

Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Mathematics (EDMA)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding.

Dated July 12, 2022 (*date of entry into force*)

The EDMA doctoral program Committee,

taking into account art. 3 al. 3 and 6 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate conferred by the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne of January 26, 1998¹ and 2 al. 4 ch. 3 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne of November 21, 2005,²

decrees:

1. Field of Application

The regulation concerning the doctoral program in Mathematics (hereinafter: EDMA program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDMA program, as well as the candidacy exam for formal admission to start the doctoral thesis in the EDMA 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 EDMA program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).
- 2.2 At least **4 of these 12 ECTS credits** must be obtained during the first year of doctoral studies.
- 2.3 **The ECTS credits** may be obtained by successfully passing doctoral courses at the EPFL, approved by the thesis Director, or at a Swiss or foreign university with the approval of the EDMA program Director and the thesis Director. As a general rule, a credit equivalence of up to a maximum of 4 ECTS credits for each course is granted for doctoral courses taken at a Swiss university (including ETHZ). For doctoral courses taken at a foreign university, the credit equivalence is determined on a case-by-case basis. Any courses other than doctoral courses (e.g., summer school courses) must also be approved by the EDMA program

¹ RS 414.133.2

² EPFL LEX 2.4.1

Director. This excludes Master courses, which may be approved by the thesis Director.

- 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 course books (including transferable skills courses) without the approval of neither the program Committee nor the thesis Director (Doctoral Commission decision, Cdoct 107, May 2015).

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 is an oral presentation of approximately thirty minutes by the candidate about the research proposal. It is followed by questions from the jury. The candidate must demonstrate the originality of the thesis subject, the objectives and methods envisaged, state of the art of research in the area, the position of the doctoral candidate's work within the research area and the plan for the research project.
- 3.2 The jury of the candidacy exam is composed of the thesis Director, a member of the EDMA program Committee (except for the PhD student representative), as well as of a professor, senior research scientist (MER) or other EPFL collaborator authorized to fulfil the function of a thesis Director at the EPFL. The member of the EDMA Committee chairs the jury. If there is a co-Director, then he/she should attend the exam as well.
- 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 accept or refuse the start of a doctoral thesis at the EPFL (art. 8 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate).

4. Annual Report

Starting from the second year of the thesis work (i.e., one year after the candidacy exam), each doctoral candidate should submit an annual report containing a summary of progress during the past year and a point-by-point self-evaluation. In parallel, the thesis Director (and co-Director when applicable) should complete an analogous progress assessment. After discussion a joint report should be signed by the candidate and thesis Director (and co-Director when applicable). The procedure should be completed within one month of submission of the candidate's report (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at the EPFL).

5. Mentoring

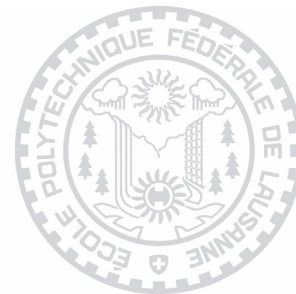
- 5.1 Within three months after enrolment and with the help of the EDMA program Director, each doctoral candidate should choose a mentor from the program pool. If not, the program will assign a mentor from its pool and inform the candidate. A candidate may change mentor with the prior agreement of the program Director.

- 5.2 Each candidate is free to choose that the mentor is anonymous vis-a-vis the thesis Director. If the candidate has contacted a mentor, he-she must verify that the chosen mentor agrees to remain anonymous. If not, the program assigns an anonymous mentor.
- 5.3 The role of a mentor is to offer guidance regarding academic or career choices and to help resolve any difficulties a candidate may meet within the context of their training, in particular regarding thesis preparation or conflictual situations.
- 5.4 A candidate can contact his-her mentor whenever necessary, but they should do so at least once a year around the date of submission of the annual progress report or the candidacy exam. The content of the conversation remains confidential, unless both parties agree that it may be disclosed.
- 5.5 Only in exceptional circumstances should a candidate's mentor participate in his-her candidacy or oral exams.

6. Final Provisions

The present regulation shall take effect on July 12, 2022, and replaces any prior EDMA doctoral program regulation.

For the EDMA doctoral program Committee:
Prof. Fabio Nobile
Program Director
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne



For the Doctoral School:
Prof. Luisa Lambertini
Associate Vice President for Postgraduate Education
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne