

Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Mathematics (EDMA)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding.

March 1, 2014

The EDMA 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 EDMA doctoral program (hereinafter: EDMA program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDMA program, as well as the candidacy examination for formal admission to start the doctoral thesis in the EDMA 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 EDMA program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).
- 2.2 At least **4 of these 12 credits** must be obtained during the first year of doctoral studies.

¹ RS 414.133.2

² EPFL LEX 2.4.1

- 2.3 **All the credits** may be obtained by successfully passing doctoral courses at the EPFL, approved by the thesis director, or at a Swiss or foreign university with the approval of the EDMA program director and the thesis director. As a general rule, a credit equivalence of up to a maximum of 4 ECTS credits for each course is granted for doctoral courses taken at a Swiss university (including ETHZ). For doctoral courses taken at a foreign university, the credit equivalence is determined on a case-by-case basis. Any courses other than doctoral courses (e.g., Summer school courses) must also be approved by the EDMA program director. This excludes master courses, which may be approved by the thesis director.

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 or 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 or her research proposal. It is followed by questions from the jury. The candidate must demonstrate the originality of his or her thesis subject, the objectives and methods envisaged, state of the art of research in the area, position of the doctoral candidate's work within the research area and the plan for the research project.
- 3.2 The jury of the candidacy exam is composed of the thesis director, a member of the EDMA program committee (except for the PhD student representative), of the thesis director, as well as of a professor, senior research scientist (MER) or other EPFL collaborator authorized to fulfil the function of a thesis director at the EPFL. The member of the EDMA committee chairs the jury. If there is a co-director, then he or she should attend the exam as well.
- 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 the doctoral thesis work, the doctoral student has the obligation to submit an annual report on the progress of his or her work, the first time one year after the candidacy exam, to the thesis director, who in turn provides written input and reports to the EDMA program director within a deadline of one month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate).

5. Mentoring

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

6. Final Provisions

The present regulation shall take effect on date and replaces any prior EDMA doctoral program regulation.

For the EDMA doctoral program Commission :
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For the Doctoral School :
Prof. Cathrin Briskin
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