

5.1 Admission requirements

Admission to PhD courses takes place on the basis of public selections; furthermore, Politecnico di Milano, by resolution of the Academic Senate, may stipulate agreements with foreign Universities and/or Institutions with the aim of setting up PhD courses that may also involve issue of joint, double or multiple qualifications.

Italian and International citizens can apply. They are requested to have graduated in accordance with the pre-existing laws D.M. 3.11.1999 n. 509, or to hold a Master of Science degree in accordance with D.M. 3.11.1999 n. 509, or a Master of Science in accordance with D.M. 22.10.2004 n. 270, or similar academic title obtained abroad, equivalent for duration and contents to the Italian title, with an overall duration of university studies of at least five years. The certified knowledge of the English language is a requirement for admission. The admission to the Programme is established according to the evaluation of the candidates' curricula, motivation letters, and an illustrative report about the development of possible PhD research, which candidates will send contextually with their application to the admission announcement.

5.2 Admission deadlines and number of vacancies

The number of vacancies is indicated in the Call for admission to the 40th PhD cycle Programmes, available at <http://www.polimi.it/phd>. Scholarships both on general and on specific themes are available, in accordance with what is specified in the call for admission.

Each year, within our Programme, we award approximately 80 scholarships, funded by the Ministry of Education (MIUR), EU and other Governmental projects, and the Department itself. Industrial/external scholarships and Executive PhD paths (candidates employed by industries) are also available; our main scholarship sponsors are: Pirelli, BLM Group, ESA European Space Agency, Rold Elettronica, Saes Getters, ST Microelectronics, Inaf - Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera, Fondazione Politecnico, Fondazione Cariplo, Comau, MUSP, ITIA-CNR, Clamp,Faro, IIT, Impact Innovations, Celada, Pama, Tenova, Monzese, Lamborghini, Iseo Serrature, Eureinox, Baker Hughes, Enel Foundation, GE Power, ENI, Boldrocchi, MCM, Salvi, Peenservice, Thyssenkrupp Steering AG, Rete Ferroviaria Italiana

Our scholarships holders receive 1.500 euro/month (net amount), extra- funding (750 euro/month) for research periods abroad, and benefit from financial aid for research materials and conferences. All positions are free of tuition fees.

6. Contents

6.1 Research development

The aim of the Doctoral Programmes of Politecnico di Milano is the development of a research-oriented mindset, together with specific expertise and skills related to the selected research topic. During their

doctoral career, candidates must acquire problem-solving capabilities in a complex context, including in-depth analysis of the problem, identification of an original solution and capability of evaluating its applicability in a given context. These skills provide PhD candidates with a solid background, suitable both for the academic field and the private or public sector.

The main objective is the development of an original research contribution: candidates are asked to acknowledge and complete the state of the art in the selected field, thus being able to produce, with the PhD thesis, innovative knowledge in the specific research topic. In addition, the contents should be coherent with the research topics developed within the department in which the PhD Programme is carried out, achieving a grade of complexity to be dealt with team working, within the Department research lines/groups, and in collaboration with international teams.

The research activity is normally carried out in the first 2.5 years and is then followed by the submission of a Doctoral Dissertation. The document shall provide scientific original contribution and state of the art in the field, methodology, final outcomes and possible further developments. Within the PhD Programme in Mechanical Engineering the Doctoral Dissertation can be presented both in the form of a “*monograph*” or as “*article-based*”. The *article-based* thesis should be a coherent piece of writing consisting in the presentation of at least 3 published original papers written by the PhD candidate as principal author, addressing a single main overarching goal. Specific regulations are available at Department level.

The doctoral activity is carried out under the guidance of a Supervisor, responsible for candidate’s research activity, study plan and thesis development. The Supervisor can belong to an institution other than Politecnico di Milano; s/he can be supported by one or more co-supervisors. Also, within the first six months, a member of the PhD Faculty is chosen as Tutor, who will monitor the overall achievements of the student and oversee quality and coherence of study plan and research activity. The Faculty Board may assign extra course credits to one or more candidates, in case they need to complete their preparation in specific topics, relevant for their research projects.

6.2 Requirements for the PhD Title achievement

The achievement of the PhD title in Mechanical Engineering requires at least three years of full-time study and research, and the development of a PhD thesis. Also, a minimum of 20 credits from PhD-level courses must be achieved as follows (*see also paragraph 6.3*):

- at least 10 credits should be selected on topics connected with the research subject, either from PhD courses (preferably) offered by the PhD Programme in Mechanical Engineering or by other PhD Programmes (either of Politecnico di Milano or of other Universities), or from Master level courses.
- at least 10 credits should be selected from PhD courses offered by the PhD School of Politecnico di Milano, aimed at training the PhD candidates in soft and transferable skills. The skills and abilities provided by these courses are expected to help candidates across different areas of their careers in order to respond to the rapidly evolving needs of the global economy and society at large. The courses are held by internal Faculty or external professors/experts in the specific topic. The following **table** shows the list of the courses offered by the PhD School for the Academic year 2025-2026:

Course name	Professor	ECTS
ADVANCED INTERACTION SKILLS FOR ACADEMIC PROFESSIONALS	ARNABOLDI MICHELA	5
COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES THAT SCORE IN WORLDWIDE ACADEMIA	CONCI CLAUDIO	5
CREATIVE DESIGN THINKING	CANINA MARIA RITA	5
DIGITAL HUMANISM	SCHIAFFONATI VIOLA	5
ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION	BISCARI PAOLO	5
ETHICAL ASPECTS OF RESEARCH ON DUAL-USE TECHNOLOGIES	MASARATI PIERANGELO	5
ETHICS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	ROCCHI DANIELE	5
HOW TO SUPPORT COMPLEX DECISIONS: APPROACHES AND TOOLS	OPPIO ALESSANDRA	5
INDUSTRIAL SKILLS	BISCARI PAOLO	5
INNOVATIVE TEACHING SKILLS	BRUNETTO DOMENICO SAVIO	5
INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC RESEARCH	VOLONTE PAOLO GAETANO	5
LA COMUNICAZIONE NELLA SCIENZA	PAGANONI ANNA MARIA	5
POWER OF IMAGES AND VISUAL COMMUNICATION FOR RESEARCH DISSEMINATION	IAROSI MARIA POMPEIANA	5
PRACTICING RESEARCH COLLABORATION	PIZZOCARO SILVIA LUISA	5
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION	DI BLAS NICOLETTA	5
PROJECT MANAGEMENT (IN ACTION)	MANCINI MAURO	5
PROJECT MANAGEMENT BASICS	FUGGETTA ALFONSO	5
RECORDING WORK 4 BUILDING MEMORY: METHODS, PRACTICES, TOOLS, SKILLS TO MANAGE THE KNOWLEDGE	BOERI ELISA	5
RESEARCH COMMUNICATION. ISSUE MAPPING: EXPLORING PUBLIC DEBATES SURROUNDING ACADEMIC TOPICS	COLOMBO GABRIELE	5
RESEARCH SKILLS	BISCARI PAOLO	5
SCIENCE DIPLOMACY FOR RESEARCHERS. FILLING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND POLICY WITHIN THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES	SHENDRIKOVA DIANA	5
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, SOCIETY AND WIKIPEDIA	RAOS GUIDO	5
SCIENTIFIC/ACADEMIC ENGLISH: WRITING AND PRESENTING WITH AND WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF LLMS	JACCHETTI EMANUELA	5
SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH	BISCARI PAOLO	5
STRENGTHENING CRITICAL SPATIAL THINKING	ARMONDI SIMONETTA	5
SULLA RESPONSABILITÀ ETICA DELLA TECNICA	OSSI PAOLO MARIA	5
SUSTAINABILITY METRICS, LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT	LAVAGNA MONICA	5
TEACHING METHODOLOGIES, STRATEGIES AND STYLES	SANCASSANI SUSANNA	5
THE COPERNICUS GREEN REVOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	OXOLI DANIELE	5

During the first year, it is mandatory to attend at least 6 of the MeccPhD Lectures (or 50% of them, if less than 12 are scheduled), the series of seminars delivered by international visiting faculty and researchers on relevant topics in the field of Mechanical Engineering.

The choice of the courses must be made in agreement with the Supervisor.

Further activities intended to develop the candidate's personal skills and research expertise are encouraged during the PhD path, including stages, external courses (held by companies or other institutions), national and international seminars, conferences and workshops, participation in national and international research projects, support to teaching activities.

Candidates are also strongly encouraged to spend a period of at least 3 to 6 months doing research activity outside Italy in a research institution (academic or non-academic). A 3-month period abroad is mandatory for candidates holding a scholarship funded by the Department of Mechanical Engineering using the funds deriving from the ministerial allocation (this requirement will be clearly reported in the call for these specific scholarships).

According to the objectives related to the soft/transferable skills, each candidate must experience three modes of technical-scientific communication:

1. Oral presentation to experts in the field and topic, aimed at developing the ability to communicate advanced content within a limited timeframe, highlighting key aspects of the research/project and justifying methodological choices, to an audience with high evaluation skills. This experience, aimed at sharing projects among colleagues, must be achieved by participating as a speaker in at least one international conference or workshop where research results are presented.
2. Oral presentation to stakeholders with expertise in the field but not in the specific topic, transferring contents with appropriate details in unlimited timeframes. This skill, aimed at the ability to transfer research/project content to non-expert collaborators, is gained through specific training experiences with specific goals and typical timelines of academic and corporate settings. At least one communication/training activity of this type is required
3. Written communication for a community of experts. This skill is aimed at the ability to organize the document content, shorter than a book or thesis but still broad in scope, with an appropriate level of technical-scientific detail. This mode, typical of internal reports or technical notes, is experienced by creating written documents addressed to a relevant scientific community such as scientific or technical articles. To demonstrate proficiency in this skill, candidates are required to publish at least one research paper on an international journal.

Any exception to these requirements must be justified and authorized by the Faculty Board.

6.3 Objectives and general framework of the teaching activities

The PhD Programmes and the PhD School activate teaching forms of different kind and credit value, including courses, seminars, project workshops, laboratories. These activities aim at:

1. developing basic knowledge, common to the PhD Programme;
2. examining the basic research issues (problems, theories, research methods) which represent the founding element of the PhD Programme and which identify clearly its cultural position;
3. deepening in a specialist way some research issues connected with the problems developed in the thesis.

All PhD-level courses are held in English.

Courses and activities are developed as follows:

PREPARATORY COURSES

If the Supervisor and the Tutor find it useful or necessary for the candidate to attend preparatory courses (within Politecnico di Milano), the Faculty Board of the PhD Programme can assign a number of extra-credits to be achieved, to complete the training path. Credits acquired in this manner will be considered additional, with reference to compulsory credit requirements.

MAIN COURSES

Main courses (PhD or Master level) are intended to develop PhD candidates' expertise in the area of their thesis, and they should be attended in the first two years (mainly in the first year) in order to refine tools and methods to fully develop high-level research in the last part of the PhD path.

OTHER COURSES

The attendance of other courses, workshops and schools, if addressed to PhDs, is strongly encouraged and, if a certificate reporting the number of credits assigned (minimum 3) and the result of a final evaluation is issued, it may permit to acquire credits which can be considered equivalent to those acquired by attending the main courses. For these credits to be acquired, preliminary approval and evaluation by the Coordinator is required. Courses and workshops of less than 3 credits or without final evaluation (and therefore not qualified as credits) can be presented as optional additional courses attended at the yearly evaluations.

In the following table the list of courses offered by the PhD Programme in Mechanical Engineering for the academic year 2024-25 is shown. Additional courses at Programme and School level can be activated afterwards.

COURSES OFFERED WITHIN THE PHD PROGRAMME IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Lecturers	Course	Credits
Francesco Ferrise Giandomenico Caruso Alessandro Colombo (DEIB) Pietro Cipresso (Università degli studi di Torino)	<i>Augmented and Virtual Reality for Human-Centric Tests in Engineering</i>	5
Claudio Sbarufatti Francesco Cadini Luca Lomazzi	<i>Methods for health monitoring and prognosis of engineering systems subject to degradation</i>	5

Federico Cheli Pierangelo Masarati (DAER)	<i>Multibody system dynamics</i>	5
Panagiotis Tsiamyrtzis	<i>Statistics in the Big Data Era</i>	5
Hamid Reza Karimi Marcin Witczak (University of Zielona Góra)	<i>Introduction to fault diagnosis and prognosis for mechanical engineering systems</i>	5
Loris Roveda	<i>AI applications to industrial robotics</i>	5
Andrea Matta Mohsen A. Jafari (Rutgers University)	<i>Artificial Intelligence in Decision-Making and Control of Industrial Applications</i>	5
Emanuele Zappa Gabriella Bolzon (DICA) Maria Giuseppina Limongelli (DABC)	<i>Integrated and experimental computational approaches to the diagnostics of structures and components</i>	5
Marta Gandolla Stefano Arrigoni	<i>Advanced Robotics and Human-Robot Interaction: Perception, Control, and Intelligence</i>	5

6.4 PhD Agreement

During the first year of the doctoral program, the PhD candidates must sign a PhD Agreement with their own Supervisor and tutor (co-supervisor), according to the "Doctoral Agreement Manual" attached to the University PhD Regulations.

6.5 Presentation of the study plan

PhD candidates must submit a study plan drawn in agreement with the Supervisor; the study plan may be revised periodically (approximately every three months), in order to adequate it to possible changes in the courses' list, or to needs motivated by the development of their PhD career. The study plan is approved by the PhD Programme Coordinator, according to the modalities established by the PhD Faculty Board.

6.6 Annual evaluations

At the end of each academic year all candidates present their research work to the Faculty Board and receive a formal evaluation (A/B/C/D) in order to be admitted to the following year. Candidates who do not pass the exam are qualified either as "Repeating candidate" (Er) or "not able to carry on with the PhD (Ei)". In the former case (Er), the candidates are allowed to repeat the PhD year at most once. The PhD scholarships – if any – are suspended during the repetition year. In the latter case (Ei) the candidates are excluded from the PhD programme and lose their scholarships – if any.

In case the Faculty Board holds appropriate to assign directly an exclusion evaluation (Ei) without a previous repetition year, the request must be properly motivated, and validated by the PhD School.

Within the Doctoral Programme in Mechanical Engineering candidates' progression is evaluated by

commissions composed of members of the Faculty Board during the 12th and 24th month from the intake, for the admission to the following year (with evaluation according to the A-B-C-D-E grading system)

6.7 Final Exam

Candidates' admission to the Final Exam is determined before the end of the PhD path (during the second half of the 3rd year - 4th year in case of international agreements, executive PhDs or one year extension of the Phd path) by an internal commission composed by Faculty members. If the candidate is admitted to the Final Exam, the thesis¹ is sent to the external reviewers for evaluation. The reviewers provide two possible outcomes:

- **Admitted to Final Defence (Oral Exam)**
(The external reviewers can also recommend minor changes).
- **Postponed (up to 6-months delay)**
(The external reviewers recommend major revisions, and the revised thesis is re-submitted within 6 months: it undergoes a new review and is then admitted to the Oral Exam).

Following the external review, Candidates must make any corrections and/or revisions in consultation with the Supervisor before undergoing the Final Defence, which will be held in front of an examination board (with internal and external examiners).

The Final Defence consists of a comprehensive presentation of the PhD thesis to the examination board (approx. 50-60 minutes) plus discussion/questioning. The board is asked to discuss the work disclosed in the thesis, its significance, and candidate's overall presentation and Defence. During this phase, the reviewers' written evaluation as well as the candidate's third year assessment are taken into consideration in order to deliberate the final grade, which can be chosen as follows:

- Achievement of the PhD title;
- Achievement of the PhD title With Honors (Cum Laude); Honors are granted on the basis of the overall activity of the Candidate; the Supervisor must submit a written, motivated opinion about granting Honors; Honors can be granted only if the evaluation board is unanimous; in any case Honors can be awarded only if the candidate is admitted to the final exam with an admission grade **A** (see point 1).

Candidates can also be awarded a European Doctoral Degree if conditions reported in article 10.9 of the University PhD Regulations are met.

Candidates will be asked to demonstrate knowledge of the Italian language, equal to at least A1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for the knowledge of languages. This requirement will be needed in order to register for the final exam. Italian native speakers and all those who can demonstrate knowledge of the Italian language to the required level will be exempt.

¹ Starting with the 32nd cycle of the PhD Programme in Mechanical Engineering, the PhD Faculty Board has approved the introduction of a **second track** for the submission of the final PhD Thesis. In addition to a standard "monograph", the PhD Thesis can also be presented as *article-based*.

7. Laboratories

One of the key elements of our Doctoral Programme is represented by our laboratories: we feature some of the most unique, active and innovative set-ups in Europe. Learn more on our labs at <http://www.mecc.polimi.it/us/research/departmental-laboratories/> and <http://www.mecc.polimi.it/us/research/interdepartmental-laboratories/>.

8. Internationalization

We foster internationalization by strongly recommending and supporting candidates' mobility abroad, for short-term study and research periods up to 18 months. Our Institution is member of Idea League (www.idealeague.org), Alliance4Tech (www.alliance4tech.eu) and ENHANCE (<https://enhanceuniversity.eu/>), a group of strategic partnerships with leading European Technical Universities. We also promote, draft and activate European and extra-European Joint Degrees, Double PhDs and Joint Doctoral Thesis (Cotutelle); our Department is actively involved in EU-based and governmental third-level education agreements such as H2020, Erasmus Mundus, China Scholarship Council and Brazilian Confap.

We have ongoing agreements with MIT (Progetto Rocca), Technion – Israel Institute of Technology (Double PhD), Shanghai Jiao Tong University (Double PhD), École Centrale Paris (Cotutelle), Delft University of Technology (Double PhD and Cotutelle), RWTH Aachen (Double PhD), X'ian Jiao Tong University (Double PhD), University of Antwerp (Double PhD), Northwestern Polytechnical University (Double PhD), TUM (Cotutelle), ETH Zurich (Cotutelle), University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (Cotutelle), Laval University (Double PhD), EAFIT (Cotutelle), Qatar University (Double PhD), AGH - Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza (Cotutelle), NTNU (Cotutelle), Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University.

We also have ongoing collaborations within a wider international network, that includes some of the highest-level and best-known universities all over the world, such as the University of California at Berkeley (US), Imperial College London (UK), Tsinghua University (CN), University of Michigan (US), École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (CH), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), University of Southampton (UK), Technical University of Denmark (DK), Pennsylvania State University (US), Chalmers University of Technology (SE), Virginia Tech (US), Technische Universität Berlin (DE), University of Bristol (UK), Warsaw University of Technology (PL), The University of Sheffield (UK), Politècnica de València (ES)

9. Intersectoriality

Interaction with, and exposure to non-academic sectors, provides significant benefits to both doctoral candidates and research and innovation employment sectors. Direct exposure to the challenges and opportunities in non-academic sectors of the economy and of society at large, is fostered within our PhD Programme by networking, inter-sectoral mobility and wide access to knowledge.

