

Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Photonics (EDPO)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding.

Date of entry into force: July 1, 2018

The EDPO Doctoral Program Committee,

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 art. 2 al. 4 ch. 3 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne of November 21, 2005²,

decrees:

1. Field of Application

The regulation concerning the doctoral program in Photonics (hereinafter: EDPO program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan for the EDPO program as well as the candidacy examination for the formal admission to start the doctoral thesis in the EDPO 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 for the EDPO program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).
- 2.2 At least **4 ECTS credits of these 12 ECTS credits** must be obtained during the first year of doctoral studies.
- 2.3 **The ECTS credits** may be obtained by successfully completing courses of EDPO program or other EPFL doctoral courses or courses from a Swiss or foreign university, with the approval of the EDPO program director. Regarding the doctoral courses of a Swiss or foreign university, the credit equivalence is determined case-by-case. Any other course than doctoral (e.g. Master or summer

¹ RS 414.133.2

² EPFL LEX 2.4.1

school) must also be approved beforehand by the doctoral program director, unless it is included in the EDPO course book.

3. Candidacy exam

- 3.1 To be formally admitted to a doctoral thesis at EPFL, the doctoral candidate must successfully pass the candidacy examination at the end of her/his first 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 EPFL). The candidacy examination consists in an oral presentation of approximately thirty minutes by the candidate about her/his research proposal, followed by the questions from the jury. The candidate must demonstrate the originality of her/his 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 for the candidacy exam is composed of one EDPO Program affiliated member, who is entitled to act as jury president (see list of "EDPO approved Jury Presidents" on the [website](#)), one expert holding a PhD (usually a member of EPFL teaching staff) and the thesis director and thesis co-director if applicable. The president of the jury writes the minutes of the examination.
- 3.3 Once the jury has deliberated, the chair of the jury 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 her/his doctoral study, the doctoral candidate has the obligation to submit an annual report on the progress of her/his work to the thesis director. The thesis director (and eventual thesis co-director) signs this report and indicates in writing on the report his/their comments on the progress of the thesis. An EDPO program committee member, usually the mentor, reads the report and informs the program director within one month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at EPFL). The candidate submits her/his first report one year after the candidacy exam and so on for subsequent years.

5. Mentoring

A mentor is appointed upon registration by the director of the program for each doctoral candidate. She/He works as a mediator between the candidate, her/his thesis director, and other members of the faculty or administration. The candidate may directly contact her/his mentor who will make suggestions to resolve possible issues.

6. Final Provisions

The present study regulation of EDPO program takes effect on July 1, 2018 and replaces any prior study regulation for the program.

For the EDPO Doctoral Program Committee:
Prof. Hatice Altug
Director of the program
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne



For the Doctoral School:
Prof. Pierre Vandergheynst
Vice-President for Education
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne