THE SCHOOL
IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca is one of the six Italian Schools of Excellence, together with the Scuola Normale and Scuola Sant'Anna (Pisa), IUSS (Pavia), SISSA (Trieste) and the Gran Sasso Science Institute. IMT is a public academic institution organised as graduate school and research centre. The main area of study is the analysis of economic, social, technological and cultural systems. Since November 2015 IMT has been directed by Professor Pietro Pietrini, internationally renowned neuroscientist.

Ever since IMT’s institution by ministerial decree, on November 18th 2005, the School has distinguished itself thanks to the quality and innovativeness of its research and doctoral programmes and its interdisciplinary nature, characterised by the complementarity of diverse methodologies derived from economics, management
science, engineering, computer science, applied mathematics, physics, political history, archaeology, art history and the analysis and management of cultural heritage, with the recent addition of social neuroscience. In 2016 and 2017 Anvur, universities rating agency overseen by the Ministry of Education, University and Research, ranked IMT first in terms of the quality of the School’s research among Italian university institutions.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL MISSION
IMT researchers carry out cutting-edge methodological research to generate knowledge, to apply knowledge to solve problems of an economic, industrial, social and cultural nature, and to transmit knowledge through highly specialised graduate courses and seminars. Starting from the overlying fundamental principle of scientific excellence, which applies to all areas and levels of the IMT research community, the School aims to distinguish itself by developing innovative research and acquire greater international visibility.

The School’s interdisciplinary research programmes are articulated in four scientific macro-areas, which share common basic courses and provide specialised training in the PhD thesis academic discipline:

- Economics, management science and complex systems
- Computer science and systems engineering
- Neuroscience
- Cultural heritage
The School’s activities are further organised into Research Units, consisting of a professor or a senior researcher, researchers, visiting professors and doctoral students, who actively contribute to the research as part of their studies. The programmes - entirely held in English - are articulated in curricula that share common core courses and provide specialised training in the specific discipline of the doctoral thesis. Residential facilities, scholarships and loans are offered to students with the aim of ensuring equal opportunities.

At the end of the programme, students have acquired the necessary training to pursue professional careers in the academic world and in other fields including industry, research and culture. The aptitude to quickly familiarise oneself with tools and methods in fields outside of one’s own field of expertise is one of the talents that IMT aims to cultivate in its doctoral students. IMT receives thousands of applications every year. The selection procedures are based on international standards to attract high-potential doctoral students from around the world.
In 2018, the School received a total of 1,419 applications.

**Student selection: applicants per year**
**IMT – BY THE NUMBERS**

The School sees the continuous involvement of renowned professors and researchers, who enrich its intellectual community with their study stays as visiting professors. International competitive procedures are used to select both professors and researchers.

The IMT community is composed by:
- 16 permanent faculty members (Professors)
- 35 researchers (Assistant Professors, Post-Docs)
- 12 Visiting Professors
- 148 PhD students (40% from abroad)
- More than 200 lecturers and speakers
- Around 60 guest scholars
- 29 permanent staff members

**PLACEMENT**

To date 299 IMT students have been awarded a PhD. Of these alumni, around 47% are working in universities and research institutes, 20% work for private companies, 19% for institutions.
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The IMT Alumni Association was established on May 30, 2016, with the aim to develop a strong bond between the school and its alumni around the world. Alumni will thus have the opportunity to return to the School to participate in research, serving as a point of reference for young students and contributing to the development of a network of international knowledge, with Lucca as its epicentre.

Maria Anna Madia, the Italian Minister of Public Administration and Simplification, has been named as Honorary President of the Association, having received a PhD from IMT in 2008, at the end of the School’s first doctorate cycle.

PROJECTS AND FUNDING
The acquisition of external funding for research projects by individual IMT professors or researchers is essential not only for the School’s prestige, but also as this represents a considerable portion of the annual budget. In 2015 and 2016, projects were launched for approximately 1.9 million euro and from 2011 to today the total amount is over 11 million euro. Many of these projects see a strong collaboration between the School and important international universities, research bodies, European institutions and Italian and foreign firms.
THE RESIDENTIAL CAMPUS

San Francesco - The campus is located in the former convent of San Francesco, a monumental complex built during the 13th century, which was recently subject of a massive restoration and functional adaptation project financed by the Cassa di Risparmio di Lucca Foundation.

The restoration work has brought back these buildings to their former glory, also restoring their function as places of study, meditation and hospitality. Over the centuries, in fact, the complex has hosted an important Philosophy and Theology School, cultural centre recognised at an international level. An atmosphere that still permeates the monastery cloisters and enriches the identity of the IMT campus, making it absolutely unique. Beginning in the 14th century, the church of San Francesco also served as Lucca’s “pantheon”. Here, next
to the remains of local aristocrats, monks and ordinary citizens, were also buried Castruccio Castracani and the famous composer Luigi Boccherini. The chapel of the Guinigi family is also part of the complex. There, many members of this great family were buried, including Ilaria Del Carretto, the young wife of Paolo Guinigi. The name of Ilaria is universally known for the beautiful funerary monument in marble crafted by Jacopo della Quercia in her honour. The recent restoration works revealed exactly where Ilaria was buried.

It took eight years to complete the restoration project, however, today, the San Francesco complex, covering an area of over 10,000 square metres, is finally open and ready to shares its treasures with Lucca and with the world.

The complex offers one hundred beds, comprising of rooms and apartments, together with modern research laboratories, equipped with the most sophisticated technologies. The "Ca 'Nova"", once used as a grain storage facility, has become a canteen and a recreation area. Classrooms are located in the former library, in the church of San Franceschetto and the Old Sacristy. The Guinigi Chapel is furnished as an Aula Magna. The church of San Francesco, a fine example of Franciscan architecture,
while preserving the works of art still in it, is now an auditorium that can accommodate up to 500 people.

**The Library** - Completing the campus, the IMT Library is located in what was formerly the Church of San Ponziano. The steel-glass structure built in the middle of the old church is the unique result of a major and courageous restoration project, which was awarded the Jury Prize at the Aluminium in Renovation European Award. The library, which houses a very large collection of books and journals also available in electronic format, is also open to the public.

**San Ponziano** - IMT’s Legal Headquarters and the central administration offices are located in the so-called Ex-Boccherini (piazza San Ponziano). The building, which until 2006 housed Lucca’s conservatory, offers a number of services, classrooms and recreation areas.
Main Campus
Piazza San Francesco 19
55100 Lucca

Legal Headquarters
Piazza San Ponziano 6
55100 Lucca

Library
Chiesa di San Ponziano
Piazza San Ponziano
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