

**General syllabus**  
**for third cycle/Doctoral education**  
**effective as of April 2025**



## NABA Doctoral School

The **NABA Doctoral School**, based in Milan, oversees and manages all activities related to its doctoral programmes. The school is coordinated by **Vincenzo Estremo** (PhD Course Leader) and comprises the following tracks:

- **PhD in Artistic Practice**, in collaboration with HDK–Valand Academy of Art and Design at the University of Gothenburg;
- **MUR-accredited Doctorate in Artistic Practices and Project Culture**;
- **National Interest Doctorate (DIN)** led by ABANA Naples;

The Doctoral School aims to develop critical skills and to train artists, designers, curators, scholars, and producers who are able to undertake research and creative production through innovative methodological approaches. These approaches prioritize critical epistemologies, empirical research tools, and intersectional perspectives, without neglecting political and activist theories and actions. The School provides the practical-theoretical preparation necessary to work within the fields of artistic practice and design, bringing together related approaches in practical cultures and project work—ranging across different methods of research and analysis, scales, and domains. Its framework intersects politics, environmental issues, class, ethnic belonging, gender, and sexuality, employing multifactorial models to address effectively the challenges and transformations of complex societies.

Promoting an explicitly interdisciplinary approach, the programme's research focus includes, in particular:

- **Visual and performing arts**
- **Curatorial and archival practices**
- **Film production**
- **Critical media and creative technologies**
- **Fashion design**
- **Social and environmental design**
- **Urban design**
- **Visual culture and imagery, including its applications in communication.**



## MUR-Accredited PhD in Artistic Practices and Project Culture

The PhD in **Artistic Practices and Project Culture** was officially accredited by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR) in August 2024. It is a non-affiliated doctoral course (code DOT247YMEJ), based in Milan, and lasts 3 years. The accreditation followed the approval of Ministerial Decree 470 on February 21, 2024.

The doctoral programme operates under its own academic regulations. It is coordinated by Vincenzo Estremo, with the academic board consisting of the Academy Director Guido Tattoni and faculty members: Giacomo Festi, Caterina Iaquina, Massimo Martignoni, Patrizia Moschella, Elisa Poli, Luca Poncellini, Marco Scotini, Elvira Vannini, and Mick Wilson.

### Programme Structure (Three Years)

- **Disciplinary/Interdisciplinary Training:** 80 hours
- **Language Training:** 20 hours
- **Research Project Management:** 50 hours

### Academic Credits (CFA)

Doctoral candidates are required to earn a total of 180 CFA over the three years.

During the first six months, with the support of their tutor, each candidate must draft a provisional plan for at least 60 CFA to be earned in the first and second year, which may later be adjusted.

Credit distribution is based on a workload of 25 hours per CFA. This includes:

- 6 hours of frontal teaching or didactic activities for theoretical courses
- 10 hours for theoretical/practical courses
- The rest is allocated to individual or group study.
- **Coursework:** 60 CFA
- **Doctoral Thesis:** 120 CFA

### Key Features

- **Duration:** 3 years
- **Extensions:** Possible (6 months to 1 year, without scholarship)
- **Scholarships:** Funded by MUR or potentially by NABA
- **Admission:** Through a public call
- **Supervision:** Tutors selected from NABA faculty by the academic board
- **Individual Study Plan:** Developed by the tutor



- **Teaching Duties:** PhD students are required to assist in teaching at NABA
- **Progression:** Admission to the following year is subject to annual review

## Programme Components

### Seminars

Held in the first and second year, focused on thematic and methodological research development. Each doctoral seminar spans two intensive days and includes lectures by experts in art and design. Five seminars are held annually at NABA, each worth 3 CFA.

### Courses

PhD students at NABA may attend all mandatory and elective HDK-Valand courses. NABA also offers internal courses in:

- Research Methods and Design
  - Ethnography for Creative Practice
  - Research Writing
- First-year students must attend at least one doctoral course.

### Spring Conference

In the second year, all PhD students will contribute to organizing a Spring Conference in Milan, coordinated through a European academic network.

## Summary of Required Activities

All components marked as *mandatory* must be completed in the first and second years.

### MANDATORY

NABA Seminars and HDK Courses	NABA Seminar 3CFA	30 CFA
Language	3 CFA	
Summer/Spring/Winter at AFAM; Institutions or at University and other Research Centers	3-20 CFA	
Conferences	5-15 CFA	
Teaching and support at teaching and didactic activities	9 CFA	
Co-organisation of NABA-Spring Conference (starting from the II year)	5-20 CFA	
Research and Final Project	Teorical/Practice	120 CFA

## OPTIONALS

Essay in magazine	0-20 CFA	
Pubblication Schientific double blind peer review essay	0-20 CFA	
Pubblicazione (o accettazione) di monografia	1 monograph = up to 8 CFA	0-20 CFA
Exhibition and other activities like festival, biennals, etc.	1 solo exhibition = up to 8 CFA 1 group exhibition = up to 3 CFA Participation in festivals and similar events = 1 to 5 CFA	0-20 CFA

## Yearly Evaluation and Final Exam

At the end of each academic year, PhD candidates must submit a written report detailing their completed training activities, co-signed by their tutor. They are solely responsible for the accuracy of their statements. A list of tutoring and teaching support activities must be attached.

