

Directive concerning the activities of professors emeritus

LEX 4.2.6

9th February 2009, status as at 01.01.2024

The Direction of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne,

based on Art. 14, para. 5 of the Ordonnance du Conseil des EPF sur le corps professoral des écoles polytechniques fédérales,

hereby adopts the following:

Preamble

EPFL wishes to encourage its professors emeritus to maintain close ties with it by being present on campus, by making their institutional and professional knowledge available, as well as through consulting, research and publishing activities.

This policy is driven by several arguments: respect for colleagues who have dedicated years to the institution and because of their professional stature, the opportunity to continue benefitting from their experience and the positive impact on both the image of EPFL and future recruitments.

Additionally, professors emeritus contribute to the bibliometric parameters of EPFL, for the benefit of rankings and budget allocations.

Article 1 Purpose

¹ This Directive applies to retired professors in accordance with the definition and provisions set out in Article 14 of the Ordonnance du Conseil des EPF sur le corps professoral.

² Continuation of employment beyond the legal retirement age is dealt with by Articles 14a and 14b of the Ordonnance du Conseil des EPF sur le corps professoral and by the “Directive concernant le maintien en poste de professeures et professeurs au-delà de l’âge légal de départ en retraite” – LEX 4.2.9.

Article 2 General activities

¹ Besides carrying out their personal research and publication activities, professors emeritus may, by agreement with the Dean of the relevant School¹, contribute to research projects in an advisory capacity.

² Such research projects are the responsibility of an EPFL unit which ensures their management in accordance with the rules applicable at EPFL.

³ Unless specifically approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the professor emeritus may not bind EPFL by means of their signature.

Article 3 Teaching assignments

¹ Provided that neither the renewal and rejuvenation of the faculty body, nor its teaching obligations are jeopardised, the Direction may award teaching assignments to professors emeritus for a maximum period of five years, in accordance with Article 17a of the Federal Act on the Federal Institutes of Technology.

² Unless otherwise provided in this Directive, the provisions of the “Directive concerning the allocation of teaching duties at EPFL” (LEX 4.3.1) shall apply to professors emeritus.

¹ The term Dean refers to both School Deans and Directors of Colleges.
Version 3.0

³ Within the framework of the above-mentioned teaching assignments and with the approval of the relevant Section Director, professors emeritus may supervise semester or Master projects.

⁴ With the consent of the Associate Vice President for Postgraduate Education, professors emeritus are entitled to co-direct doctoral theses in accordance with Article 10 of the Ordinance of 26 January 1998 on the doctorate conferred by the Ecole polytechnique fédérale (LEX 2.4.0.1).

Article 4 Other tasks

¹ The President as well as the Vice President for Academic Affairs may, in agreement with or at the request of the School Deans, entrust the professors emeritus with other specific tasks based on a fixed-term appointment.

² The terms of the appointment shall specify, in particular, the description of the task entrusted, the remuneration, the EPFL resources made available, any intellectual property issues as referred to in Article 7., para. 2 and 3 of this Directive, as well as data protection issues.

Article 5 Place of work

¹ Provided that suitable premises are available, EPFL may make places of work available to professors emeritus to facilitate their activities.

² A professor emeritus who wishes to use a place of work shall contact the Dean of their School, who will make a decision.

³ The place of work shall be made available within the perimeter of the professor emeritus' School and shall be provided in the form of a shared workspace.

⁴ The allocation of a place of work shall be reviewed and, if necessary, renewed every two years.

Article 6 Availability of resources

¹ In accordance with the provisions of the "Directive on the Use of EPFL Electronic Infrastructure" (LEX 6.1.4), professors emeritus keep their EPFL email address.

² With a Camipro card, professors emeritus may have access to library services and buildings required for their activities.

³ Any other resources or services to be made available to them shall require a specific, case-by-case decision by the Dean of the relevant School.

Article 7 Obligations

¹ A professor emeritus who is paid based on a teaching or service assignment or who benefits from resources made available by EPFL undertakes to mention EPFL as the institution to which they belong in all their research and teaching publications.

² The terms of appointment drawn up with professors emeritus shall provide for the transfer to EPFL of the intellectual property rights they generate in the course of all the activities they perform for EPFL.

³ If EPFL makes a profit by exploiting such intellectual property, EPFL will compensate the professor emeritus according to the rules applicable to EPFL employees (EPFL Directive on Grants, Research Contracts and Technology Transfer – DSCRTT, LEX 3.4.1).

⁴ Professors emeritus are also required to maintain the confidentiality of all business affairs and information to which they have access on EPFL premises or in relation to all the activities they perform for EPFL.

⁵ Any private consulting engagements of the professor emeritus shall be treated as strictly private and separate from the activities the professor emeritus performs for EPFL. Such private engagements are in no way binding on EPFL and the professor emeritus is responsible for avoiding any confusion in this regard vis-à-vis third parties.

Article 8 Entry into force

¹ The present Directive entered into force on 9th February 2009 and was revised on 15th March 2021 (Version 2.1) and on 1st January 2024 (Version 3.0).

² Version 3.0 (01.01.2024) nullifies and replaces all previous versions.

Article 9 Transitional provisions

All agreements that were concluded prior to the entry into force of this Directive in relation to the activities of professors emeritus within EPFL as well as the resources made available to them by EPFL shall be adapted accordingly. These adaptations shall generally be made on the expiry of the said agreements, but no later than within two years of 01.01.2024.

On behalf of the EPFL Direction:

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