

Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in mechanics (EDME)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding.

1st of May 2014

The EDME Doctoral Program Commission,

taking into account art. 3 al. 3 and 6 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate conferred by the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne of January 26, 1998¹ and 2 al. 4 ch. 3 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne of November 21, 2005,²

decrees:

1. Field of Application

The regulation concerning the EDME doctoral program (hereinafter: EDME program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDME program as well as the candidacy examination for the formal admission to start the doctoral thesis in the EDME program of the EPFL. Furthermore it reiterates and details the application of certain essential rules concerning the doctorate at the EPFL.

2. Study Plan

- 2.1 The study plan of the EDME program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).
- 2.2 At least **4 ECTS credits of these 12 credits** must be obtained during the first year of doctoral studies.
- 2.3 At least 4 ECTS credits out of 12 must be obtained from doctoral courses offered by EDME program (or courses recommended by the EDME program). The

¹ RS 414.133.2

² EPFL LEX 2.4.1

remaining 8 credits may be chosen among master and doctoral courses in EPFL graduate and other doctoral programs, or external courses upon agreement and with due recognition by the thesis director and the EDME program commission. The allowed credits coming from master courses are limited to 4 (additional master level course credits may be attained, upon authorization of the EDME program director). 8 ECTS credits must be chosen in agreement with the thesis director, while the other 4 may be at the choice of the doctoral candidate.

3. Candidacy Exam

- 3.1 To be formally admitted to start a doctoral thesis at the EPFL, the candidate must successfully pass the candidacy examination at the end of his/her 1st year of doctoral studies (art. 6 and 8 al. 1 let. a of the Ordinance on the Doctorate and art. 8 al. 1 and 2 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the EPFL). The candidacy examination is an oral presentation of approximately thirty minutes by the candidate about his/her research proposal. It is followed by questions from the jury. The candidate must demonstrate the originality of his/her thesis subject, the objectives and methods envisaged, as well as the hypothesis and related scientific arguments, including the general context of the thesis subject, state of the art of research in the area, position of the doctoral candidate's work within the research area, plan and methodology for the research project as well as the timeframe for its completion.
- 3.2 The jury of the candidacy exam is composed of a president (member of the EDME commission, preferentially the mentor), the thesis director and the thesis co-director (if applicable), 1 expert (preferentially from EPFL, external to the laboratory of the candidate and the thesis director), and a second expert optional.
- 3.3 After jury deliberations, the thesis director verbally informs the candidate of the result of the candidacy exam. Possible jury recommendations are communicated in writing thereafter. The candidate then receives from the EPFL, a decision to formally admit or refuse the start of a doctoral thesis at the EPFL (art. 8 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate).

4. Annual Report

During his/her doctoral thesis work, the doctoral candidate has the obligation to submit an annual report, the first time one year after his/her candidacy exam, on the progress of his/her work to the thesis director, who in turn provides written input and reports to the EDME program director within a deadline of one month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate).

5. Mentoring

An EDME mentor is appointed by the EDME program director for each doctoral student, upon registration. The role of the mentor is to mediate between the doctoral student and his/her thesis director, other faculty, or the administration. A doctoral student may directly contact the EDME mentor, who will make suggestions to resolve possible issues.

6. Final Provisions

The present regulation shall take effect on the 1st of May 2014 and replaces any prior EDME doctoral program regulation.

For the EDME doctoral program Commission :
Prof. Fernando Porté-Agel
Program Director
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

For the Doctoral School :
Prof. Cathrin Brisken
Dean of the doctoral school
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