- Inaccurate or false declarations will prevent progression to the next year or to the final exam.
- Research activities must also be presented orally to a panel (minimum 2 faculty members + coordinator).
- Dates and methods of evaluation are announced annually (Nov/Dec) by the Coordinator.

**To be admitted to the final exam**, the candidate must:

- Submit the doctoral thesis and research project with the tutor's approval.
- Missing elements may lead to a 6-month postponement of the final exam.

Admission is decided by the board based on:

- Evaluation of the activity report
- Discussion of the research
- Fulfillment of minimum academic requirements

CFA earned may be recognized even in cases of non-admission.

Any exceptions to these criteria must be justified and approved by the board. Scholarships do not cover these exceptions.

The **NABA Doctoral School** is unique in combining joint activities for two distinct programmes: the **PhD in Artistic Practice** and the **MUR-accredited PhD in Artistic Practices and Project Culture**.

Candidates may include in their study plans all courses offered by HDK-Valand as well as NABA seminars.

The structure includes participation in courses, seminars, and two different types of progress evaluations:

- **Key Stage Seminars** for students enrolled in the PhD in Artistic Practice
- **Annual Progress Review** (“Passaggio dell’anno”) for those in the MUR-accredited PhD

Both HDK courses and NABA seminars follow the schedule below each year:

- **HDK courses** are held online
- **NABA seminars** are held in person
- **HDK Key Stage Seminars** are held in person
- **NABA New Year Evaluations** are held in person

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
January	NABA seminar		HDK course	HDK course
February			NABA seminar	HDK course
March		NABA seminar		HDK course
April				HDK course
May		NABA seminar		
June		HDK course	HDK course	
July				
August				
September			HDK course	HDK course
October	HDK course		NABA seminar	
November	HDK course	HDK k-stage	HDK course	
December	HDK course		NABA new year	

*\*The programme outlined here is indicative and subject to change.*



## **National Interest Doctorate (DIN)**

**Lead Institution: Accademia di Belle Arti di Napoli (ABANA)**

### **Curricula**

- Visual Arts and Creative Practices
- Performing, Staging Arts, Music Creativity and Composition
- Conservation, Restoration and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage
- Art, Music, Science, Territory and Community
- Film, Audiovisual Arts, Sound and Media Studies
- History and Cultural Studies
- Copyright Law and Cultural Economy
- Innovation, Technologies and New Materials for Arts

### **Partner Institutions**

- Accademia Albertina di Belle Arti di Torino
- Accademia di Belle Arti de L'Aquila
- Accademia di Belle Arti di Catania
- Accademia di Belle Arti di Catanzaro
- Accademia di Belle Arti di Como "Aldo Galli"
- Accademia di Belle Arti di Foggia
- Accademia di Belle Arti di Macerata
- Accademia di Belle Arti di Ravenna
- Accademia di Belle Arti di Reggio Calabria
- Accademia di Belle Arti di Sassari "Mario Sironi"
- Accademia di Belle Arti di Verona
- Accademia di Belle Arti Legalmente Riconosciuta di Milano – NABA
- Accademia Italiana di Arte, Moda e Design – Rome
- Conservatorio di Musica di Bologna "Giovanni Battista Martini"
- Conservatorio di Musica di Frosinone "Licinio Refice"
- Conservatorio di Musica di Genova "Niccolò Paganini"
- Conservatorio di Musica di Napoli "San Pietro a Majella"
- Conservatorio di Musica di Perugia "Francesco Morlacchi"
- Conservatorio di Musica di Potenza "Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa"
- Conservatorio di Musica di Ravenna "Giuseppe Verdi"
- Conservatorio di Musica di Salerno "Giuseppe Martucci"



## **Educational Objectives**

### **Interdisciplinary Research**

Promote an integrated approach that combines visual and performing arts, music, new media, and experimental education, fostering collaboration among different artistic and cultural disciplines. Support advanced research on emerging topics such as the interaction between art and technology and the impact of new media on artistic production.

### **Conservation and Innovation of Cultural Heritage**

Explore and develop innovative techniques for the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, with particular attention to the use of digital technologies. Combine traditional methods with contemporary approaches to promote sustainable and accessible heritage practices.

### **Advanced Training**

Train highly qualified researchers with both theoretical and practical expertise, capable of contributing to academia, the arts, and the cultural sector. Offer a programme that includes specialized courses, workshops, and applied research opportunities in collaboration with cultural institutions.

## **NABA Faculty Members**

Elisa Poli and Luca Poncellini are members of the DIN academic board.

## **Industrial Partner**

The Casa Morra Foundation in Naples is NABA's industrial partner, having co-funded two of the DM 630 scholarships that NABA allocated to the DIN.

**Two DIN PhD candidates are affiliated with NABA.**

### **Doctoral School**

NABA, Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti  
[phd@naba.it](mailto:phd@naba.it)  
[naba.it](http://naba.it)

### **Course Leader**

Vincenzo Estremo

### **Research School Advisor Assistant**

Letizia Mari