

EPFL – Doctoral School

Doctoral Program in Materials
Science and Engineering
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Courses information

Study plan

The study plan of the EDMX program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). The **total credit requirement** may be obtained by successfully passing doctoral courses and Master courses (max. 4) in EDMX, in other doctoral program of EPFL, or in a Swiss or foreign University with the approval of your supervisor and the EDMX program director.

During the first year of the doctoral studies, you must obtain at least **4 ECTS credits of these 12 credits**.

A maximum of 4 ECTS can be obtained in Master Level during the thesis.

No credits are given for Bachelor courses.

Transferable skills courses are open to all doctoral programs. These courses are not subject to the approval of the doctoral programs. A maximum of 4 credits can be obtained and will count from the second year.

EDMX courses

The [EDMX coursebook](#) webpage provides with the full range of courses offered in EDMX with their description on a PDF document.

Each upcoming course is announced per email to our PhD students with the related schedule and is mentioned on the [EDMX courses schedule](#) webpage. Please register only to the listed courses to avoid unwanted information on your statement of results.

Course registration for doctoral students

You have two possibilities:

- Through the portal IS-Academia, you can manage and consult your registrations for the current academic year. The registration implies automatically to take the exam. If you do not want to take the exam, please tick the appropriate field.
- You can also send us an email to edmx@epfl.ch and we will register you.

Please note that your thesis director must imperatively give you his consent to the chosen courses.

For some courses, such as CCMX courses, it could be required not to register on IS-Academia as usual. This specific information will be mentioned in our email and on the [EDMX courses schedule](#) webpage.

Deadlines for registration

Please register to a course before it begins. For doctoral courses you can do it until the examination. For Master courses you have until the second Friday of the semester to register.

If you miss this deadline, you will no longer be able to register on IS-Academia. You will need to go in person to the [Student Services Desk](#) and pay a late-fee registration (CHF 50.-).

You can cancel a registration within 24 hours on IS-Academia and afterwards through the administrator of your doctoral program until the examination for a doctoral course and until the tenth week of the semester for a Master course.

MSE-470 “Seminar series on advances in materials” - Mandatory Master course during the first year
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According to EDOC/EDMX rules, every PhD student has to attend 10 seminar talks (7 for EMPA Thun) during their first year before passing the candidacy exam.

Type of teaching

The course **MSE-470 “Seminar series on advances in materials”** consists of 12-14 scientific talks per semester. The attendance to all these talks is strongly recommended. The students are expected to take their own notes and do literature research concerning the background of the talks (presentation slides will not be distributed).

Credits / Form of examination

There will be one final written examination. For this purpose, the 12-14 talks will be divided into three groups (according to their topic) of 4-5 talks, which will be announced towards the end of the semester. In the examination, the students will choose one of the three blocks of questions (one for each of the group of talks). Accordingly, the students are expected to prepare in depth for one of these three groups of talks, that is, for the content of 4-5 of the seminar talks, using their own notes and doing literature research on the topics of the respective talks.

This course gives 2 Master ECTS - be aware that a maximum of 4 Master ECTS is allowed according to the rules of EDMX. Please inform us if you want to obtain the credits and pass the exam. In both cases, you have to collect the signatures on the attendance list form distributed by the EDMX Office.

For external Students

This course can be followed in your Institute with the approval of your thesis director and/or of the Institute representative, however without the possibility to obtain credits:

Prof. Roland Logé for Microcity, Neuchâtel
Prof. Patrick Hoffmann for EMPA, Thun
Prof. Klaus Kern for Max-Planck-Institute, Stuttgart
Prof. Frank Nüesch for EMPA, Dübendorf
Prof. Helena Van Swygenhoven for PSI, Villigen

Courses followed in external institutes or universities
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You can also attend courses as Summer school or Winter school given in external institutes or universities. Please get firstly the approval of your supervisor and then send us the program of the course you want to follow. We will submit it to the EDMX program director for credit approbation. Take note that workshops do not give credits. If no examination is provided by the organizer, you will need to be examined by your thesis director or co-director on that topic.

Doctoral courses

The coursebook gives the description of all doctoral courses scheduled during the current academic year.

For relevant information about courses schedules, as well as courses recommended by your program, please consult the home page of your doctoral program.

- [PhD Course Book](#)
- [PhD Bloc Course](#) (courses given over consecutive days)
- [Transferable skills courses](#)
- [Summer & Winter Schools](#)

Evaluation of the EDOC courses through IS-Academia

At the end of each course followed, you will receive an automatic request by email asking to complete an online evaluation. Please take time to complete it. The evaluation of teaching plays a significant role in improving the quality of student learning.

Academic Registration Form for Doctoral Students / FRAC
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Every six months you will be prompted by an automatic email to verify your personal and academic details on IS-Academia through the Academic Registration Form named FRAC. The access to your annual registration certificate and other grades transcript will be released once you have submitted the form.