In particular, we have ongoing collaborations with a number of SMEs, international companies and research agencies, such as Pirelli, BLM Group, ESA European Space Agency, Rold Elettrotecnica, Saes Getters, ST Microelectronics, Tesmec, Inaf - Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera, Fondazione Politecnico, Fondazione Cariplo, Comau, MUSP, ITIA-CNR, Clamp, IIT, Impact Innovations, Celada, Pama, Tenova, Monzese, Lamborghini, Iseo Serrature, Eureinox, Baker Hughes, Enel Foundation, GE Power, ENI, Boldrocchi, MCM, Salvi, Peenservice, Univerlecco, Thyssenkrupp Steering AG, Rete Ferroviaria Italiana

10. Interdisciplinarity

Starting with the 33rd cycle (2017) a multidisciplinary doctoral path was introduced within Politecnico, and each year 20 additional grants were funded with the aim of developing a research activity co-supervised by Faculty members belonging to two different doctoral programmes, on strategic research themes (Industry 4.0, Health, Smart Cities, High Risks, Cultural Heritage).

Our Doctoral Programme is currently mastering 15 PhD interdoctoral Phd Thesis (7 in 2021, 3 in 2022, 5 in 2024); 9 are managed directly by our Department, and 6 are run by other Doctoral Programmes. Orther 4 interdoctoral scholarships managed by our PhD programme will be included in the 41th Cycle PhD call and/or in the additional calls.

11. Contacts

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Attachment A1 – PhD Programme Coordinator

Prof. Andrea Bernasconi - Short CV

Full Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Politecnico di Milano

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

2021 - today Full professor of Machine and Vehicle Design, at the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Politecnico di Milano

2011 - 2022 Associate professor of Machine and Vehicle Design, at the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Politecnico di Milano

2002 – 2011 Assistant professor of Machine and Vehicle Design, at the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Politecnico di Milano

2000 – 2002 Research assistant, at the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Politecnico di Milano

1997 – 2000 PhD in Mechanics of Materials, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

1995 – Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, Politecnico di Milano

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

His research activity is mainly focused on Lightweight Design and Composite Materials, Hybrid metal-composite structures, joining techniques, particularly adhesive joints and their structural health monitoring.

He is author of 46 papers published in international archive journals (1900 citations, h-index 22). He teaches Lightweight design of mechanical structures and Finite element Simulation for Mechanical Design at the Master's course in Mechanical Engineering of Politecnico di Milano. He has supervised 3 and co-supervised 1 PhD Students and he is currently supervising 5 PhD students.

During several years of research and activities and collaborations with industries, he gained a deep knowledge and expertise in the following fields:

Lightweight Design and Composite Materials

The activity research focuses on the mechanical behavior of composite materials and polymers reinforced with short fibers, and on the design of mechanical components optimized with respect to mass (lightweight design), in particular through the adoption of hybrid solutions based on the use of reinforced polymers and metals (multi-material hybrid structures, like car suspension arms and railway axles). More recently, attention has shifted to polymeric materials reinforced with short fibers to be used for the production of components using additive technologies

Adhesive joints and their structural health monitoring

The research activity focuses on the fatigue behavior of adhesive joints: experimentation, modeling and monitoring techniques. Experimental techniques for monitoring the structural integrity of structures in composite materials and adhesive joints are developed using optical fiber, Bragg grating (FBG) and fiber optics, non-grating sensors, using Optical Backscatter Reflectometry (OBR), and acoustic emission.

Multiaxial fatigue of metals

The research activity focused on multiaxial fatigue testing of steels under not-proportional multiaxial loads, and on the development of numerical methods useful for the implementation of the most common multiaxial fatigue criteria, with particular attention to their computational efficiency, aimed at reducing the calculation times required by the fatigue assessment of components based on structural analyses with finite element models. Results were applied to the analysis of the rolling contact fatigue of railway wheels.

