



CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE	
CYCLE	XLII
COORDINATOR	Prof. Andrea SPAGNOLI email: andrea.spagnoli@unipr.it DEPARTMENT OF Engineering and Architecture
DURATION	3 anni
START DATE	01/11/2026
POSITIONS AVAILABLE	7
Partecipation with positive results in international calls (Rector Decree No. 1048 of July 11, 2026)	Project UE HORIZON-MSCA-2025-DN-01 No. 101311936 "TRANSCEND" • Pavement Resilient to Resource Scarcity (PR2S) • Enhancing Urban Resilience through Integrated Planning Strategies in the Face of Disruptive Events Affecting Infrastructures (URBAN-RESIST) No. 2 Reserved positions for FELLOWSHIP HOLDERS ENROLLED IN SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY PROGRAMMES, awarded in accordance with the procedures established under the EU Project HORIZON-MSCA-2025-DN-01 No. 101311936 "TRANSCEND"
ADMISSION METHODS	Assessment of qualifications and research project Oral Examination in PRESENCE or REMOTELY
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	Regardless of age and citizenship, applicants may apply if they hold at least one of the following qualifications: • a Master's degree (Laurea Magistrale or equivalent); • a degree awarded under the previous Italian system; • an equivalent academic qualification obtained abroad, recognized as suitable for admission to the PhD programme. Applicants who have not yet graduated may also apply, provided that they obtain their degree by 31 October 2026 .
TRAINING OBJECTIVES	
To develop specialized skills in the following fields: (1) Infrastructure and Environmental Engineering: civil infrastructures for transport; survey, management, and analysis of land data, control and monitoring of displacements and deformations at all scales; issues related to surface waters and groundwater; (2) Structural and Geotechnical Engineering: mechanical behaviour of materials, structural components and structures; behaviour of soils and geotechnical structures; (3) Architecture and Urban Planning: theoretical, formal, distributional and functional aspects in architecture; the problems related to methods for survey and to computer-graphics in architecture; issues related to the implementation and the development of urban settlements; historical, artistic, technical and aesthetic themes in the architecture of the past.	
RESEARCH AREAS OF THE DOCTORAL COURSE (the candidate MUST mandatorily select one research area in the ANNEX A and present a research project in the selected area)	
• Infrastructure and Environmental Engineering • Structural and Geotechnical Engineering • Architecture and Urban Planning	

Position with Scholarship



N°	Position with Scholarship	Research Topic, if any
2	University of Parma (Ministerial funds, University funds and Cariparma Foundation)	
1	Fully funded by Cariparma Foundation	
Position with Scholarship LINKED TO SPECIFIC TOPICS (art. 6 of the Competition notice)		
N°	Funding entity	BOUND RESEARCH TOPIC
1	Scholarship funded by Merck Serono S.p.A.	From Testing to Design: Design-Driven Methods for Container Closure Systems Development in Parenteral Drug Products
RESERVED POSITIONS		
Industrial PhD reserved for employees of the company Areaquattro S.r.l. (with salary maintained)		1
Industrial PhD reserved for employees of the company Hydro Solutions LLC (with salary maintained)		1
Reserved for candidates WITHIN SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY PROGRAMS under the Memorandum of Understanding with NJIT New Jersey Institute of Technology (U.S.A.)		1

ADMISSION ASSESSMENT	
Assessment of QUALIFICATIONS: up to 70 points (a minimum score of 40 points shall be required to be admitted to the Oral Exam) ORAL EXAM: up to 50 points Minimum score for ELIGIBILITY: 70/120	
SPECIAL ADMISSION PROCEDURES (RESERVED POSITIONS) For scholarship holders within specific international mobility programmes	Assessment of QUALIFICATIONS: up to 120 points Minimum score for ELIGIBILITY: 70/120

ORAL EXAMINATION INDICATION		
Applicants admitted to the ORAL EXAM can take it either in PRESENCE or REMOTELY in Audio and Video Teleconference (Applicants who intend to take the Oral Exam remotely must submit a formal request, using the form attached to the competition notice)		
The ORAL EXAMINATION includes the presentation of the research project and is intended to assess the suitability of the applicant to pursue scientific research as well as the general knowledge of research areas related to the PhD course.		
Foreign language	ENGLISH	The language for which the fluency must be assessed during the Oral Examination. The assessment of knowledge of this language will be oral and will consist in reading and translating a scientific text.

SCHEDULE OF THE ADMISSION EXAMS	
EVALUATION OF QUALIFICATIONS	It is the candidate's responsibility to verify the outcome of the evaluation of qualifications, which can be consulted in their reserved area by connecting to the page http://unipr.esse3.cineca.it/ in the days preceding the date of the Oral Exam. Publication on the website constitutes official notification. No individual communication will be sent to candidates by email.



ORAL EXAM	DATE	1 ST September 2026, with possible extension to the following day	
	TIME	09:30 AM (Italian Time)	
	PLACE	Department of Engineering and Architecture Parco Area delle Scienze, 181/A 43124 PARMA - ITALY	
OTHER INFORMATION		The choice of the research area to be expressed in Appendix A is not binding on the assignment of the PhD research topic, but is intended to assess the candidates' skills during the admission examination. The PhD research topic will be assigned by the Board of Lecturers.	
		THE INTERVIEW MAY ALSO TAKE PLACE IN ENGLISH	For foreign candidates, it is possible to take the admission tests in English only. For Italian candidates, it is possible to take the admission tests in Italian or English, at the candidate's choice.

LIST OF QUALIFICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED AND THEIR ASSESSMENT	
MANDATORY DOCUMENTS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE ON-LINE APPLICATION	
ANNEX A	(art. 3.2 of the Competition Notice)
Identification Document	Scanned Copy of a valid identity document with photo (i.e. identity card, passport)
Curriculum Vitae et studiorum	No specific CV format is required (see art. 3.2 of the Competition notice)
Abstract of degree thesis	Abstract of the second cycle master's degree thesis. Undergraduate applicants must submit the draft of the thesis approved by their supervisor (abstract/draft of the thesis: 10.000 characters including spaces)
Academic Qualifications	Certificates and academic transcript of records for both Bachelor' and Master' degrees containing the following details for each degree held (art. 3.2 of the Competition notice): University that granted the degree - Type of degree (first cycle/second cycle/single cycle) Name of the degree program - Date of graduation - Final mark - List of exams and corresponding scores (academic transcript of records) - Translation into Italian or English (only for degrees issued in languages other than Italian or English).
Research Project	The research project shall consist of a maximum of 3 pages, be written in Italian or in English, and it shall be structured as follows: introduction of the problem in the scientific context, significance of the problem, expected results. The project must focus on an original research topic (unpublished, personally developed by the candidate) related to the topics listed in https://corsi.unipr.it/en/phd-ica/tematiche-di-ricerca. It should be noted that the Examination Board can use of IT tools useful for verifying the originality of the submitted Project. In accordance with the Guidelines for the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in education and research, the candidates must explicitly state whether they have used Generative Artificial Intelligence systems in the production of the research proposal attached to their application form, specifying which tools were used and for which parts of the document. During the oral examination, the Admission Board will assess the candidate's full mastery of the content included in the document and their ability to justify the methodological and scientific choices made in the project. The research proposal does not constitute a binding commitment for the subsequent choice of the PhD research topic, which will be assigned by the Academic Board Failure to submit the research proposal will result in exclusion from the selection procedure.



Statement of Research Interest	Short text – maximum 2 pages – in Italian or in English, aimed at explaining the candidate's reasons to attend the PhD program and at describing her/his specific research interests	
FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS THAT MAY BE ATTACHED TO THE APPLICATION, IF IN POSSESSION OF THE APPLICANT		
Reference Letters	A maximum of 2 written by professors or researchers at the University of origin of the candidate or from other universities or from experts in the research areas working in public or private research facilities. The reference letters must sent directly by the signer to the address e-mail: andrea.spagnoli@unipr.it . Reference letters sent directly by the candidate or received in any other way will not be evaluated.	
Scientific Publications	A maximum of 2 articles on national and international journals, papers presented at conferences or symposia, book chapters etc.	
LIST OF EVALUABLE QUALIFICATIONS (only qualifications attested by a document drawn up in Italian or in English)		
Curriculum Vitae et studiorum	Including academic career and postgraduate experience, accompanied by a statutory declaration in lieu of the certification of the exams passed with the relevant marks, as well as the final graduation mark. Mandatory: Statement of Research Interest Not mandatory: Reference Letters	Up to 30 points
Graduation mark	---	Up to 5 points
Average of the exam marks (if the candidate will attain the degree no later than 31st October 2026)	---	Up to 5 points
Graduation thesis	Consistency of the Master’s Degree thesis with the doctoral program research topics (briefly describe the topics in the curriculum vitae by attaching the abstract of the degree thesis or draft of the thesis approved by the supervisor)	Up to 6 points
Research Project		Up to 25 points
Scientific Publications	Maximum 2 articles on national and international journals, papers presented at conferences or symposia, book chapters etc.	Up to 4 points
LIST OF QUALIFICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED AND THEIR ASSESSMENT Positions reserved to holders of scholarship within specific international mobility programs		
Curriculum Vitae et studiorum	Including academic career and postgraduate experience, accompanied by a statutory declaration in lieu of the certification of the exams passed with the relevant marks, as well as the final graduation mark. Mandatory: Statement of Research Interest Not mandatory: Reference Letters	Up to 50 points
Graduation mark		Up to 10 points
Graduation thesis	Consistency of the Master’s Degree thesis with the doctoral program research topics (briefly describe the topics in the curriculum vitae by attaching the abstract of the degree thesis or draft of the thesis approved by the supervisor)	Up to 10 points
Research project		Up to 40 points
Scientific Publications	Maximum 2 articles on national and international journals, papers presented at conferences or symposia, book chapters etc.	Up to 10 points



ORAL EXAM		
Interview program	Evaluation CRITERIA	POINTS
The ORAL EXAM includes the presentation of the research project and is intended to assess the suitability of the applicant to pursue scientific research as well as the general knowledge of research areas related to the PhD course	○ knowledge of the foreign language ○ research project presentation ○ general knowledge of research areas related to the PhD course	Up to 50 points