

Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Electrical Engineering (EDEE)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding.

Date of entry into force: 1st October 2025

The EDEE 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 26th January, 1998¹ and 2 al. 4 ch. 3 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne of 21st November, 2005,²

decrees:

1. Field of Application

The regulation concerning the doctoral program in Electrical Engineering (hereinafter: EDEE program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDEE program as well as the candidacy exam for the formal admission to start the doctoral thesis in the EDEE 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 EDEE program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) with a **minimum of 3 courses**. **4 ECTS credits** are required during the first year.

The following rules apply:

- Unlimited number of doctoral courses from EPFL or ETH Zürich
- Maximum 4 ECTS credits are recognized for each EPFL or ETH Zürich Master course
- Maximum 2 ECTS credits are recognized for each external course, under the condition that preliminary approval has been obtained from the EDEE Program Director and the Thesis Director
- Maximum 4 ECTS credits from transversal skills courses
- 4 ECTS credits – but not those required for the first year – can be chosen by the doctoral candidate among all EPFL doctoral course books, including the transversal skills courses, without the approval of neither the Program Committee nor the Thesis Director (Doctoral commission decision, Cdoct 107, May 2015)

- 2.2 Preference shall be given to doctoral courses in the study plan. A study plan without doctoral courses needs to be strongly motivated, and formally pre-approved by the EDEE Program Director and the Thesis Director.

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 the 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 art. 8 al. 1 and 2 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the EPFL). The candidacy exam consists in 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 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 candidacy exam jury is composed of the following members:
- The Jury President who is a Thesis Director (prof. or MER) affiliated to the EDEE Doctoral Program. An exemption can be granted by the Program Director enabling a Thesis Director from another doctoral program to chair as the Jury President. For Thesis Directors from external institutions, the Jury President must be an EPFL internal member.
 - An expert in the addressed research area, EPFL internal member with a PhD.
 - The Thesis Director and the Thesis co-Director where applicable. The President and the expert cannot be members of the same research unit (chair or laboratory) or external entity as the Thesis Director(s).
 - The candidate's mentor may not be a member of the jury.
- The Thesis Director is allowed to invite additional members. They are required to respect the confidential nature of the exam and are not permitted to ask questions to the candidate.
- 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

- 4.1 During their thesis work, doctoral candidates are required to submit an annual report on the progress of their work, with a self-evaluation, to their Thesis Director(s). In parallel, the Thesis Director(s) completes an assessment of the progress of the work. After a joint discussion recorded in the report, the Thesis Director(s) gives an appraisal, and the report is shared with the doctoral program (Art. 10 para. 3 of the Ordinance on the doctorate conferred by EPFL). The candidate and the Thesis Director(s) shall ensure that the above process is completed within the deadlines specified by the doctoral program.
- 4.2 The annual reporting takes place between 1st March and 1st June each year and only concerns candidates enrolled in EDEE who have successfully passed their candidacy exam before 1st December of the previous year, and have not submitted yet their thesis jury proposal by the annual report deadline.

5. Mentoring

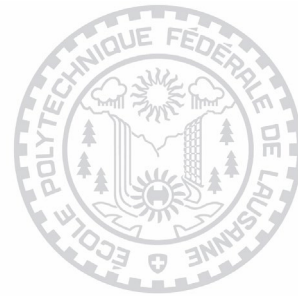
- 5.1 Within 3 months after enrolment, the doctoral program assigns a mentor from its pool to each doctoral candidate. The candidates may change mentor with the agreement of the Program Director.
- 5.2 The mentor remains anonymous with respect to the Thesis Director(s) to ensure confidentiality (it is up to the candidate to keep this anonymity or not). The mentor offers guidance to candidates regarding academic or career choices, as well as the resolution of any difficulties met within the context of their training, in particular regarding the preparation of their thesis or cases of conflict.

- 5.3 The candidates can contact their mentor whenever they deem it necessary. The candidate and the mentor confer at least once a year. Exchanges between candidates and their mentor should remain confidential unless both parties agree to disclose to the Program Director.
- 5.4 It is recommended that the candidate's mentor does not participate in nor presides over the jury for either the candidacy or the oral exam.

6. Final Provisions

The present regulation shall take effect on 1st October 2025 and replaces any prior EDEE doctoral program regulation.

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