

Regulation of the doctoral program in Energy (EDEY)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding

Effective January 1st, 2020

The EDEY doctoral program Committee,

taking into account art. 3 al. 3 and 6 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at EPFL conferred by EPFL of January 26, 1998¹ and art. 2 al. 4 ch. 3 of the Directive concerning doctoral studies at EPFL of November 21, 2005²,

decrees:

1. Field of Application

The regulation concerning the doctoral program in Energy (hereinafter: EDEY program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDEY program as well as the candidacy exam for the formal admission to prepare for the doctoral thesis in the EDEY program of the EPFL. Furthermore, it reiterates and details the application of certain essential rules concerning the doctorate at EPFL.

2. Study Plan

- 2.1 The study plan of the EDEY 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 the doctoral studies.
- 2.3 **8 ECTS credits** may be obtained by successfully passing either Master or doctoral courses at EPFL approved by the thesis Director. For external courses, the request must be approved by the thesis Director and then the EDEY program Director according to the conditions set by the EDEY program. The equivalence of the credits is set on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.4 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).

¹ RS 414.133.2

² EPFL LEX 2.4.1

3. Candidacy Exam

- 3.1 To be formally admitted to start a doctoral thesis at EPFL, the doctoral candidate must successfully pass the candidacy exam at the end of the 1st year of doctoral studies (art. 6 and 8 al. 1 let. a of the Ordinance on the Doctorate and 8 al. 1 and 2 of the Directive concerning doctoral studies at EPFL).

The candidate writes a research plan and submits it to the members of the jury a week prior the date of the exam. The examination consists of an oral presentation of approximately thirty minutes by the candidate, followed by questions from the jury. The candidate must demonstrate the originality of the 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 being part of the EDEY Committee
- the candidate's thesis Director and co-Director (if existing)
- a Professor, MER or member of EPFL teaching body who is not part of the same laboratory as the candidate's thesis Director (expert 1)
- facultative: in addition, an expert internal or external to EPFL can be part of the jury (expert 2).

Upon request and with the explicit (written) agreement of the candidate, the Director of the doctoral program may authorize participation in the candidacy exam by videoconference for a single member of the jury. Videoconferencing is not allowed for the candidate.

The presence of an audience is not allowed.

- 3.3 After jury deliberations, the President of the jury verbally informs the candidate of the result of the candidacy exam. Possible jury recommendations are communicated in writing to the candidate. Thereafter, the candidate receives a decision from EPFL formally admitting or refusing the start of a doctoral thesis (art. 8 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at EPFL).

4. Annual Report

During the thesis work, the doctoral candidate has the obligation to submit each year, starting one year after the candidacy exam, a report on the progress of the work to the thesis Director. The candidate and the thesis Director consult each other to complete the common part. Then, each one completes their own part of the online report. If applicable, the co-Director validates the report of the thesis Director.

The thesis Director then reports in writing to the EDEY program Director within a deadline of one month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at EPFL).

5. Mentoring

The EDEY program administration assigns a mentor to the doctoral candidate upon registration. The candidate must contact the mentor for an appointment and make sure that they meet at least once before the candidacy exam.

If needed, the candidate will contact the mentor during the doctoral studies. The latter can help guide the career of the candidate and/or to manage necessities and/or personal/professional issues until the public defense. The mentor will not act as a scientific advisor. Discussions between the candidate and the mentor must remain confidential unless both give their consents for the disclosure to the EDEY program Director.

The mentor cannot act as President during the candidate's candidacy and oral exams.

6. Final Provisions

The present regulation on studies shall take effect on January 1st, 2020 and replaces any other EDEY program regulation.

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