

Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Architecture and Sciences of the City (EDAR)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding.

Date of entry into force: 1st August 2021

The EDAR 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, 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 doctoral program in Architecture and Sciences of the City (hereinafter: EDAR program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDAR program as well as the candidacy examination for the formal admission to start the doctoral thesis in the EDAR 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 EDAR program requires **14 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).
- 2.2 A minimum of **4 ECTS credits** must be obtained during the first year of doctoral studies. These credits must be acquired by successfully passing EDAR first year compulsory courses.
- 2.3 A maximum of **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 books (including transferable skills courses) without the approval of neither the

¹ RS 414.133.2

² EPFL LEX 2.4.1

Program Committee nor the thesis Director (Doctoral commission decision, Cdoct 107, May 2015).

- 2.4 The **remainder of the ECTS credits requirement** may be obtained by successfully passing other EDAR doctoral courses, other doctoral courses at the EPFL or a Swiss or foreign university, with approval of the EDAR program Director and in accordance with EDAR program's rules in terms of evaluation and calculation of ECTS credits.
- 2.5 Out of the total of 14 ECTS credits, the credits obtained from Master courses are limited to **4 ECTS credits**. In the case of a Master course that is not already included in the EPFL doctoral programs' offer, the request must be approved by the thesis Director and then by the program Director. The course should enable the doctoral student to obtain skills other than those acquired during his/her university training and necessary for the success of the doctoral research in progress.

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 examination 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 examination 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. The doctoral program Director may allow videoconference upon request and with the explicit (i.e. in writing) agreement of the doctoral candidate for candidacy examination for one jury member (Doctoral commission decision, Cdoct 115, February 2017).
- 3.2 The jury of the candidacy examination is composed of a President, chosen by the EDAR doctoral program among the list of members authorized to chair a thesis jury, the candidate's thesis Director, a professor, senior research scientist (MER) or other EPFL collaborator authorized to fulfil the function of thesis Director at the EPFL (external to the candidate's laboratory). An EPFL collaborator, holder of a PhD, can, in supplement, be a member of the jury. In the event of a co-directed thesis, the co-Director is a member of the jury but does not chair the jury.
- 3.3 After jury deliberations, the thesis Director verbally informs the candidate of the result of the candidacy examination. 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 her/his doctoral thesis work, the first time one year after candidacy examination, the doctoral candidate has the obligation to submit an annual report on the progress of her/his work to the thesis Director, who in turn provides written input and reports to the

EDAR 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 her/his report according to a deadline fixed by the EDAR program Director.

5. Mentoring

The doctoral candidate suggests a mentor among the members of the EDAR program (thesis directors and co-directors affiliated to the program), from her/his registration. Her/his choice is confirmed by the EDAR program Director. The role of the mentor is to mediate between the doctoral candidate, her/his thesis Director, and other faculty members, or the administration. A doctoral candidate may directly contact the EDAR mentor, who will make suggestions to resolve possible issues.

6. Final Provisions

The present regulation shall take effect on 1st August 2021 and replaces any prior EDAR doctoral program regulation.

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