

## FAQ ONLINE Professional degrees in:

### > SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURES

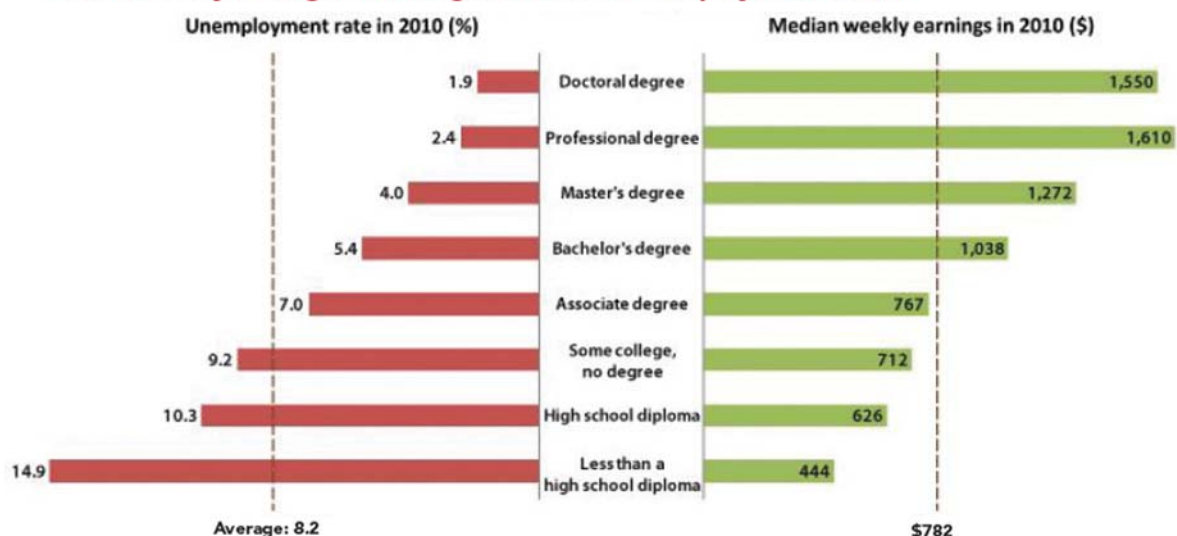
### > PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF CIVIL STRUCTURES AND INFRASTRUCTURES

#### 1) Why choose a Professional degree?

A recent study (2010) conducted in the United States shows a clear connection between educational qualification and earnings.

## EDUCATION & EARNINGS

### Education Pays in Higher Earnings and Lower Unemployment Rates:



Source: Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Current Population Survey [http://www.bls.gov/emc/eca\\_chart\\_001.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emc/eca_chart_001.htm)

An advanced Master by an Italian University is equivalent to a 'Professional degree'. And a Professional degree paves the way to earnings which are on average 26,5% higher than those of people with only a Master's degree.

#### 2) Is it better or more useful to attend a Professional degree course in the classroom rather than online?

No. The teachers and contents of lessons are the same for classroom and online attendance. Besides, thanks to the Blackboard platform, online attendees can participate in the class and ask questions, exactly as if they were in the classroom. Blackboard includes a library which allows students to download all relevant materials. Additionally, at pre-determined hours, students will be able to talk to teachers for any questions or clarifications.

**3) What tools will be available to the students, while attending the courses online?**

Each student will have a personal account to access the Blackboard platform (the number one platform worldwide for online education). The platform provides a clear interface displaying the contents of every lesson, a list of the activities and the calendar. Students will be able to purchase textbooks online, as well as communicate with teachers and fellow students (by blog, chat, etc. ). With their account they will also be able to participate actively to classes in synchronous mode or re-watch video recorded sessions. Please note that the English translation of the sessions is only available in the asynchronous mode.

**4) What computer requirements are necessary to attend the online Professional degree course?**

Only minimum requirements are necessary with regard to the Browser. Blackboard is compatible with Windows 7, Vista, XP and Mac OSX 10.5 and later versions. In order to attend sessions in the synchronous mode, we suggest that students buy a common headset.

**5) If any organizational problems arise, how will they be addressed and solved online?**

Any organizational problems reported by classroom students are managed and solved by the administrative office; the same applies to online students: an administrative office will answer online students' questions in real-time. The online administrative office may be contacted by phone, email and chat.

**6) What are the differences between attending a Professional degree in the classroom and an online Professional degree, then?**

The only difference is to be found in the students' wants and needs. Attending a Professional degree course in the classroom is preferable for new graduates and people who are looking for a job, who have the opportunity and economic means to move to Milan and live there for a year. On the other hand, an online Professional degree course is preferable for people who already have a job or who do not have the opportunity and/or economic means to move to and live in Milan.

**7) What is the length of the online Professional degree course and what kind of commitment is required?**

Each of the two Professional degrees comprises approximately 300 hours of classes, which will take place on weekdays according to a pre-determined calendar. The classes will be held during the first semester (November 2012 – April 2013). During the following months, the videos of all the classes may be watched in the asynchronous mode, students will study

individually and further review the subjects of all the courses and prepare the final exercise, which is scheduled to be submitted and assessed by October 2013.

**8) How could I attend online courses, if I have a full-time job?**

The video recording of each session will be uploaded on the Blackboard platform 7 days after it took place, and it will be available for students to watch. Along with the video, students will also be able to access all materials pertaining to each session. This way, students will be able to watch the video of each session at their convenience (in the evening, or over the weekend), in the asynchronous mode.

In addition to the asynchronous mode, the synchronous mode is also available. The synchronous mode may be used by students to participate actively to classes in real time; students may also use the synchronous mode for just one or few specific lessons of their choice.

**9) How many times will I need to go to the F.lli Pesenti Master School, at the Politecnico di Milano?**

Students are never required to be physically present at the School. The advantage brought by an online Professional degree, along with schedule optimization and flexibility, is that costs for students are reduced to a minimum. For this reason, requiring students to travel was deemed unnecessary. Therefore all exercises and final presentations will be uploaded and assessed online.

**10) What professors will be delivering the online Professional degree lectures?**

The lectures will be delivered by professors of the following Departments: DIS (Structural Engineering Department), DIG (Management Engineering Department, MIP), BEST, and the Architecture and Planning Department of the Politecnico di Milano. Further lectures will be delivered by well-known external professionals, including designers, real estate professionals, corporate managers and money managers: Cityedge (Italian Partner of Studio Daniel Libeskind), Vittorio Grassi Architect & Partners (designers), Hines (real estate), Impregilo (corporate management), Horo Capital (money management). Additionally, internationally renowned professionals will deliver seminars.

**11) What are the main subjects taught in these two online Professional degree courses?**

The main subjects are the units listed on the online Professional degrees brochure. Further details may be found in the announcements of the online Professional degrees.

**12) Where can I find the announcements of the online Professional degrees?**

The announcements of the online Professional degrees may be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.polimi.it/didattica/catalogodeicorsi/master-universitari/masterattivi/>

**13) Is an internship required at the end of the course?**

A few months' internship would represent a serious barrier to students who have a job or who cannot move to Milan. For this reason, for online students the internship will be represented by the submission of a final exercise, which will be a work-related assignment, to be assessed by a teaching Commission.

Should online students expressly request to do an internship, after completion of all classes, an internship position will be searched and offered. However, with regard to internships, classroom students will always be given priority over online students.

**14) The registration fee written in the announcements of the online professional degrees is different from the one on the brochure: which registration fee is correct?**

Given the current economic difficulties in most European countries (and particularly in Italy), the School board of the F.Ili Pesenti Master School of the Politecnico di Milano has decided to reduce the registration fee for online Professional degrees, in order to best meet the needs of students. However, when the School board made this decision, the Professional Degree Department of the Politecnico di Milano had already published the announcements, which are going to be officially amended. Therefore, the registration fee currently indicated in the announcements is no longer valid, whereas the correct registration fee is written on the brochure of the online Professional degrees. (€3000 for registrations received by 31/07/2012. €3500 for registrations received after that date, but not later than 31/10/2012).

**15) Some of the units of the online Professional degree in "Project Management of Civil Structures and Infrastructures" listed in the brochure are different from those listed in the relevant announcement: which list of units is correct?**

The teaching contents of the online Professional degrees are updated nearly every year, in order to provide up-to-date and constantly improved notions. For the same reason explained in the previous question, in this case the contents of the online Professional degree in "Project Management of civil structures and infrastructures" have been updated after the Professional Degree Department of the Politecnico di Milano had published the announcements. Therefore, the correct list of units is written in the brochure, with the required number of hours and credits.

**16) Can I only register for one online Professional degree, or can I register for both?**

No, the law does not allow students to register for a university Professional degree and to register, at the same time, for another course provided by an Italian university.

**17) If I registered for an online Professional degree but was also interested in attending only some units of the other online Professional degree, would I be allowed to do so?**

Yes! It is possible to attend any unit individually; in order to do this, the registration fee of each unit is €400 (with the exception of the CENED unit, for which the registration fee is €500). Clearly, students attending one online Professional degree and also some units of the other online Professional degree, will only receive one Professional degree certificate.

**18) The CENED unit included in the online Professional degree in “Sustainable Buildings and Infrastructures” provides a license: if I registered for the online Professional degree in “Project Management of Civil Structures and Infrastructures” and decided to also attend the CENED unit, would I also receive the CENED license in the end, in addition to the Professional degree certificate?**

Yes, certainly! The only requirement is to pass the specific exam which is held online.

**19) What educational qualifications are required in order to attend the online Professional degrees? What are the requirements?**

The online Professional degrees in “Sustainable Buildings and Infrastructures” and in “Project Management of Civil Structures and Infrastructures” are postgraduate Professional degrees. Therefore, in order to receive the relevant certificate, a Master’s Degree is required. The contents of these Professional degrees are directed primarily to engineers and architects. However, similar qualifications will be evaluated by the teaching Commission on a case by case basis. Candidates will be notified of the requirements which are essential for admission.

**20) Is there a restricted number of participants or a selection process?**

Yes. Admission will only be granted following the assessment of qualifications and cv by a Commission and after a phone interview between a member of the school board and the candidate.

For further questions and for specific information about the registration for online Professional degrees, please contact Mr. Mario Tropea, Engineer.

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