

School of Technology and Architecture

Universidade do Lisboa

Integrated Master in Architecture

The integrated cycle of studies leading to the master degree in Architecture at ISCTE-IUL, has 10 semesters with 300 ECTS divided into 180 ECTS in the first cycle (3 years) and 120 ECTS in the second cycle (2 years).

The Integrated Master in Architecture (MIA) is founded on a convergence of various scientific areas around the project activity which promotes a practical and theoretical reflection in order to provide the student with an informed, critical and autonomous thinking regarding the various dimensions of space. The first cycle of MIA is rooted in the experimentation with several design scales, in the acquisition of a progressive autonomy by the student and in the response to problems of increasing complexity. The second cycle and in particular through the synthesis operated in the last two semesters, MIA consolidates an holistic understanding of the design exercise in order to meet the challenges of the contemporary society.

The goals for the first six semesters focuses mainly on:

- The approach to architectural design methodologies through the understanding of space and the variables that affect it in terms of function, structure and plastic expression;
- The knowledge of the composing elements, of the analysis methodologies and of the principles of composition of the urban form;
- The conceptual and operational techniques of the representation and communication techniques as well as in understanding the importance of their role in design practice;
- The knowledge of building materials, building construction systems and technologies and their articulation with the design methodology;
- An integrated knowledge of the concepts and contexts of History of Architecture and Urbanism, as well as of the theoretical models of analysis of the contemporary Architecture and Urbanism;
- An integrated knowledge of the territory and city culture, in its physical, geographical, economic and social dimensions.
- The completion of the last four semesters ensures the full access to the profession of architect. In these four semesters the pursued goals are mainly:
 - The consolidation and enhancing of the skills acquired in the preceding semesters;
 - The autonomy of critical thinking and design embodied in the presented proposals to diverse and complex problems in the field of architecture;
 - The critical understanding of architecture as a transversal practice within the scope of several knowledge areas.
 - The acquisition of research skills that enable a theoretical exploration of themes within the architecture field and from other areas of knowledge that are deeply rooted in ISCTE-IUL.

The insertion of MIA in ISCTE-University Institute of Lisbon allow for an innovative set of synergies in Portuguese's Architectural education and research which considers also the contribution of other areas like Sociology, Economy, Computing, Anthropology, Business management and Public Policies.

On the other side, MIA is integrated in the Department of Architecture and Urbanism of the School of Technologies and Architecture. This fact promotes a deep link to the areas of information technologies, computations and multimedia that manifest itself essentially in the areas of research and in the available infrastructures (Digital Fabrication Laboratory – Vitruvius FabLab - and CAVE for virtual reality).

The faculty composition reflects cumulatively the importance of the architectural quality recognition and the development of innovative technical and scientific skills, combining practical experience with research in areas such as architectural design, theory and history of architecture, environmental awareness and sustainability, new technologies and design processes, building construction and conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of architectural heritage.

The size of the student body and the existence of a balanced quality ratio of teachers/students enables a teaching methodology based on proximity and on the continued tutorial guidance of students.

Director: Sara Eloy

Sub-director: Bernardo Miranda