

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 March 2022

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 and at least 4 ECTS credits** during the first year as follows:

- Unlimited number of credits from EPFL or ETH Zürich doctoral courses
- Maximum 4 ECTS credits for each EPFL or ETH Zürich Master course
- Maximum 2 ECTS credits for each external course, under the condition that preliminarily approval has been obtained from the EDEE programme Director and the thesis Director
- Maximum 4 ECTS credits from transferable 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 transferable skills courses, without the approval of neither the Program

¹ RS 414.133.2

² EPFL LEX 2.4.1

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.

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.
- An expert in the addressed research area (EPFL member or external member with a PhD, not from the same external company as another member of the exam jury).
- 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) as the thesis Director.

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

During the thesis work, the doctoral candidate has the obligation to submit an annual progress report each year. The annual reporting takes place between 1st March and 1st June each year and only concerns students 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. The candidate submits a summary of the work progress, as well as a point-by-point self-evaluation. In parallel, the thesis Director (and co-Director when applicable) complete an analogous assessment of the work progress. After a joint discussion the report is cosigned by the

candidate and the thesis Director (and co-Director when applicable). The candidate then also discusses the progress and wider context with the mentor and they confirm to have met in the annual report, without reporting the content of the discussion which is confidential. Finally, the program Director will add his/her signature to the report. The candidate ensures that the above process is finalized within one month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at the EPFL).

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. The mentor remains anonymous with respect to the thesis Director to ensure confidentiality (it is up to the candidate to keep this anonymity or not).
- 5.2 The mentor offers guidance to doctoral 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 as part of the annual report. 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 March, 2022 and replaces any prior EDEE doctoral program regulation.

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