

**Director: Professor Martin Gijs**

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## Doctoral Program in Microsystems and Microelectronics Candidacy Examination Procedure and Regulations

1. The candidacy examination of a PhD candidate can be held between 8 and 12 months after her/his admission date, upon agreement with the thesis advisor. The examination must be completed within 12 months after the admission date, at the latest. The candidate is required to obtain a minimum of 4 credits during her/his first year in the doctoral program (\*).
  2. The candidacy examination is held as a closed (non-public) oral examination, in front of a jury that is composed of:
    - The thesis advisor and co-advisor, if applicable
    - One EDMI Program affiliated member, who is entitled to act as jury president (see list of “**EDMI Thesis Jury Presidents**” on the website)
    - One external member from another laboratory, who is qualified to be thesis advisor or thesis co-advisor.
  3. The PhD candidate, with help of his/her thesis advisor, finds the appropriate jury members.
  4. The date, time and place of the candidacy examination is also determined by the PhD candidate and is communicated to the doctoral program secretariat and to the jury members in writing (jury proposal), **at least 30 days before the candidacy examination.**
  5. The examination (in closed session) consists of a 20 minute presentation by the candidate on her/his thesis research topic, followed by 20 minutes of additional questions by the jury members. The entire examination procedure (including closed deliberation of the jury) shall not exceed 60 minutes. The student is expected to demonstrate mastery of key subjects and scientific knowledge, general understanding and ability to carry out research.
  6. After deliberation, the jury can either pass or fail the candidate. The result is communicated to the director of the program by the **president of the jury within 3 days following the examination and to the candidate in writing and with reasons for failure (if applicable) within 7 days.** Decision advised to SAC via IS Academia within 14 days. In case of failure, the candidate is given a maximum of 3 months in which s/he has to prepare again and come back to take the examination. A second failure leads to immediate dismissal from the doctoral program.
  7. The final decision is taken by a majority of the jury after its deliberation. If the jury cannot come to majority decision, the thesis director will decide the success or failure of the exam. The jury will define, where applicable, the conditions to be fulfilled by the candidate in re-taking the exam and will fix the time schedule.
  8. A written record of the examination process (including the date, the official verdict and the signatures of jury members) is to be kept by the doctoral program secretariat.
- (\*) The total number of doctoral course credits required is 12 (twelve). The candidate is required to obtain a minimum of 4 credits during her/his first year in the doctoral program. In case the candidate was admitted to the program in the middle of a semester, s/he is requested to complete the course credits during the first two full semesters at EPFL. If 4 credits are not yet completed by the time of the candidacy examination, the registration record of the candidate showing ongoing courses is taken as evidence.