

## Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Mechanics (EDME)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding.

**Date of entry into force: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

*The EDME 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, 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 Mechanics (hereinafter: EDME program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDME program as well as the candidacy exam 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 ECTS 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 remaining 8 ECTS credits may be chosen among Master and doctoral courses in EPFL graduate and other doctoral programs or external courses. For external courses of a Swiss or a foreign university, the equivalence of the credits is set on a case-by-case basis. The request must be approved by the thesis Director and then the Director of the doctoral program according to the conditions set by EDME program. The allowed credits coming from Master

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<sup>1</sup> RS 414.133.2

<sup>2</sup> EPFL LEX 2.4.1

courses are limited to 4 (additional Master level course credits may be attained, upon authorization of the EDME program Director).

- 2.4 **8 ECTS credits** (including the 4 ECTS credits from doctoral courses offered by EDME program) must be chosen in agreement with the thesis Director.
- 2.5 Up to **4 ECTS credits** – but not those required for the first year – can be chosen by the doctoral candidate from all EPFL doctoral program's course lists (including transferable skills) without the approval of neither the program committee nor the thesis Director (Doctoral commission decision, Cdoct 107, May 2015).

### **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 exam at the end of her/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 exam consists in an oral presentation of approximately thirty minutes by the candidate about her/his research proposal. It is 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 jury of the candidacy exam is composed of a President (who is a member of the EDME Program Committee), the thesis Director and the thesis co-Director (if applicable), one expert (preferentially from EPFL, external to the laboratory of the candidate and the thesis Director), and optionally a second expert.
- 3.3 After jury deliberations, the jury President 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).

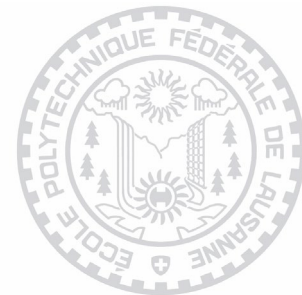
### **5. Mentoring**

An EDME mentor is appointed by the EDME program Director for each doctoral candidate, upon registration. The role of the mentor is to mediate between the doctoral candidate, his/her thesis Director, and other faculty members, or the administration. A doctoral candidate 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 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2019 and replaces any prior EDME doctoral program regulation.

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