Fatigue of welded joints

The expertise acquired on the fatigue assessment methods for welded joints during his entire career is continuously applied in the context of industrial applications, particularly in the railway sector.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Member of the Faculty of the PhD Programme in Mechanical Engineering of Politecnico di Milano since October 2011
- Deputy Coordinator of the PhD Programme in Mechanical Engineering of Politecnico di Milano since October 2017
- Coordinator of the PhD Programme in Mechanical Engineering of Politecnico di Milano since January 2022
- Member of the scientific committee of: AB2015 – 3rd International Conference on Structural Adhesive Bonding, ECCM 17 17th European Conference on Composite Materials, AB2017 – 4th International Conference on Structural Adhesive Bonding, Fatigue 2018, ECCM 18 – 18th European Conference on Composite Materials, AB2019 – 5th International Conference on Structural Adhesive Bonding, AB2021– 6th International Conference on Structural Adhesive Bonding, ICFC8 - the Eighth International Conference on Fatigue of Composites
- Member of the Editorial Board of the following international journals: Journal of Adhesion, Polymer Composites
- Peer reviewer for the following international journals: International Journal of Fatigue, Composites Science and Technology, International Journal of Adhesion and Adhesives, Journal of Adhesion, Composites Part A, Composites Part B, Composite Structures

Attachment 2 – MeccPhD Faculty Board

	Last Name	First Name	Affiliation	SSD
1.	Bagherifard	Sara	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/14
2.	Barella	Silvia	Dept. of Mechanical Engineerin	ING-IND/21
3.	Beretta	Stefano	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/14
4.	Bernasconi	Andrea	Programme Coordinator- Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/14
5.	Braghin	Francesco	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/13
6.	Bruni	Stefano	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/13
7.	Cheli	Federico	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/13
8.	Cigada	Alfredo	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/12
9.	Cinquemani	Simone	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/13
10.	Colombo	Giorgio	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/15
11.	Colosimo	Bianca Maria	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/16
12.	Corradi	Roberto	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/13
13.	Facchinetti	Alan	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/13
14.	Ferrise	Francesco	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/15
15.	Foletti	Stefano	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/14
16.	Gariboldi	Elisabetta	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/21
17.	Gobbi	Massimiliano	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/14
18.	Graziosi	Serena	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/15
19.	Lecis	Nora	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/21
20.	Manes	Andrea	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/14
21.	Manzoni	Stefano	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/12
22.	Matta	Andrea	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/16
23.	Monno	Michele	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/16
24.	Pennacchi	Paolo	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/13
25.	Previtali	Barbara	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/16
26.	Sabbioni	Edoardo	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/13
27.	Saccomandi	Paola	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/12
28.	Tarabini	Marco	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/12

29. Tomasini	Gisella	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/13
30. Tolio	Tullio	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering	ING-IND/16

Attachment 3 – MeccPhD Advisory Board

Last Name	First Name	Company-Organization	Position
BELTRAME	Roberto	Microelettrica Scientifica SpA and KBRSI (Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems Italia)	Managing Director and CEO, respectively
BRAGHIERI	Paolo	GBC s.a.	Business owner
CAPOCCIA	Lorena	Sicme Motori	CEO and Board Member
CEDERLE	Paolo	Everis SpA	Italian Executive Chairman and Country Manager
CHIERCHIA	Lucia	Gellify	Managing Partner
FACONDO	Alessio	Fimer SpA	CEO
FAINELLO	Marco	Addfor S.p.A and Danisi Engineering	Executive Director and CTO, respectively
GHIDINI	Tommaso	ESA – European Space Agency	Head of Structures, Mechanisms and Materials Division at TEC-MS Mechanical Department
MANZONI	Paolo	NEGOCO Sr	Co-founder
PESCIO	Bartolomeo	Yara International	SVP and Head BU Nordics
ZANELLA	Andrea	Kedrion Biopharma Dianax S.r.l	Global Marketing Director and Vice Chairman, respectively