ACCADEMIA
TEATRO ALLA SCALA

A.Y. 2025/2026
12th Edition

LIGHTING DESIGN

Ph: Arianna Ricotti

AT SCHOOL WITH LA SCALA

The La Scala Academy provides thorough, in-depth training to the various professional figures involved in the performing arts through its four departments: Music, Dance, Stagecraft, Management. Its broad curriculum ranges from basic and core training courses to advanced courses, Level 1 and 2 AFAM (advanced training in art, music, and dance) university-level academic diploma programs, Level 1 master courses, workshops, and summer programs. The highest level of instruction is ensured by Teatro alla Scala professionals, acclaimed performers, and prominent experts in the performing arts. The teaching method derives from the philosophy of learning by doing and prepares students for their future career through intensive daily exposure to the performing arts in a real-world context.

Ph: Noemi Ardesi

FOUNDING PARTNERS

TEATRO ALLA SCALA
MILANO

Regione Lombardia

Comune di Milano

CAMERA DI COMMERCIO MILANO MONZABRIANZA LODI

INTESA 🏛 SANPAOLO

MILANO per la SCALA
Ente Filantropico

fB Fondazione Bracco

FONDAZIONE BERTI
PER L'ARTE E LA SCIENZA
ONLUS

Techbau
Engineering & Construction

THE COURSE

Under the technical and artistic coordination of the Teatro alla Sala Lighting Designer, the course is taught by internationally recognized experienced professionals. Students will develop the competencies necessary for conceiving, designing, and managing lighting systems in interior and exterior spaces for theatre, television, cinema, and events.

The curriculum consists of lessons in theory, practical exercises, and an internship at Teatro alla Scala or other theatres, festivals, or events involving performing arts productions.

Course participants acquire in-depth knowledge of electrical engineering and practical experience in using the most innovative instruments in lighting design, from programming languages to 3D projection techniques, from video projection to lighting board technology, through an intensive process of computer design of lighting systems. The Academy provides a dedicated facility where students can put their theoretical knowledge into practical use.

Furthermore, as an integral part of the program, participants will be able to directly observe lighting checks for Teatro alla Scala performances. This is an exceptional opportunity to learn specific aspects of stage lighting, which will then be discussed in the classroom.

This coursework is complemented by lessons introducing participants to the history of theatre lighting as well as units focusing on career orientation, contract law, and workplace health and safety.
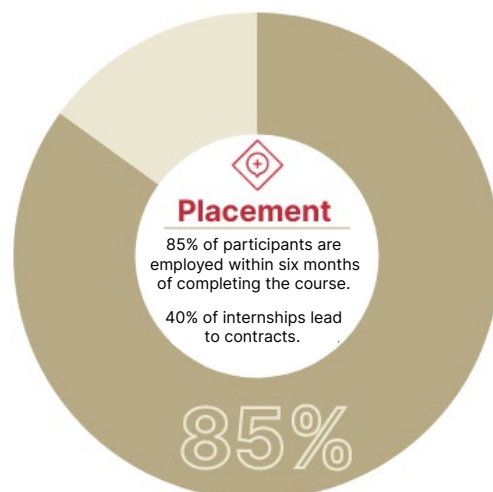
The 2025-2026 edition features a new unit on Vectorworks software, a tool for designing lighting systems, preparing all technical drawings and documentation so that the specific show can be preserved in the archives. Students will have the opportunity to design a fully complete lighting system and learn a range of technical techniques and tricks to adapt it to a variety of theatre spaces.

PROFESSIONAL FIGURE

The course provides professional competencies regarding the design and operation of lighting for a performance or event, embracing both technical aspects, supported by mastery of specific software tools, and aesthetic design, using lights as an instrument of artistic expression.

The competencies acquired during the course are applicable in various contexts, including the performing arts, events, cinema, television, fashion, etc.

Placement

85% of participants are employed within six months of completing the course.

40% of internships lead to contracts.

85%

WORKSHOP

The course includes a one-week workshop led by ETC Italia with technical sponsorship by Imagine Light, both leading companies in lighting design. The workshop provides a detailed overview of how to use a lighting board.

INTERNSHIP

Internship hosts include some of the most prestigious theatres (Teatro alla Scala first and foremost), festivals, and performing arts institutions, service companies, and businesses (including Laser Entertainment). This 150-hour experience gives participants on-the-job training to hone the skills and competencies acquired during the course and facilitates their entry into the job market.

CURRICULAR UNITS AND TEACHING STAFF

Theatre lighting design
Marco Filibeck, Andrea Giretti, Fabio Rossi, *lighting designers*

➡ Interpretation of lighting plans and type of performance/event

➡ Visual perspective and mechanisms of vision, study of shadow and its variation

➡ Lighting effects in stage design

➡ Perspective scheme of lighting system in the theatre

➡ Assistance in light checks

Lighting design and stage setup
Angelo Linzalata, *set and lighting designer*

➡ Case studies and analysis of lighting design process

➡ Study of the integration of lighting design, stage design, and stage setup

Theatre lighting design (introduction)
Mattia Carli, *lighting designer*

➡ Basic principles of lighting design for the performing arts

➡ Theatre lighting device types (floodlights)

Lighting design for musicals
Valerio Tiberi, *lighting designer*

➡ Basic principles of lighting design for the performing arts

➡ Theatre lighting device types (floodlights)

Lighting design for television
Daniele Savi, *director of photography*

➡ Lighting design for televised events

Architectural lighting
Elisabetta Campanelli, *lighting designer*

➡ The importance of understanding product technical specifications in lighting design

➡ Light-mediated spatial perception

➡ Elements of design and relevant regulations

➡ Lighting design for monuments and outdoor public spaces

➡ Lighting design for commercial spaces

➡ Lighting design for offices

➡ Thematic focus: museum lighting

Ph: Marta Morenghi

History of theatre lighting
Lighting experts

Practical exercises
Andrea Giretti, *lighting designer*
Academy staff

➡ Stage simulations

➡ Real-world theatre lighting design project

Lightboard technology
Oscar Frosio and Valerio Tiberi, *lighting designers*

➡ Main types of lightboard

➡ The coded language of lightboards

➡ Simultaneous lightboard operation techniques

➡ Lightboard recording and memorization techniques

Projection techniques
Mattia Diomedi, *video artist, set and lighting designer*

➡ Video projection systems

➡ Video projection equipment

➡ Audio-visual technology

➡ Theatre case studies

➡ Interaction between stage lighting and video projection

Light Art
Paolo Calafiore, *set and lighting designer*

◆ Light as narrative framework for multimedia installations and works of art

Ph: Giorgia Mazzoni

Stage design
Ruggero Bellini, *head of Teatro alla Scala set design workshops*

◆ Basic stagecraft

◆ Elements of theatre architecture, spaces, and services

◆ Stage characteristics and technical terminology

CORE UNITS

Electrical engineering (introduction and practice)
Massimo Guerci and Gianfranco Toscano, *lighting designer*

◆ The basic laws of electrical engineering

◆ Electrical systems

◆ Elements of electronics

◆ Stage and workshop practice

3D design
Ettore Fogliani, *lighting designer*

◆ Wysywyg software for the design and creation of lighting layers in multimedia contexts and in the performing arts

Vectorworks
Emanuele Agliati, *lighting designer*

◆ Use of Vectorworks software in theatre lighting design

Digitalization and technical documentation for a performance
Emanuele Agliati, *lighting designer*

◆ Theatre case studies

DMX language and lightboard programming
Oscar Frosio, *lighting designer*

◆ Programming language

◆ DMX protocol, DMX networks, RDM ethernet networks (switches, hubs), IP addresses

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Music appreciation
Fabio Sartorelli, *musicologist*

◆ Introduction to the history of opera

◆ Analysis of opera repertoire

Music education
Andrea Massimo Grassi, *coordinator of Accademia Teatro alla Scala*

◆ Introduction to the arts, trades, and languages of the performing arts

◆ Study of single-instrument parts, full score, and theatre terminology

Ph: Margherita Gnaccolini

SELF-ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Contract law
Gianfranco Daniele, *enterprise consultant*

◆ Types of enterprises

◆ Characteristics of self-employment

◆ The partita IVA [VAT number]: from the quote to the invoice (tax aspects)

◆ Basic business management for professionals

Workplace Safety
Sergio Antonio Tasca, *safety trainer*

◆ Legislative framework

◆ Rights and responsibilities of company figures

◆ Work equipment, movements, postures

◆ PPE and workplace emergency procedures

Career Orientation
Marco Pasotti, *Accademia Teatro alla Scala coordinator*

◆ Compiling the student's employment record

◆ CVs and cover letters

◆ Self-promotion skills

◆ Selection processes

Self-entrepreneurship
Rita Cannata, *HR specialist*

◆ Case studies for the creation of a business plan and a work plan for lighting design in the performing arts

KEY POINTS

TEATRO ALLA SCALA

A unique educational experience under the guidance of La Scala professionals, including close observation of lighting checks for performances on the season program.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Students will learn the many competencies necessary in designing a lighting system, drawing on physics, electrical engineering, and architecture.

GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

The competencies acquired during the course are applicable in various fields requiring the ability to operate lighting systems dynamically and efficiently: live performances, cinema, fashion, events.

CONSTANT PRACTICE

Practical activities are a key element of the curriculum, with exercises in the classroom and real-world activities in theatres.
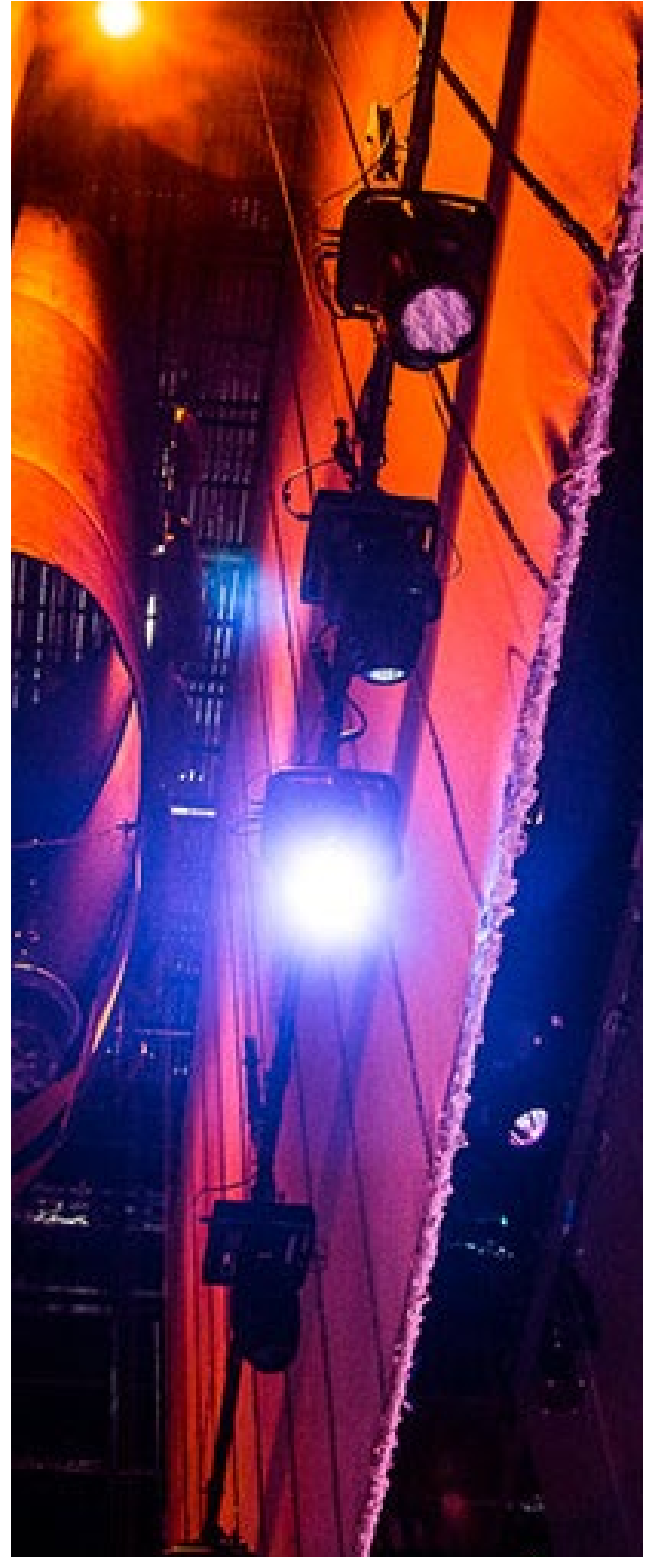
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

LENGHT

◇

November 20, 2025
to July 31, 2026

TOTAL HOURS

◇

530 total hours as follows:
◈ **380 hours** of classroom work and practical exercises
◈ **150 hours** of internship

ATTENDANCE

◇

Mandatory, Monday through Friday, six hours per day.

◇

Practical exercises and assistance at performances may occasionally take place in the evening or on weekends.

◇

Absences must be justified and may not exceed 25% of total hours or the participant will be expelled from the course. The Academy and Teaching Committee reserve the sole right to make exceptions to this rule.

COURSE LOCATION

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Accademia Teatro alla Scala
Via S. Marta, 18
20123 Milan

◇

Teatro alla Scala
Via Filodrammatici, 2
20121 Milan

◇

Laboratori Ansaldo
Via Bergognone, 34
20144 Milano

LANGUAGE

◇

The course is taught in Italian.

COURSE MATERIALS

Students will work with the latest lighting systems and equipment for the performing arts.

At the completion of each unit, participants will be given lesson packets and multidisciplinary slides. Each student must supply his or her own portable computer (recent model), which will be used in individual exercises during the year.

Ph: Costantino Lodola D'Oria

FAST TRACK

The Academy offers an online introductory workshop between the dates of May 5 and May 16, 2025. Those who score 29/30 or higher may bypass the selection process and enroll directly in the Lighting Design course. Visit bit.ly/WSlightingATS for more information and enrollment.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

◈ 18 to 35 years old on the first day of the course

◈ High school diploma

◈ Basic knowledge of AutoCAD 2D

◈ Basic knowledge of electrical systems and lighting design

◈ Basic knowledge of lighting for the performing arts

PREFERENTIAL FACTORS

◈ University degree in set design

◈ Experience in lighting production and/or lighting design and electrical systems for the performing arts

Ph: Benedetta Falena

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process consists of:

◈ a **written test**

◈ an **interview**

◈ an **analysis of lighting design** based on stage photographs

◇
WHEN

he selection process will take place in two sessions: **May 19–21, 2025 and October 13–15, 2025** (dates may be subject to change).

Those who enroll in and pass the first session will be eligible for a tuition discount. Those who do not pass the first session will have the option of enrolling in the second session but will lose the right to a tuition discount.

◇
WHERE

Both selection sessions will take place in Milan in the Academy facilities at Via Santa Marta 18. The Academy is centrally located not far from Piazza Duomo and Teatro alla Scala. It is easily accessible from the metro stations Cordusio and Duomo (M1), Sant'Ambrogio (M2), and Missori and Duomo (M3). Once you have arrived at the Academy you will find directions to the waiting room for the written test and the interview. Plan the trip so that you will have an ample time margin to arrive on time for your appointment.

◇
HOW

An email with the date and time of the selection process will be sent after the application deadline. The interview will take approximately 30 minutes.

◈ **Written test**

The written test will assess your knowledge of lighting design, stagecraft, and electrical systems.

◈ **Interview**

The interview assesses your competencies in various fields, motivations, and expectations. It should be seen as an opportunity to demonstrate your qualities and strengths. It will be structured as follows: ◈ your CV ◈ Your motivations for choosing the Lighting Design course at the La Scala Academy ◈ Your interest in musical theatre.

◇
WHAT TO BRING

A valid identity document. Suggestions: ◈ Make sure you are able to clearly articulate why you want to study Lighting Design at the La Scala Academy ◈ Rehearse how you will illustrate your motivations and soft skills during the interview so you will be more effective and stimulating. ◈ ◈ Research the history and activities of the La Scala Academy and Teatro alla Scala. ◈ Do not be afraid to ask questions.

The Selection Committee will determine who is eligible for admission to the course, admitting the top candidates. If one or more of these candidates chooses not to attend the course, the next-ranked eligible candidate(s) may be admitted. The Examining Committee's decisions are final and incontestable. No explanations or justifications of its decisions will be provided.

COSTS

The fee for participation in the selection process **€100 (including VAT)**, to be paid online during the application process. The selection process fee may be paid by major credit/debit cards or credit transfer. The Academy uses the MyBank service (for a list of participating banks, see: https://mybank.eu/participating-banks-and-psps/).

Tuition for the course is **€6,920**, including VAT (discounted by **€250** for those passing the March session of the selection process).

Tuition shall be paid in three installments via SEPA Direct Debit (SDD)* as follows.

If the Italian Ministry of Finance and the Economy raises VAT, the above amounts will be adjusted accordingly.

* Those who do not have a bank account in the SEPA zone, please contact the office by phone or email (contact info at end of document).

① 1ST INSTALLMENT

for those admitted
in the March selection session:
€3,244 by June 30, 2025

for those admitted
in the October selection session:
€3,494 by November 14, 2025

② 2ND INSTALLMENT

€1,713 by January 30, 2026

③ 3RD INSTALLMENT

€1,713 by April 30, 2026

Ph: Annachiara Di Stefano

MERIT LOANS

The Academy has underwritten agreements with certain banks to ensure that students in good standing can benefit from other forms of financial aid to cover tuition or lodging costs.

