

Directives for the composition of the candidacy exam committee

Usual composition (at least 3 members):

- 1) **President:** An actual member of the EDAM [program Commission](#) (tenured EPFL professor) must act as president & be external to the candidate's lab.
- 2) **Thesis director (+co-director if applicable):** EPFL-accredited professor or MER (Ordinance Art.10)
- 3) **Examiner:** EPFL faculty, external to the candidate's lab
- 4) **Additional examiner (optional):** external to the candidate's lab

The candidacy exam committee must be composed by experts who are not members of the same family. If an expert is a post-doc, she/he must be a post-doc since min. 5 years.

Only needed if the thesis director is not an EPFL-accredited professor:

Co-director: must be an EPFL-accredited professor

Other requirements/information:

- President must be impartial and not involved in project.
- EPFL-accredited professors include assistant professors.
- EPFL PhD program representative (mentor) may act simultaneously as president and co-director but should not be involved in thesis project.
- PhD program representative (mentor) typically may act as 'internal expert' if he is not nominated as president.
- All members of the committee should be entitled to direct a thesis.
- At least two committee members should not be scientific collaborators on the thesis project.
- Maximally two experts from outside EPFL are allowed (exceptions can be requested in case of interdisciplinary projects).
- Note that the size of the committee is limited to five people ([Ordonnance Art. 14](#)), except if a co-director is present! As a consequence, the PhD program representative and/or the 'expert within EPFL/ETHZ' typically take on several functions.