

1st September 2014, status as at 1st January 2017

The Direction of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, based on Art. 12 of the [FIT Act](#)¹ based on Art. 11 of the [Ordinance on the evaluation of Bachelor and Master studies at EPFL](#)² hereby adopts the following:

Article 1 Goal

This Directive sets the rules governing the teaching languages used in Bachelor and Master curricula, in order to prepare students to master scientific communications at international level.³

Article 2 Bachelor

¹ The main language for Bachelor studies is French. However, this curriculum must contribute to the acquisition of English language skills for transition to Master studies.

² *Repealed.*⁴

³ In the foundation year, a maximum of one course per semester may be delivered in English only.

⁴ In the Bachelor cycle, the majority of courses in both years are in French.

⁵ These restrictions do not apply to supervision of exercises and practicals by teaching assistants or to reference materials.

⁶ Courses in the humanities and social sciences are not included in the account and may be delivered in French and/or in English.

Article 3 Master

The main language for Master studies is English. However, the Sections are entitled to adjust the share of the English and French languages according to their respective usefulness in the students' future profession.

Article 4 Courses and Exams

¹ Teaching languages are indicated in the course descriptions.

² The language used for tests is governed by Art. 11 of the [Ordinance on the evaluation of Bachelor and Master studies at EPFL](#)².

¹ **Art. 12 Languages - FIT Act**

¹ The two FITs shall provide instruction in German, French and Italian and, depending on usage in teaching and research English as well.

² The Executive Board may authorise other languages of instruction.

³ The two FITs shall foster national languages and encourage the understanding of associated cultural values.

² **Art. 11 Language used for tests - [Ordinance on the Evaluation of Bachelor and Master Studies at EPFL](#)**

¹ The language used for tests is the same as that used for the teaching of the particular branch.

² Students are entitled to give answers in French in tests prepared in English. Subject to a written request, the teaching staff member may authorise students to give answers in English in tests prepared in French.

³ Amended on 18.07.2016

⁴ Amended on 18.07.2016

Article 5 Entry into force

¹ This Directive, which entered into force on 1st September 2014, was revised on 18th July 2016. Version 2.2 entered into force on 1st January 2017.

² The Directive on languages, version 1.0 dated 19th April 2004, is hereby abrogated.

On behalf of the EPFL Direction:

Patrick Aebischer:
President

Susan Killias:
General Counsel

Comment: this Directive has been reviewed as part of the 2017 reorganisation. No modifications were made to this Directive as a result of the review.