For further information, please contact the teaching office:

segreteria2@accademialascala.it

Ph: Matilde Capelli

ADMISSION PROCESS

Application to the selection process must be completed **by April 30, 2025** to participate in the first selection session or **by September 26, 2025** to participate in the second selection session.

Please follow the steps below to apply:

① ENROLLMENT PLATFORM LOGIN OR REGISTRATION

Log in to the Academy enrollment platform at https://iscrizioni.accademialascala.it (if you do not already have login credentials from a previous application to another Academy course, you will need to register first). You will apply for the selection process in a subsequent step.

Please enter all information accurately. Make a note of your email address and password because they will be your login credentials [username and password] for your personal page.

You will be asked to accept the Academy privacy policy.

② APPLICATION PROCESS

The Academy enrollment platform will guide you through the application process.

③ ACCEPTANCE OF GENERAL CONTRACT CONDITIONS

The next step is to download and sign (either digitally or by printing and scanning) the "Condizioni di contratto per la partecipazione" [Contract conditions for participation (in the selection process)]. Upload the signed document where indicated. You must complete this step to continue the application process.

④ ATTACHMENTS

You will be asked to attach the following documents:

◆ A detailed, signed CV ending with the following statements:

1. I, the undersigned, aware of criminal penalties provided in Article 76 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445 of December 28, 2000 (D.P.R. 445/2000) in the case of false statements and acts, declare, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of said Presidential Decree, that all information contained in this CV is truthful

2. I authorize processing of the personal data I have provided for the purposes inherent to using my CV per Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 (D.Lgs. 196/2003) and the European General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679)

◆ A digital photo of the applicant (passport size)

⑤ APPLICATION FEE

You will be asked to pay a fee of €100 (including VAT) to apply to the selection process. Payment may be made by credit or debit card or credit transfer. The payment must be made online during the application process (do not close the page and attempt to pay elsewhere).

⑥

COMPLETION OF PROCEDURE

Once the above steps have been completed, a summary will be generated of all information provided. You must print and sign this summary, scan it, and attach it where indicated. This completes the application for the selection process and all forms will be sent to the Academy Teaching Office [Segreteria Didattica]. Please follow all instructions on your screen or received via email from the enrollment platform.

Make sure all the information you provide is correct. Any inaccuracies will result in automatic rejection of your application.

The Academy reserves the exclusive right to accept applications submitted after the above deadlines but before the beginning of the selection process.

The Academy also reserves the right to postpone the application timeframe, the selection process, and the beginning of the course.

⑦

NOTIFICATIONS

Candidates will be invited to the selection process by email after the application deadline. Once the selection process has been completed, those admitted to the course will receive an email with instructions for enrolling in the course.

Admitted students must enroll via their personal page on iscrizioni.accademialascala.it by the following deadlines:

◇

FIRST SELECTION SESSION
Results announced on or before
May 30, 2025

Enrollment no later than
June 6, 2025

◇

SECOND SELECTION SESSION
Results announced on or before
October 24, 2025
Enrollment no later than
October 31, 2025

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Applicants who pass the selection process and are not residents of an EU member state must submit all documents required by law on or before the day that lessons begin (application for residence permit for reasons of study [permesso di soggiorno per motivi di studio]).

FINAL CERTIFICATION

Students who successfully complete the course with attendance of at least 75% and pass the final exam will receive:

➔ a **Diploma issued by the Academy**

➔ a **Certificate of Competency issued by the Region of Lombardy.** The competence certification system allows each person to enhance their human and professional capital in terms of competences, knowledge and skills

➔ a **Certificate of Completion of the Workplace Safety course** (8 hours)

ALUMNI

Students who complete the course may join the community of La Scala Academy Alumni, a platform providing a series of exclusive services to former Academy students: job offers, networking, post-Academy training initiatives, mentorships, events, project incubators, as well as special rates and discounts.

Find out more at alumni.accademialascala.it

Ph: Marco Ayala

MEET THE STAFF

Course coordinator	OPEN DAY
infocorsi@accademialascala.it	*Register at* bit.ly/OpendayATS

For information on the application process: Giovanna Coletta - Student Services Office

📞 +39 02 85451160/22   ✉ segreteria.didattica@accademialascala.it