

Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Mechanics (EDME)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding.

Date of entry into force: 1st March 2022

The EDME Doctoral Program Committee,

taking into account art. 3 al. 3 and 6 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate conferred by the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne of January 26, 1998¹ and 2 al. 4 ch. 3 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne of November 21, 2005²,

decrees:

1. Field of Application

The regulation concerning the doctoral program in Mechanics (hereinafter: EDME program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDME program as well as the candidacy exam for the formal admission to start the doctoral thesis in the EDME program of the EPFL. Furthermore, it reiterates and details the application of certain essential rules concerning the doctorate at the EPFL.

2. Study Plan

- 2.1 The study plan of the EDME program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).
- 2.2 At least **4 ECTS of these 12 ECTS credits** must be obtained during the first year of doctoral studies.
- 2.3 At least **4 ECTS out of 12 ECTS credits** must be obtained from doctoral courses offered by EDME program (or courses recommended by the EDME program).
The remaining 8 ECTS credits may be chosen among Master and doctoral courses offered at EPFL or external courses.
For external courses of a Swiss or a foreign university, the equivalence of the credits is set on a case-by-case basis. The request must be approved by the thesis Director and then the Director of the doctoral program according to the

¹ RS 414.133.2

² EPFL LEX 2.4.1

conditions set by EDME program. The allowed credits coming from Master courses are limited to 4 (additional Master level course credits may be attained, upon authorization of the EDME program Director).

- 2.4 **8 ECTS credits** (including the 4 ECTS credits from doctoral courses offered by EDME program) must be chosen in agreement with the thesis Director.
- 2.5 Up to **4 ECTS credits** – but not those required for the first year – can be chosen by the doctoral candidate from all EPFL doctoral course books (including transferable skills courses) without the approval of neither the Program Committee nor the thesis Director (Doctoral commission decision, Cdoct 107, May 2015).

3. Candidacy Exam

- 3.1 To be formally admitted to start a doctoral thesis at the EPFL, the doctoral candidate must successfully pass the candidacy exam at the end of the 1st year of doctoral studies (art. 6 and 8 al. 1 let. a of the Ordinance on the Doctorate and art. 8 al. 1 and 2 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the EPFL). The candidacy exam consists in an oral presentation of approximately thirty minutes by the candidate about his-her research proposal. It is followed by questions from the jury. The candidate must demonstrate the originality of the thesis subject, the objectives and methods envisaged, as well as the hypothesis and related scientific arguments, including the general context of the thesis subject, state of the art of research in the area, position of the doctoral candidate's work within the research area, plan and methodology for the research project, as well as the timeframe for its completion.
- 3.2 The jury of the candidacy exam is composed of a President (who is a member of the EDME program), the thesis Director and the thesis co-Director (if applicable), one expert (preferentially from EPFL, external to the laboratory of the candidate and the thesis Director), and optionally a second expert.
- 3.3 After jury deliberations, the jury President verbally informs the candidate of the result of the candidacy exam. Possible jury recommendations are communicated in writing thereafter. The candidate then receives from the EPFL, a decision to formally admit or refuse the start of a doctoral thesis at the EPFL (art. 8 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate).

4. Annual Report

During the thesis work, the doctoral candidate has the obligation to submit an annual progress report each year, starting one year after his-her candidacy exam. The candidate submits a summary of the work progress, as well as a point-by-point self-evaluation. In parallel, the thesis Director (and co-Director when applicable) complete an analogous assessment of the work progress. After a joint discussion the report is cosigned by the candidate and the thesis Director (and co-Director when applicable). The candidate then also discusses the progress and wider context with the mentor and they confirm to have met in the annual report, without reporting the content of the discussion which is confidential. Finally, the program Director will add his-her signature to the report. The candidate ensures that the above process is finalized within one month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at the EPFL).

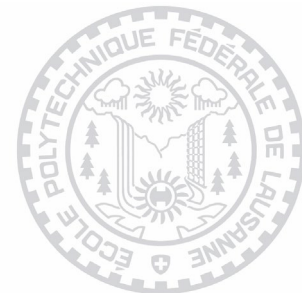
5. Mentoring

- 5.1 Within 3 months after enrolment, the doctoral program assigns a mentor from its pool to each doctoral candidate. The candidates may change mentor with the agreement of the program Director. The mentor remains anonymous with respect to the thesis Director to ensure confidentiality (it is up to the candidate to keep this anonymity or not).
- 5.2 The mentor offers guidance to doctoral candidates regarding academic or career choices, as well as the resolution of any difficulties met within the context of their training, in particular regarding the preparation of their thesis or cases of conflict.
- 5.3 The candidates can contact their mentor whenever they deem it necessary. The candidate and the mentor confer at least once a year as part of the annual report. Exchanges between candidates and their mentor should remain confidential unless both parties agree to disclose to the program Director.
- 5.4 It is recommended that the candidate's mentor does not participate in nor presides over the jury for either the candidacy or the oral exam.

6. Final Provisions

The present regulation shall take effect on the 1st of March 2022 and replaces any prior EDME doctoral program regulation.

For the EDME Doctoral Program Committee:
Prof. Dominique Pioletti
Program Director
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne



For the Doctoral School:
Prof. Luisa Lambertini
Associate Vice President for Postgraduate Education
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne