

Directive on the Extension of the Pilot Project for Deferred Examinations at EPFL

LEX 2.6.9

As of 1st September 2026

The Direction of the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne,

based on Art. 3, para. 1, letter a and b of the Ordonnance sur l'EPFL et l'EPFZ of 13 November 2003 (RS 414.110.37),

based on Art. 10 of the Ordinance on study evaluation at EPFL (RS 414.132.2),

hereby adopts the following:

Article 1 Subject

This Directive defines the terms for extending the pilot project for examinations organised for students who have been unable to take the regular examination ("deferred examinations").

Article 2 Aim and rollout of the pilot project

¹ The aim of the pilot project is to trial the introduction of examinations that can be sat in a deferred manner for students who have missed the original test because they were unable to sit it. The introduction of these deferred exams is intended to offer, in the initial phase of the Bachelor's program at EPFL, an alternative to the current expectation of having to sit the next regular exam session in order to pass the subject in question.

² For the exam sessions of the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 academic years, the deferred exam will be offered to students of the preparatory cycle of the bachelor's program, including the levelling course (cours de mise à niveau, MAN).

³ At the end of the 2027-2028 academic year, the EPFL Direction will decide whether the deferred exams can be made permanent from the 2028-2029 academic year for the first-year preparatory programme and the levelling course, and whether this system should be extended to Bachelor's and Master's programs.

⁴ The school's assessment will be based in particular on how it observes students behaving with regard to deferred examinations in general, taking into account, inter alia, the number of enrolments and the attendance rate at the examinations, as well as the specific organisational ramifications on the school's side, especially for teachers. The Section Directors' Conference (CDS) will make a decision on this evaluation.

Article 3 Conditions for deferred examinations

¹ As part of the implementation of the project as set out in Art. 2, para. 2, students may sit deferred examinations if they were absent from the regular exam and could justify their incapacity within the meaning of Art. 10 of the Ordinance on study evaluation at EPFL (RS 414.132.2).

² To attend one or more deferred exam sessions, the student concerned must register for them. If they fail to register, they will receive a definitive grade of M (missed) for the subject in their grade report.

³ For deferred term subject examinations, students can register at the student service desk within the same three-day period allocated for sending proof of absence from the examination(s) in question. For deferred end-of-semester examinations, students must register directly with the

teacher, within the same period of three days required for submitting proof of absence from the examination(s) in question. Registration for deferred examinations is final.

⁴ Deferred term subject examinations shall take place in the weeks following the regular examination session. Deferred end-of-semester examinations take place during the teaching period or, for examinations in the last week of the semester, in the week before the start of the regular examination session at the latest.

⁵ EPFL shall determine the date of the postponed exam, excluding any other potential replacement exam at a later date or any consideration for the personal circumstances of the student. Students will be informed of the date within a reasonable period of time.

⁶ Notwithstanding Article 11, para. 1 of the Internal directive concerning examinations at EPFL (LEX 2.6.1), the teacher may be represented by a reference person from the Propaedeutic Centre (CePro) during the deferred term subject examination. If necessary, the teacher must be reachable by telephone. They may delegate this responsibility to another teacher, who must be approved by the Associate Vice Presidency for Education ahead of the deferred exam.

⁷ Pursuant to the Ordinance on study evaluation at EPFL, students who fail to take the deferred exam without any proof of incapacity will receive a grade of NA (not acquired) for the subject.

Article 4 Internal organisation

¹ The teacher responsible for a written exam in a term subject will be supported by the departments of the Associate Vice Presidency for Education, in particular by the CePro, with the planning, invigilation and digitisation of the deferred term subject exam. Teachers shall provide the Associate Vice Presidency for Education, within the time limits set by the latter, with the various information and documents necessary for the proper organisation of the deferred examination.

² The teacher in charge independently organises deferred end-of-semester examinations, as well as deferred oral examinations for term subjects.

³ The Associate Vice Presidency for Education shall ensure compliance with the Directive.

Article 5 Entry into force and validity period

This Directive shall enter into force on 1st September 2026, with effect until 1st August 2028.

On behalf of the EPFL Direction:

The President:

The Director of Legal Affairs:

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