

## Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Computer and Communication Sciences (EDIC)

**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.*

**September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

The EDIC 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 EDIC doctoral program (hereafter: EDIC program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDIC program as well as the candidacy examination for the formal admission to start the doctoral thesis in the EDIC 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 EDIC program requires **30 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). 12 of these credits come from projects.
- 2.2 The following credits must at least be obtained during the first year of doctoral studies:
  - 4 course credits (specific knowledge area);
  - 12 project credits (one 6-credit project per semester).

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<sup>1</sup> RS 414.133.2

<sup>2</sup> EPFL LEX 2.4.1

- 2.3 The remainder of the credits is taken in accordance with the following rules:
- Courses are divided in 3 areas: AI, Systems, and Theory;
  - One of these areas is selected and defined as specific knowledge area;
  - The other two areas are defined as general knowledge areas;
  - 10 credits at least come from the EDIC offering (at least 4 credits in each general knowledge area);
  - The remainder of the credits (a maximum of 4) can be taken from the whole EPFL master- and doctoral-level course offering.

In order for the corresponding credits to count, courses taken outside of EPFL have to be at the doctoral level and to include a progress monitoring procedure (exam or equivalent). They must be approved in advance by the EDIC program director.

### **3. Candidacy examination**

- 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 examination during which the jury evaluates the candidate's aptitude to complete a thesis. The student must demonstrate a thorough understanding and critical evaluation of a list of articles chosen in accordance with the candidate and communicated by the jury 2 months ahead of the examination.

- 3.2 To attend the candidacy examination, the candidate must have found a thesis director and submitted a thesis plan (the content of which is not part of the examination). The jury of the candidacy examination is composed of the candidate's thesis director, a second examiner and an examination president. All of these have to be professors or senior scientists (MER) at EPFL.
- 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 EDIC 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 EDIC program director.

### **5. Teaching assistants**

In accordance with the job description of his work contract (in principle defined according to the application rules of October 1, 2006 concerning the directives governing the employment and working relationships of assistants at the EPFL of October 1, 2005) the doctoral candidate hired as an assistant, is under the obligation to participate in EPFL teaching activities to the equivalent of 20% of his 100% working hours.

## **6. Mentoring**

An EDIC mentor is appointed by the EDIC program director for each doctoral student, upon registration. 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 EDIC mentor, who will make suggestions to resolve possible issues.

## **7. Final provisions**

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

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