



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in chemistry and chemical engineering(EDCH)

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.

1.08.2017

The EDCH 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 EDCH doctoral program (hereinafter: EDCH program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDCH program as well as the candidacy examination for the formal admission to start the doctoral thesis in the EDCH 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 EDCH 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 (art. 5 al.5 of the Ordinance).
- 2.3 The **remaining ECTS** may be obtained by successfully passing other doctoral courses at the EPFL, Master courses at the EPFL (provided the courses were not followed during the studies), ex-cathedra courses, seminars and summer schools organized by scientific associations in Switzerland or abroad. The ECTS validation

¹ RS 414.133.2

² EPFL LEX 2.4.1

process needs approval from the EDCH program director. A maximum number of 2 ECTS credits may be awarded by successfully passing conferences/workshops.

3. Candidacy Exam

- 3.1 To be formally admitted to start a doctoral thesis at the EPFL, the doctoral student must successfully pass the candidacy examination at the end of his 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 doctoral student about his research proposal. It is followed by questions from the jury. The doctoral student 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 students 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 PhD advisor and the thesis co-advisor (if any), as well as two experts (external of the laboratory and minimum title Docteur ès Sciences) proposed by the PhD advisor(s) and approved by the EDCH program director. One of the experts chairs the jury and must be internal of the EPFL. The role of the jury president is to ensure a fair and regular examination procedure in accordance with the regulations of the EPFL and the EDCH program. A member of the EDCH committee may join the exam as observer if requested by the doctoral student or PhD advisor. The observer cannot ask questions or participate in the discussion and may not participate in the final decision.
- 3.3 Instructions: The jury proposal should be filled minimum 2 weeks prior to the exam date. The research plan (pdf), included signed cover page (PhD advisor(s) and PhD student), should be sent to the EDCH program administration min. 7 days ahead of the exam date before noon. Failure to meet this deadline could result in cancelling of the exam.
- 3.4 After jury deliberations, the PhD advisor verbally informs the doctoral student of the result of the candidacy exam. Possible jury recommendations are communicated in writing thereafter. The doctoral student 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

- 4.1 During his doctoral thesis work, the doctoral student has the obligation to submit an annual report, the first time one year after the candidacy exam, on the progress of his work to the PhD advisor, who in turn provides written input and reports to the EDCH program director within a deadline of one month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate).
- 4.2 Six months after registration into the EDCH program, but no later than 8 months, **one single** report must be completed. This report serves to inform the doctoral student of his progress and identify any areas needing improvement or advice. It involves a discussion and a self-assessment meeting between the doctoral student and the PhD advisor(s).

5. Mentoring

An EDCH mentor is chosen by the doctoral student and approved by the EDCH program director for each doctoral student while registering into the EDCH program. The role of the mentor is to mediate between the doctoral student and the PhD advisor, other faculty, or the administration. A doctoral student may directly contact the EDCH mentor, who will make suggestions to resolve possible issues.

6. Final Provisions

The present regulation shall take effect on 1.8.2017 and replaces any prior EDCH doctoral program regulation.

For the EDCH doctoral program committee:
Prof. Vassily Hatzimanikatis
Director of the EDCH
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne



For the doctoral school:
Prof. Pierre Vandergheynst
Vice President for Education
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne