

STUDENT ELECTION 2012 FOR PHD STUDENTS



About me.

My name is **Sandro Cammarano**.

I was born in Turin and I am 28 years old.

I have been studying in this city since I was young and I attended high school specialized in classical studies. Then, against common expectations, I registered at Politecnico di Torino and I got enrolled in the course of Civil Engineering. Hence, I chose a Master of Science focusing on structural engineering.

I graduated with honors in December 2010 and, subsequently, I won a PhD scholarship for the development of research in the field of Structural Engineering, starting from January 2011.

I'm now finishing my second year of PhD studies and my research topic concerns the design of high rise structures, with regards to the theory of the sectorial areas devised by Vlasov.

About my candidacy.

My studies and my past, in which I have never filled a significant post, demonstrate that my interest is far from politics as such. Nevertheless, I realise that, in order to deepen my interest, I have to be in politics.

There is a motto of an author related to the Samizdat, Nazarov, which summarizes the main reasons of my candidacy: "If Russia is what it is, it is because I am what I am. But the rebirth of my heart can make my country reborn". This sentence is true with regards to my country, but also to my experience inside of university. So, although going into politics seems a risk, I think that the only way we can grow is that everyone tries to face up to his responsibilities.

What you can vote for.

You can vote your PhD candidate in two types of council: **Consiglio della Scuola di Dottorato** (Council of the Doctorate School) and **Senato Accademico** (Academic

Senate). In the first one only three candidates can be elected, whereas in Accademic Senate only one candidate among all can be elected.

For each council, **you can vote only one candidate.**

I am running, with a group named LAVORI IN CORSO, for both the councils.

Where and When you can vote.

The election of representatives of the PhD students will take place on:

- **December, 12th: from 10.00 a.m. to 18.00 p.m.**
- **December, 13th: from 9.00 a.m. to 17.00 p.m.**

PhD students can vote in **every polling station** of **every location** of Politecnico (Corso Duca degli Abruzzi, Castello del Valentino and so on), with the exception of Alenia, where no polling station was arranged.

Pay attention! The opening and closing hours of the stations located in Viale Mattioli, via Boggio and Mirafiori may be modified, depending on the number of voters.

ELECTION PROGRAM

Point 1 – EDUCATION

The growth project of the Doctorate School is not always able to meet a PhD student's needs which, depending on his research field, would require a specific advanced training.

Proposal 1.1

A definite number of PhD students with common scientific interests may be put together in study groups and be funded in order to invite leading figures in the field of their research topic.

Proposal 1.2

A website to which all PhD students of Italy can refer in order to promote conferences, seminars and high level courses may be created. This would undoubtedly widen the growth project of a PhD course in this country.

Point 2 – TEACHING

The PhD student often represents a study aid for the students of Politecnico, performing exercises for several hours. Such task, although justly remunerated, relieves the PhD student of his duties, which are primarily the research and his personal training.

Proposal 2.1

It may be convenient that the PhD students, which spend several hours performing exercises for teaching purposes, can convert some of them to learning credits. Indeed, the preparation of seminars, lectures or exercises improves those skills which are essential to support and explain a scientific thesis.

As a first hypothesis, a credit for every 10 hours of lectures may be obtained, for a maximum of 3 credits each year. So, after three years, at most 9 credits may be earned, i.e. not more than 22.5% of the minimum required credits.

Point 3 – AGREEMENTS

The university and, in general, the society as well as the city, in which the PhD student lives, do not support him with any facilities. He is treated the same as a Bachelor student, but devoid of their corresponding agreements.

Proposal 3.1

There are more than 700 PhD students registered at Politecnico di Torino, many of which are foreign. Such a large group is surely attractive for most of commercial activities which are in our university and in this city. Therefore, it may be convenient to establish a network of agreements (especially with the institutions, but also with restaurants, bars, shops, bookstores, training activities outside the university and so on) that gives value to the figure of the PhD student and ensures facilities and privileged discounts (e.g. season ticket for public transport, bike sharing, courses of foreign languages, subscriptions to museums and so on).

Point 4 – WORKING WORLD

The situation of the Italian University degenerated as a consequence of the last academic reform. The PhDs give up their hope, because there are no prospects for their future careers in the academic field.

Proposal 4.1

I disagree with the last academic reform and I think that it is necessary to improve the alternative careers, such as the Banishment for an High Level Training (Bando per l'Alta Formazione - BAF), which may facilitate the hiring of PhDs by industries. First of all, it would be better to expand the areas to which the Banishment refers (for now Automotive, ICT, General Management and others); moreover, the institutions should support those who have the opportunity to build an alternative high level career.

Lastly, the institutions should help the working world recognise both the hard and soft skills coming from the training process of the PhD.

I am at your disposal for any questions or, if you believe in me, to support your ideas in the councils for which I am running.

Contacts

e-mail: sandro.cammarano@polito.it

phone: (011-090)4858

Fb: Cammarano Forpolito