

## General agreement for an ETH Zürich and EPFL joint Doctorate

between

**Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich**, located in Zürich, hereinafter referred to as the “ETH Zürich”, represented by its President, Professor J. Mesot, and its Rector, Professor S. M. Springman.

Address: HG, F 59, Rämistrasse 101, CH-8092 Zürich

and

**École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne**, located in Lausanne, hereinafter referred to as the “EPFL” represented by its President, Professor M. Vetterli, and its Vice President for Academic Affairs, Professor J. Hesthaven.

Address: EPFL, CE 3 316, CH-1015 Lausanne

Hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Parties” or individually referred to as a “Party”;

Sharing the common will to develop academic and scientific cooperation between the two Parties by awarding a joint doctoral Degree to commonly selected doctoral candidates;

Whereas, the Parties wish to stress the main points of their respective doctoral studies processes and rules in order to lay down in an agreement (the “Agreement”) the basic academic framework for joint doctoral theses of their institutions;

Whereas, provisions of the Agreement, particularly those relating to the protection of thesis topics as well as the publication, use and protection of the results of research common to the two host universities of the doctoral candidate are required to be in conformity both with the specific procedures as well as the relevant internal regulations of each institution;

Agree as follows:

### Article 1 - General

<sup>1</sup> The Agreement sets the basic academic framework for the joint ETH Zürich and EPFL Doctorate.

<sup>2</sup> The Parties will agree on specific regulations for a specific joint Doctorate within the framework of a joint doctoral programme or a joint research project.

<sup>3</sup> The doctoral candidates’ selection will be carried out in compliance with the legislation of both Parties.

<sup>4</sup> The doctoral candidates are matriculated at the thesis director’s home institution and registered at the other Party. Information on the doctoral candidates’ status must be exchanged each semester.

<sup>5</sup> There will be a joint supervision of doctoral candidates.

<sup>6</sup> The Ordinance on Doctoral Studies of the thesis director’s home institution applies. The home institution is the Party where the doctoral thesis director is employed as a professor.

<sup>7</sup> The regulations for a specific joint Doctorate are to be signed by the doctoral programme director (EPFL) and the head of the department of the respective disciplinary direction at ETH Zürich (ETH Zürich), the Associate Vice President for Postgraduate Education (EPFL) and the Vice-Rector for Doctoral Studies (ETH Zürich).

<sup>8</sup> Both Parties shall strive to balance the distribution of doctoral candidates between the Parties within a specific joint Doctorate.

## Article 2 – Thesis directors

- <sup>1</sup> The doctoral candidates will complete doctoral studies under the supervision of appointed thesis directors from each Party.
- <sup>2</sup> Both thesis directors ensure that the doctoral candidates meet the requirements stipulated in this Agreement.
- <sup>3</sup> Responsibilities of the thesis director comprise the supervision of the doctoral candidates in accordance with their institutions' regulations and the regulations of the joint Doctorate, as well as the financing and employment of the doctoral candidates.
- <sup>4</sup> Responsibilities of the co-director comprise the co-supervision of the doctoral candidates as well as their hosting during their work at the partner university.
- <sup>5</sup> The thesis director and the co-director shall supervise the doctoral candidate in collaboration and consensus.
- <sup>6</sup> In case of disagreement between the thesis director and the co-director that cannot be resolved, the doctorate shall cease to be joint.

## Article 3 - Fees

The joint doctoral candidates pay the fees (registration, study tax etc.) at the home institution.

## Article 4 - Doctoral studies

- <sup>1</sup> Joint doctoral candidates shall spend some time of their doctoral studies at the partner institution.

## Article 5 – Thesis examination

- <sup>1</sup> Joint doctoral candidates shall take a joint ETH Zürich – EPFL doctoral examination, according to the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies of the doctoral candidate's home institution.
- <sup>2</sup> The two thesis directors are members of the examination jury.

## Article 6 - Dissertation

The doctoral candidates will write the dissertation in one of the official Swiss language or in English, in agreement with the thesis directors; however the abstract must be written in one of the official Swiss languages and in English.

## Article 7 - Acknowledgement in dissertation

To acknowledge the equal contributions to the supervision of the doctoral research, a page with the following text on the front will be added after the title page, before the doctoral dissertation begins:  
"The doctoral research has been carried out in the context of an agreement on joint doctoral supervision and a joint doctoral Diploma between ETH Zürich and EPFL."

## Article 8 – Joint degree

- <sup>1</sup> The doctoral title shall be awarded as a single joint Degree from both Parties. The doctoral Diploma will be issued by the thesis director's home institution, hence bearing the title "Dr. sc. ETH Zürich EPFL" (home institution ETH Zürich) or "Dr. sc. EPFL ETH Zürich" (home institution EPFL).
- <sup>2</sup> The Diploma shall bear the logos and signatures of the Parties.

## Article 9 - Intellectual property

The legal protection of the subject of the dissertation, together with its publication, development and protection of the results of the research carried out in both universities by the doctoral candidates will be in compliance with the specific procedures of each of the Parties involved in this Agreement.

## Article 10 – Entry into force

- <sup>1</sup> The Agreement shall come into force on 01.01.2022, and has a duration of 5 years.
- <sup>2</sup> The Parties may each terminate the Agreement by giving a one-year-ahead written notice by registered mail with acknowledgement of receipt. Upon termination, the Agreement shall continue and survive until the last doctoral candidate enrolled under the Agreement has finished the thesis work.

## Article 11 – Dispute

- <sup>1</sup> Any dispute between the thesis director and a doctoral student are dealt with according to the regulations of the home institution. If both thesis directors are involved, the dispute will be dealt with according to the regulations of both parties.
- <sup>2</sup> Any dispute regarding this agreement which cannot be resolved by immediate and amicable discussions between the institutions shall be jointly referred to the Vice President for Academic Affairs of EPFL and the Rector of ETH Zurich, or their nominees, for resolution.

ETH Zürich	EPFL
<p>Date: .....</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name: Prof. Dr. Joël Mesot President</p>	<p>Date: 26.10.2021</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name: Prof. Martin Vetterli President</p>
<p>Date: 11. Oktober 2021</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Sarah M. Springman Rector</p>	<p>Date: 29.10.21</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Name: Prof. Jan Hesthaven Vice President for Academic Affairs</p>