

# Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Biotechnology and Bioengineering (EDBB)

Dated April 1, 2014 (*date of entry into force*)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding.

*The EDBB Doctoral Program Commission,*

taking into account art. 3 al. 3 and 6 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at the EPFL conferred by the EPFL of January 26, 1998<sup>1</sup> and art. 2 al. 4 ch. 3 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the EPFL of November 21, 2005,<sup>2</sup>

decrees:

## 1. Field of Application

The studies regulation concerning the EDBB doctoral program (hereinafter: “EDBB program”) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDBB program as well as the candidacy examination for the formal admission to prepare for the doctoral thesis in the EDBB 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 EDBB 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.

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<sup>1</sup> RS 414.133.2

<sup>2</sup> EPFL LEX 2.4.1

- 2.3 The **required credits** may be obtained by successfully passing either EDBB doctoral courses, other doctoral courses at the EPFL, EPFL bachelor or master courses or at a Swiss or foreign university, with the prior approval of the doctoral candidate's thesis director, in accordance with the terms established by the EDBB program. Credits obtained at a Swiss or foreign university (outside EPFL) require the prior approval of the doctoral candidate's thesis director and of the EDBB program director, in accordance with the terms established by the EDBB program. As a general rule, a credit equivalence of up to a maximum of 4 ECTS credits is granted for doctoral courses passed at a Swiss university (including ETHZ). For doctoral courses passed at a foreign university, the credit equivalence is determined on a case-by-case basis.

### **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/her 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). This examination consists of an oral presentation of approximately thirty minutes by the candidate about his/her research proposal, followed by questions from the jury. The candidate must demonstrate the originality of his/her 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 the jury president, the candidate's thesis director and thesis co-director (when applicable), as well as two professors (one of whom may be external to the EPFL), senior research scientists (MERs) or other EPFL collaborators authorized to fulfil the function of thesis director at the EPFL and approved by the EDBB program director.
- 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 receives from the EPFL, a decision formally admitting or refusing the start of a doctoral thesis at the EPFL (art. 8 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at the EPFL).

### **4. Annual Report**

During his/her thesis work, the doctoral candidate has the obligation to submit each year, starting one year after his/her candidacy exam, a report on the progress of his/her work to the thesis director, who in turn provides written input and reports to the EDBB program director within a deadline of one month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at the EPFL).

### **5. Mentoring**

A mentor is to be chosen by the doctoral candidate, with the approval of the thesis director and the program director within 6 months of his/her enrolment date. The mentor acts as a mediator between the doctoral student and his/her thesis director, other faculty, or the administration. A doctoral student may directly contact his/her mentor, who will make suggestions to resolve possible issues.

## 6. Final Provisions

The present regulation on studies shall take effect on April 1, 2014 and replaces any other doctoral program regulation.

For the EDBB doctoral program committee:  
Prof. John McKinney  
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École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne



For the Doctoral School:  
Prof. Cathrin Brisken  
Dean of the doctoral school  
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne