

Regulation concerning the Doctoral Program in Photonics (EDPO)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding.

Date of entry into force: 15 July, 2022

The EDPO 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 art. 2 al. 4 ch. 3 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne of November 21, 2005²,

decrees:

1. Field of Application

The regulation concerning the doctoral program in Photonics (hereinafter: EDPO program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan for the EDPO program as well as the candidacy exam for the formal admission to start the doctoral thesis in the EDPO 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 for the EDPO program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).
- 2.2 At least **4 ECTS credits 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 completing courses of EDPO program or other EPFL doctoral courses or courses from a Swiss or foreign university, with the approval of the EDPO program Director. Regarding the doctoral courses of a Swiss or foreign university, the credit equivalence is determined case-by-case. Any other course than doctoral (e.g. Master or summer school) must also be approved beforehand by the doctoral program Director, unless it is included in the EDPO course book.

¹ RS 414.133.2

² EPFL LEX 2.4.1

- 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 a doctoral thesis at EPFL, the doctoral candidate must successfully pass the candidacy exam at the end of the first 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 EPFL). The candidacy exam consists in an oral presentation of approximately thirty minutes by the candidate about the research proposal, followed by the 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 jury for the candidacy exam is composed of one EDPO program affiliated member, who is entitled to act as jury President (see list of "EDPO Jury Presidents" on the [website](#)), one expert holding a PhD (usually a member of EPFL teaching staff) and the thesis Director and thesis co-Director if applicable. In addition, a second internal or external expert can be part of the jury. The President of the jury writes the minutes of the exam.
- 3.3 Once the jury has deliberated, the President of the jury 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, starting one year after the candidacy exam. 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) completes 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

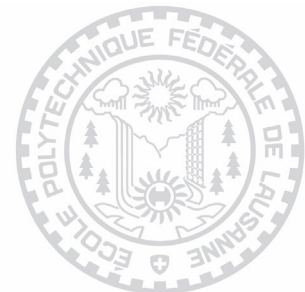
- 5.1 Within 3 months after enrolment, the doctoral program assigns a mentor from its pool to each doctoral candidate. The candidates may change mentor with the agreement of the program Director.

- 5.2 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). 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 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 study regulation of EDPO program takes effect on July 15, 2022 and replaces any prior study regulation for the program.

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