

## Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Electrical Engineering (EDEE)

**Please note that only the French version is legally binding.**

Regulation of 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2018.

*The EDEE Doctoral Program Commission,*

taking into account art. 3 al. 3 and 6 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate of 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1998<sup>1</sup> and 2 al. 4 ch. 3 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne of 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2005,<sup>2</sup>

*decrees:*

### 1. Field of Application

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

### 2. Study Plan

The study plan of the EDEE program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) with a **minimum of 3 courses and at least 4 ECTS credits** during the first year as follows:

- Unlimited number of credits from EPFL or ETH Zürich doctoral courses
- Maximum 4 ECTS credits for each EPFL or ETH Zürich Master course
- Maximum 2 ECTS credits for each external course, under the condition that preliminary approval has been obtained from the EDEE programme Director and the thesis Director
- Maximum 4 ECTS credits from transferable skills courses

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<sup>1</sup> RS 414.133.2

<sup>2</sup> EPFL LEX 2.4.1

- 4 ECTS credits – not those required for the first year – can be chosen by the doctoral candidate among all the EPFL doctoral program’s course lists, including the transferable skills course book, without the approval of neither the program committee nor the thesis Director (Doctoral commission decision, Cdoct 107, May 2015)

Preference shall be given to doctoral courses in the study plan. A study plan without doctoral courses needs to be strongly motivated and formally pre-approved by the EDEE program Director and the thesis Director.

### **3. Candidacy Exam**

- 3.1 To be formally admitted to start a doctoral thesis at the EPFL, the doctoral candidate must successfully pass the candidacy examination at the end of her/his 1<sup>st</sup> 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 consists in an oral presentation of approximately thirty minutes by the candidate about her/his research proposal, followed by 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 candidacy exam jury is composed of the following members:
- o The jury President who is a thesis Director (prof. or MER) affiliated to the EDEE doctoral program. An exemption can be granted by the program Director enabling a thesis Director from another doctoral program to chair as the jury President.
  - o An expert in the addressed research area (EPFL member or external member with a PhD, not from the same external company as another member of the exam jury).
  - o The thesis Director and the thesis co-director (where applicable).  
The President and the expert cannot be members of the same research unit (chair or laboratory) as the thesis Director.

The thesis Director is allowed to invite additional members. They are required to respect the confidential nature of the exam and are not permitted to ask questions to the candidate.

- 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 her/his doctoral thesis work, the doctoral candidate has the obligation to submit an annual report on the progress of her/his work to the thesis Director, who in turn provides written input and reports to the EDEE program Director within a deadline of one

month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate). The candidate submits his report according to a deadline fixed by the EDEE program Director.

## **5. Mentoring**

A mentor is appointed by the program Director for each doctoral candidate after enrolment. The role of the mentor is to mediate between the candidate and his thesis Director, other faculty, or the administration. The candidate may directly contact the EDEE mentor, who will make suggestions to resolve possible issues.

## **6. Final Provisions**

The present regulation shall take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 for all EDEE doctoral candidates. The previous regulation of 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 remains in force for all EDEE doctoral candidates enrolled before 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 regarding point 2, Study Plan.

For the EDEE Doctoral Program Committee:  
Prof. Anja Skrivervik  
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

## Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Electrical Engineering (EDEE)

**Please note that only the French version is legally binding.**

*In this document the masculine form is used to designate both male and female genders.*

Date of entry into force March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

The EDEE 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, 1998<sup>1</sup> and 2 al. 4 ch. 3 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne of November 21, 2005,<sup>2</sup>

decrees:

### 1. Field of Application

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

### 2. Study Plan

The study plan of the EDEE program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) with a minimum of 3 courses and at least 4 credits during the first year as follows:

- minimum 4 credits with EDEE courses or courses recommended by EDEE
- maximum 4 credits from master courses

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<sup>1</sup> RS 414.133.2

<sup>2</sup> EPFL LEX 2.4.1

- maximum 2 credits from non-CEPF institutions courses but only if these courses have been preliminarily validated by the EDEE committee. The course choice is subject to the prior agreement of the student's thesis director, which ensures that his/her choice entails the acquisition of new skills.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 research proposal. It is followed by questions from the jury. The candidate must demonstrate the originality of 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 candidacy exam jury is composed of:
- o the committee president who is a thesis director (prof. or MER) affiliated to the EDEE doctoral program. An exemption can be granted by the program director enabling a thesis director from another doctoral program to chair as jury president.
  - o an expert in the addressed research area (EPFL member or external member with a PhD)
  - o the thesis director and the thesis co-director (where applicable).  
The president and the expert cannot be members of the same research unit (chair or laboratory) as the thesis director.  
The thesis director is allowed to invite additional members. They are required to respect the confidential nature of the exam and are not permitted to ask questions to the candidate.
- 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 doctoral thesis work, the doctoral candidate has the obligation to submit an annual report on the progress of his work to the thesis director, who in turn provides written input and reports to the EDEE program director within a deadline of one month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate). The doctoral candidate submits his report according to a deadline fixed by the EDEE program director.

### **5. Mentoring**

A mentor is appointed by the program director for each doctoral student after his enrolment. The role of the mentor is to mediate between the doctoral student and his

thesis director, other faculty, or the administration. A doctoral student may directly contact the EDEE mentor, who will make suggestions to resolve possible issues.

## **6. Final Provisions**

The present regulation shall take effect on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 and replaces any prior EDEE doctoral program regulation.

For the EDEE doctoral program committee :  
Prof. Jean-Philippe THIRAN  
Director of the EDEE  
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne



For the doctoral school :  
Prof. Cathrin Brisken  
Doyenne de l'école doctorale  
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne