

EPFL

EVENT

# PhD Welcome Day

■ École  
polytechnique  
fédérale  
de Lausanne

VENUE & DATE

**Forum Rolex**  
6 November 2025

PRESENTED BY

**Philip Mair**  
Deputy AVP-DLE



# PROF. AMBROGIO FASOLI

**Vice President for Academic  
Affairs and Provost**





# PROF. ANNE-MARIE KERMARREC

**Associate Vice President for  
Doctoral and Lifelong Education**



## PHD WELCOME DAY

- Your place in the EPFL universe
- Academic framework & PhD curriculum
- Short talks
  - Registrar's Office
  - Vice Presidency for Human Development
  - PolyDoc
- EPFL at your service: Meet & mingle



# Your place in the EPFL universe

VPA

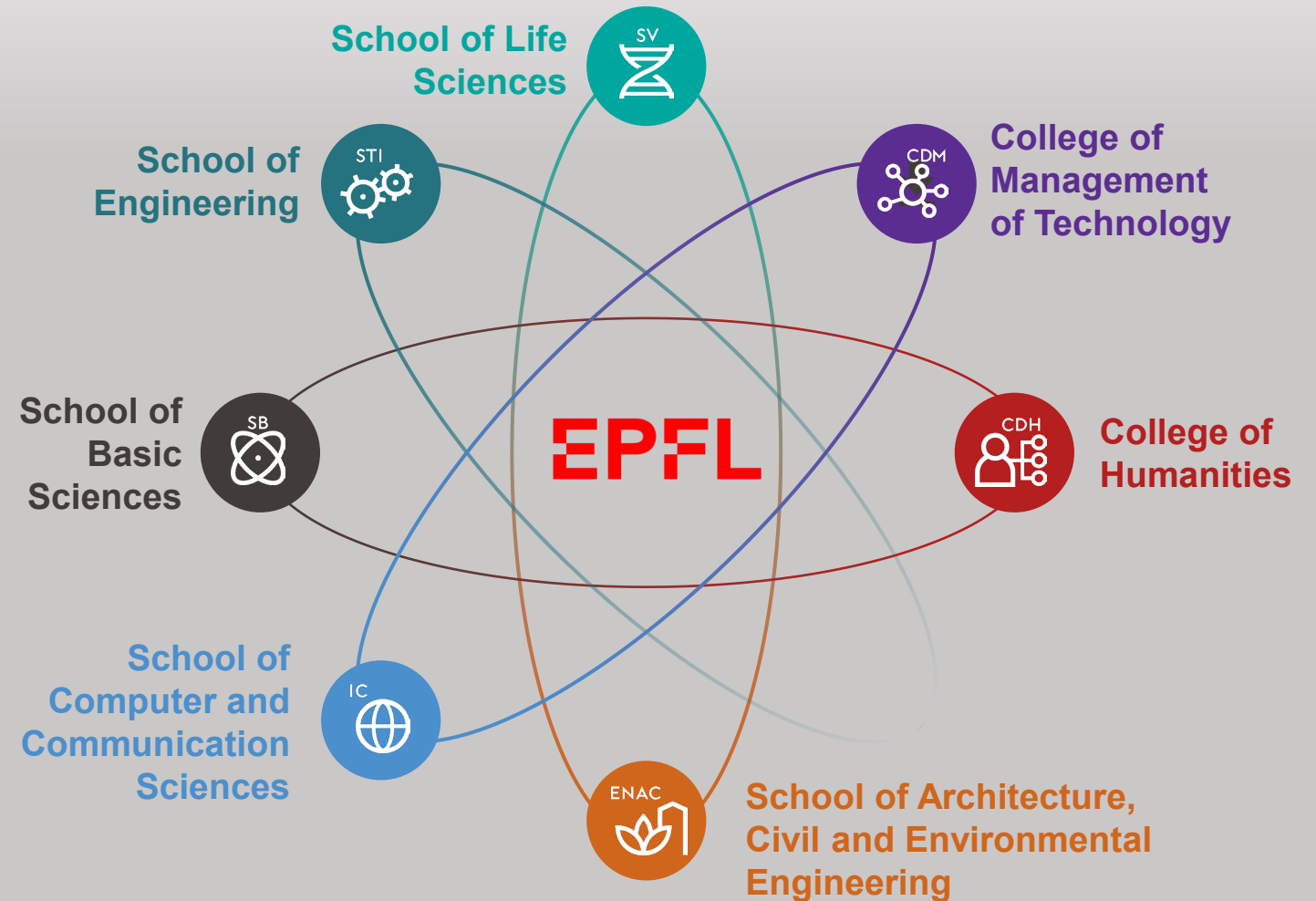
Student

Doctoral student

VPH

Employee

Doctoral assistant



# Doing a PhD: doing what exactly?

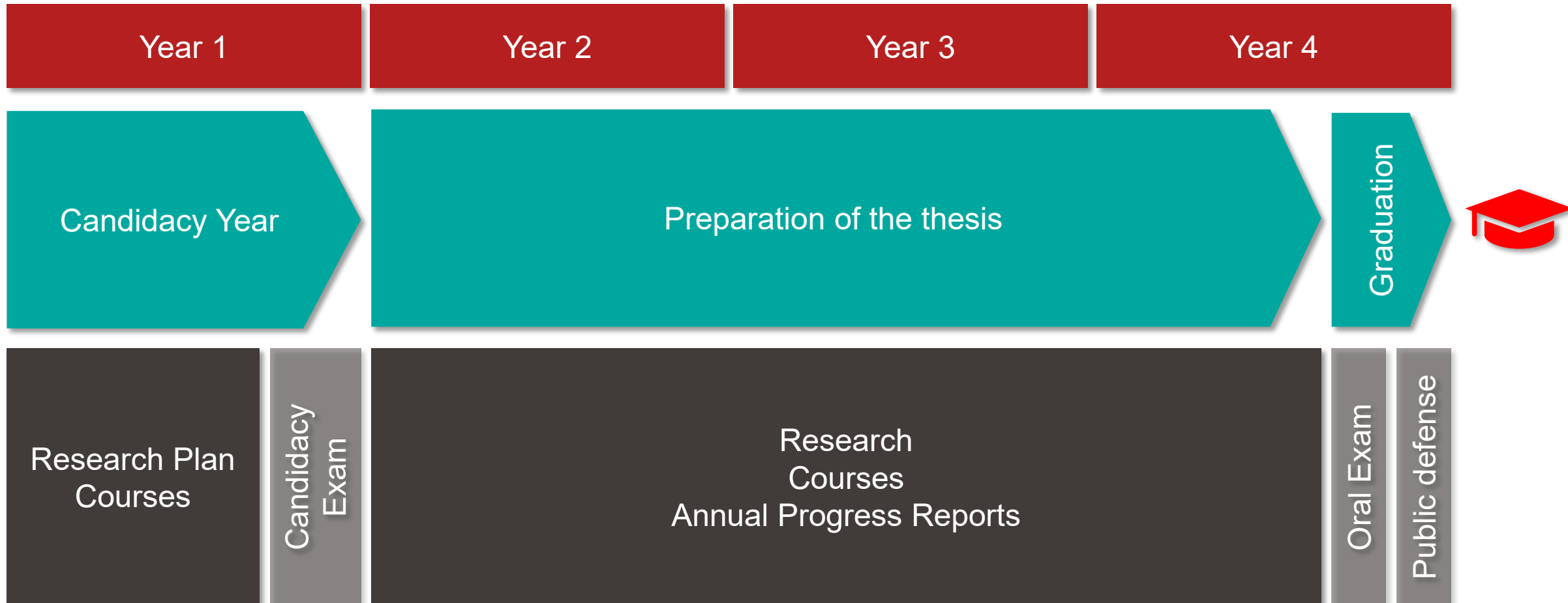
PhD = learn how to do  
research by doing it



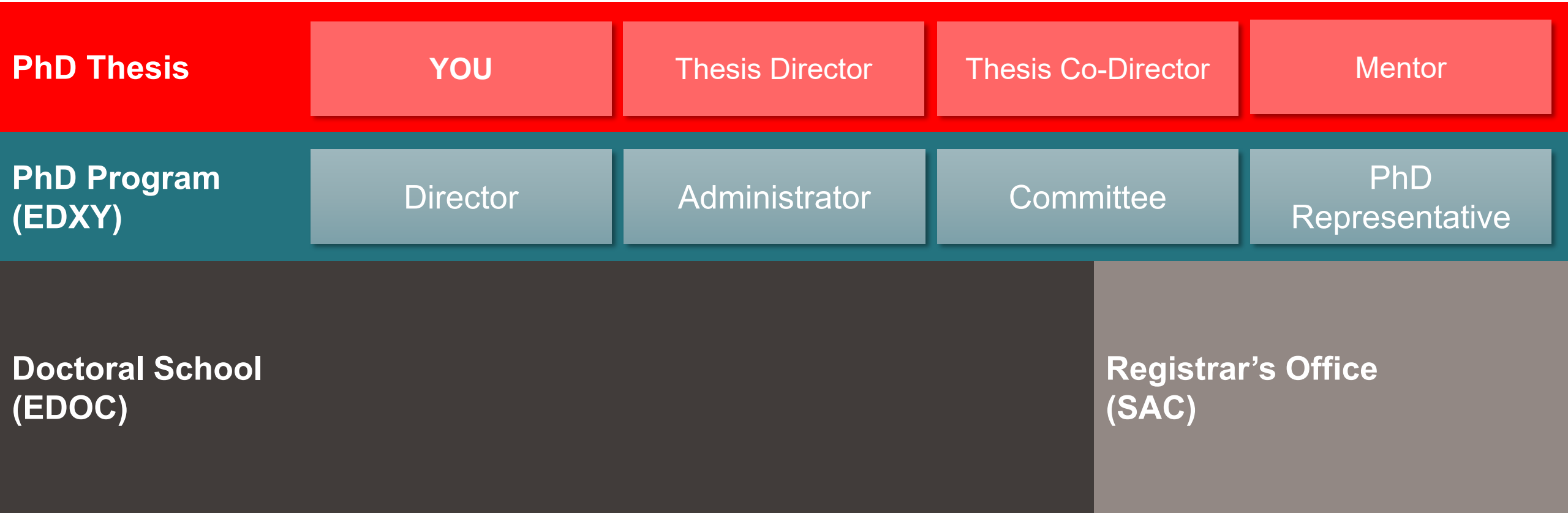
PhD in Swiss & European Higher Education awarded to who:

- has demonstrated a **systematic understanding of a field** of study and **mastery of the skills and methods of research** associated with that field;
- has demonstrated the ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a **substantial process of research with scholarly integrity**;
- has made a **contribution through original research** that extends the frontier of knowledge by developing a substantial body of work, some of which merits national or international refereed publication;
- is capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas;
- can communicate with their peers, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about their areas of expertise;
- can be expected to promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge-based society.

# PhD curriculum

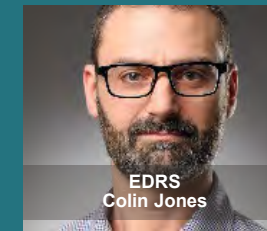
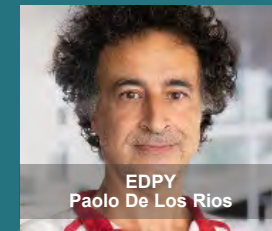
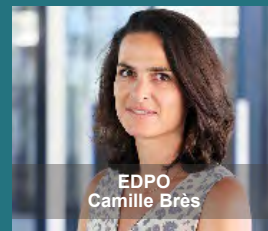
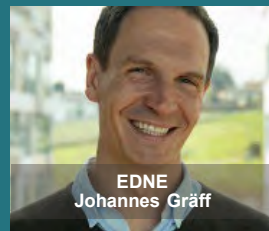
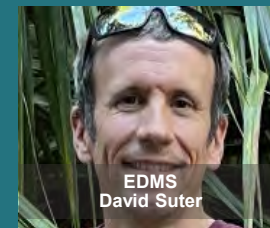
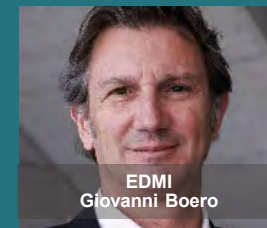
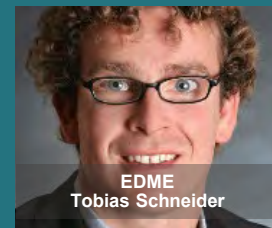
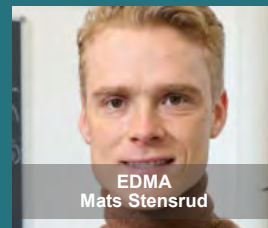
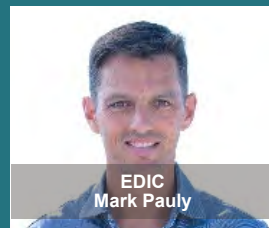
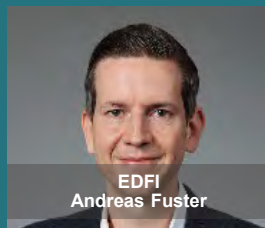
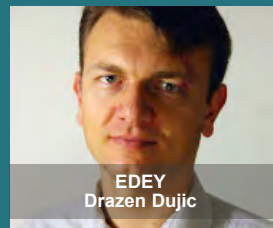
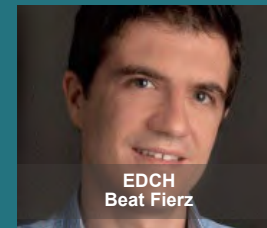
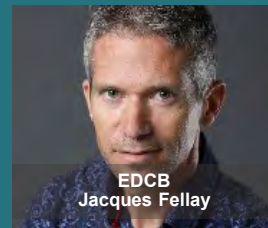
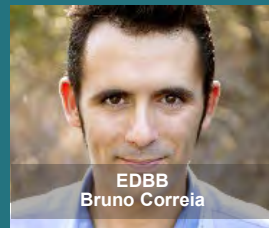
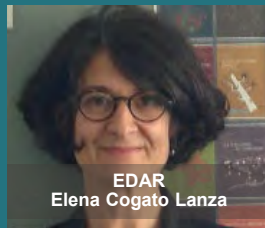
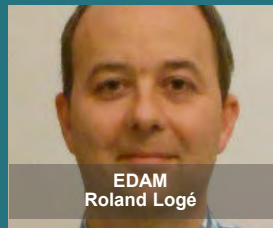


# Academic Framework

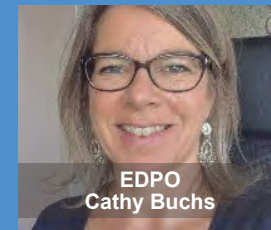
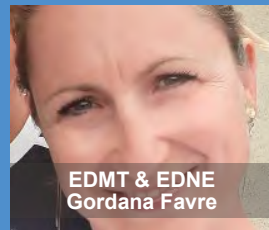
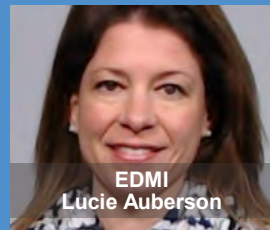
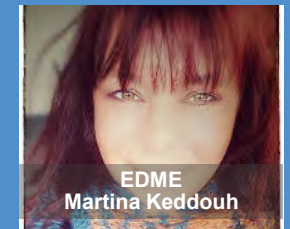
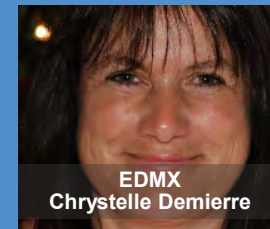
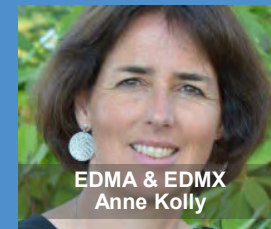
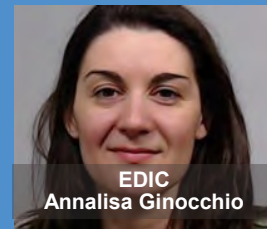
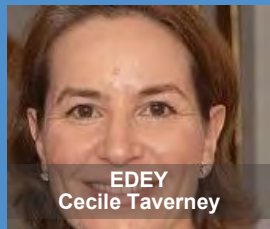
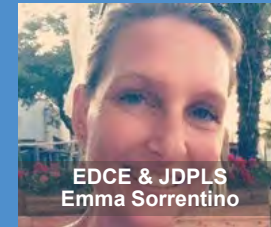
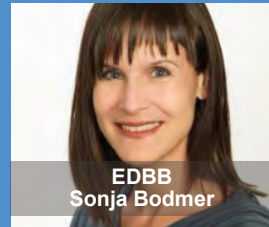
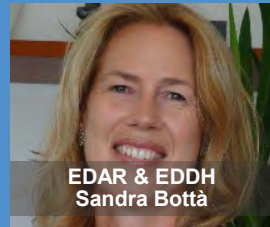
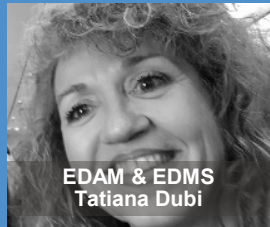




# PhD Program Directors



# PhD Program Administrators



# Doctoral School

- Hub for doctoral training at EPFL
- Provides resources and support to doctoral programs
- Maintains transversal skills training offer and run transversal programs
- Promotes the doctoral community, organizes events and supports initiatives

**2,307** PhD candidates

**105** Visiting PhDs

**437** Thesis directors

**388** Thesis co-directors

**22** PhD programs

**17** Staff FTE



Prof. Anne-Marie Kermarrec  
AVP-DLE



Dr. Philip Mair  
Deputy AVP-DLE



Juliane Kuntschen  
Administration, Legal, Finance



Dr. Lucia Baldi  
Projects and events



Anikó Borbély  
Communication, Mobility, Events



Dr. Julie Mazard  
Transversal Skills Training



Stéphanie Thoma  
Team Head Administrators



Dr. Olga Belova  
EuroTeQ



## Doctoral School Administration



# PhD Excellence Program

From 2<sup>nd</sup> year: a program to prepare participating PhD candidates as engaged members of society and leaders of tomorrow.



Leadership



Communication



Transversal skills



Networking



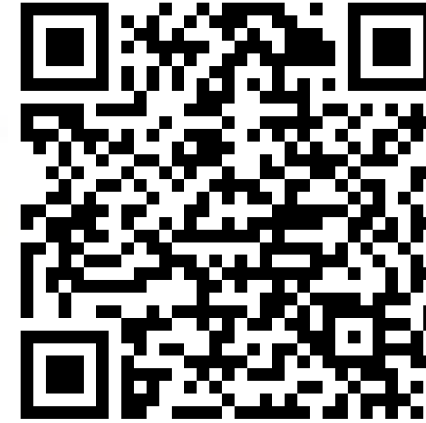


# Transversal skills



# New workshop: The PhD journey

- What is a PhD at EPFL
- Best practices for a successful PhD
- Ideas to enhance your PhD experience



2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025



13:00 – 15:00



Lausanne campus

# PhD Guide

- Explains PhD curriculum
- Explains employment aspects
- References to relevant EPFL LEX
- Good practice
- Ideas to enhance your PhD experience





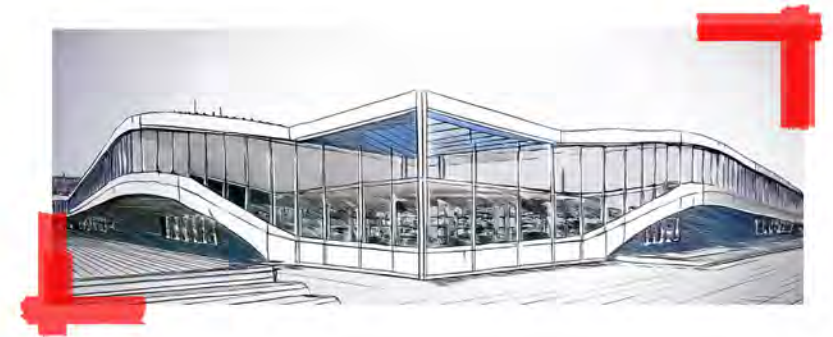
# Short talks

If you have any questions regarding:

- Doctoral courses
- Admissions
- Extension requests
- The end of thesis
- The oral exam and the public defence
- Diploma
- Certificates and certified copies



# Registrar's Office (SAC) Doctoral Students' Office



CONTACT

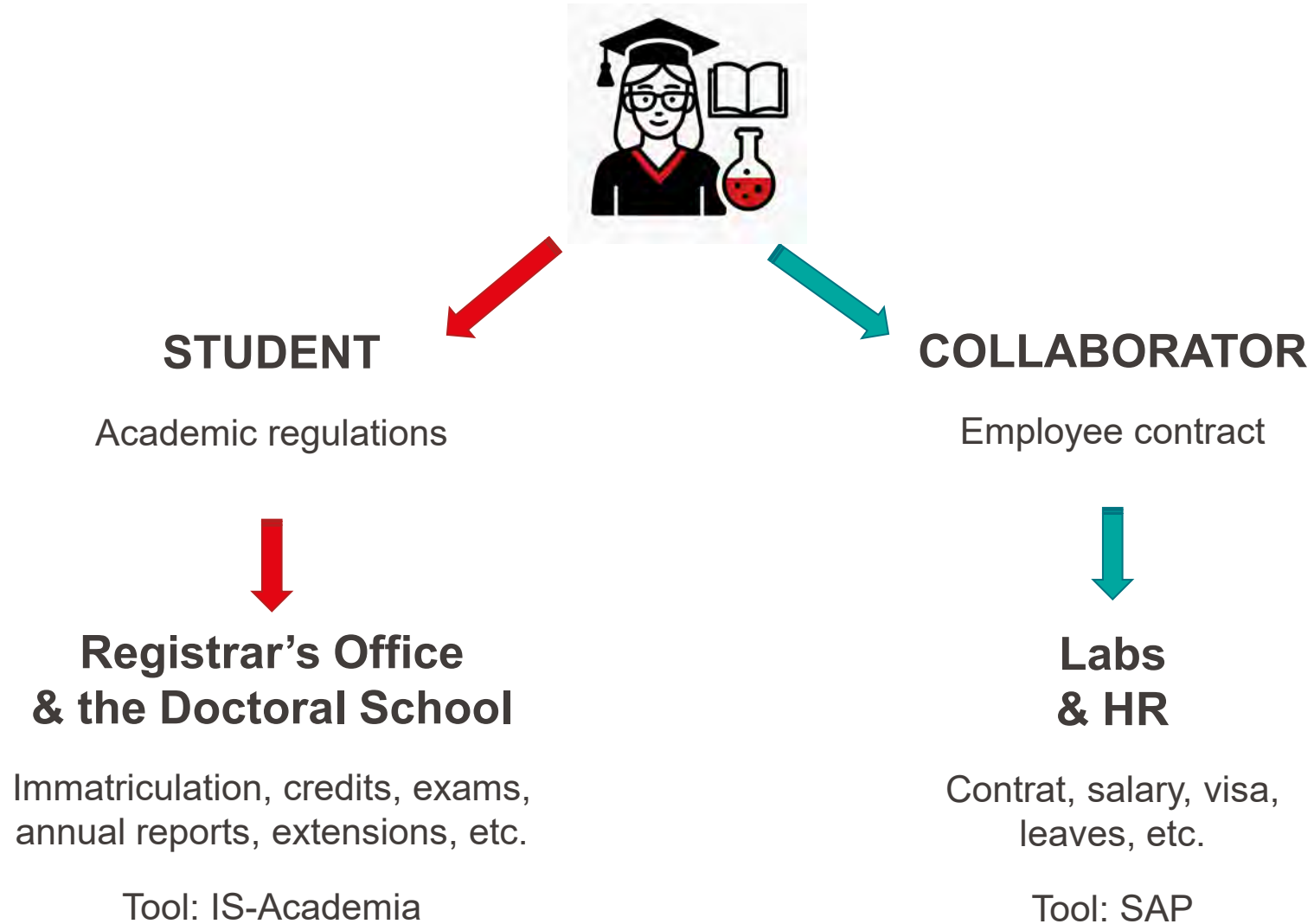
[sac-doctorants@epfl.ch](mailto:sac-doctorants@epfl.ch)

[cours-edoc@epfl.ch](mailto:cours-edoc@epfl.ch)

+41 (0)21 693 21 15



# 1 doctoral candidate = 2 roles





EPFL

Photo: «La Doctorale» 2025

PhD Welcome Day 2025 | November 6, 2025

# Vice Presidency for Human Development

■ École  
polytechnique  
fédérale  
de Lausanne

PRESENTED BY  
**Anne Gilliéron**  
Co-Director  
People Experience  
VPH

AND  
**Ines Ariceta Ayestaran**  
Director a.i.  
Wellbeing & Inclusion  
VPH



# Your Double Status @ EPFL



**Student**

**&**

**Employee**



**Academic**

- **Your Thesis Director:** any academic question or topic related to your Thesis
- **Your Program Director/Admin:** any academic issues or questions
- **Your Mentor:** for counselling or guidance during your thesis



**Employment Contract**



**Vice Presidency  
for Human  
Development  
(VPH)**

# What can the VPH do for you ?



## People Operations

Contract & renewals – work permits  
Swiss social security system –  
Payment of salaries – Swiss labour law  
Steps to declare absences  
Train Half-Fare ...

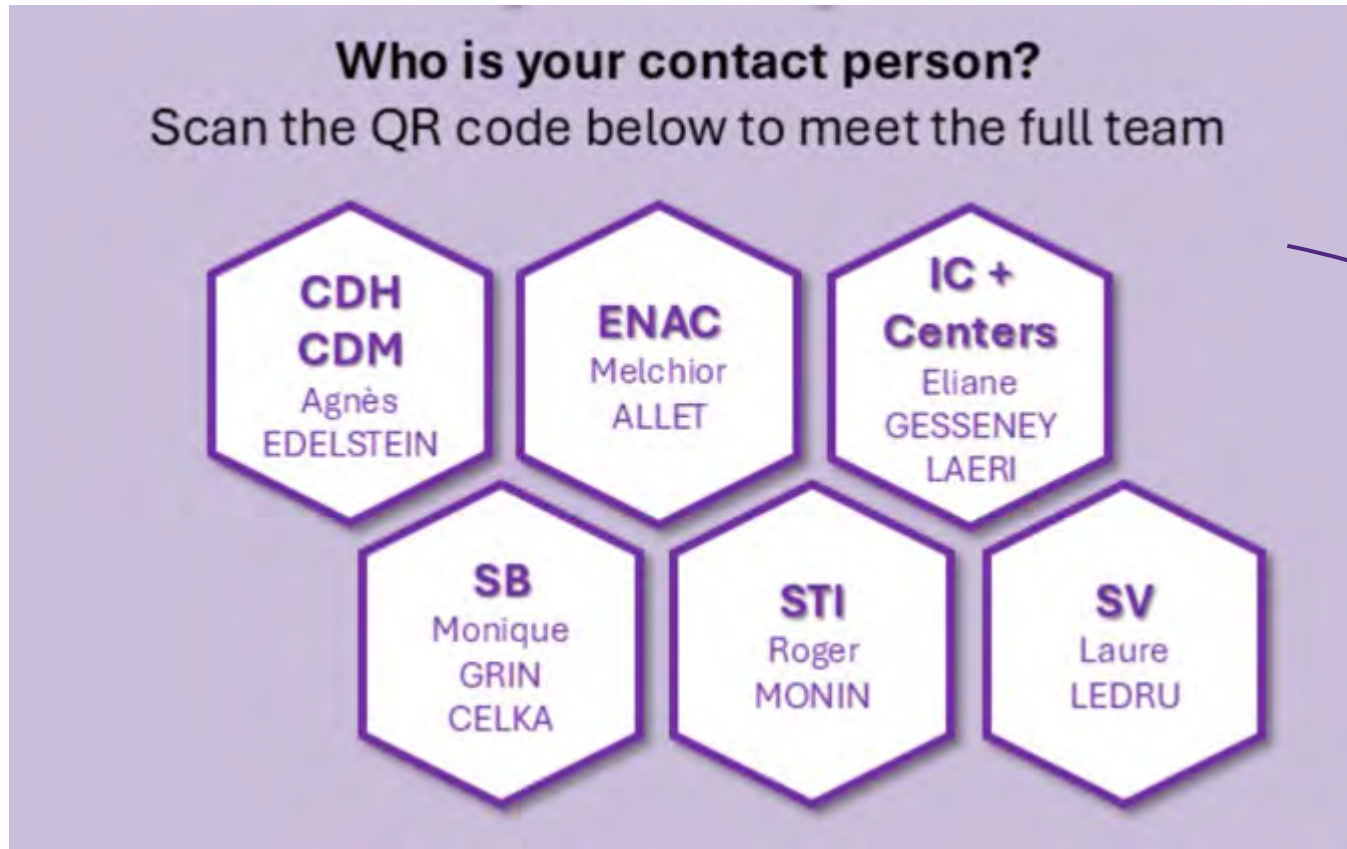
## Leadership & Development

Training online ([Keeplearning](#)) –  
Employability and Development Center –  
Language Center ...

## People Experience

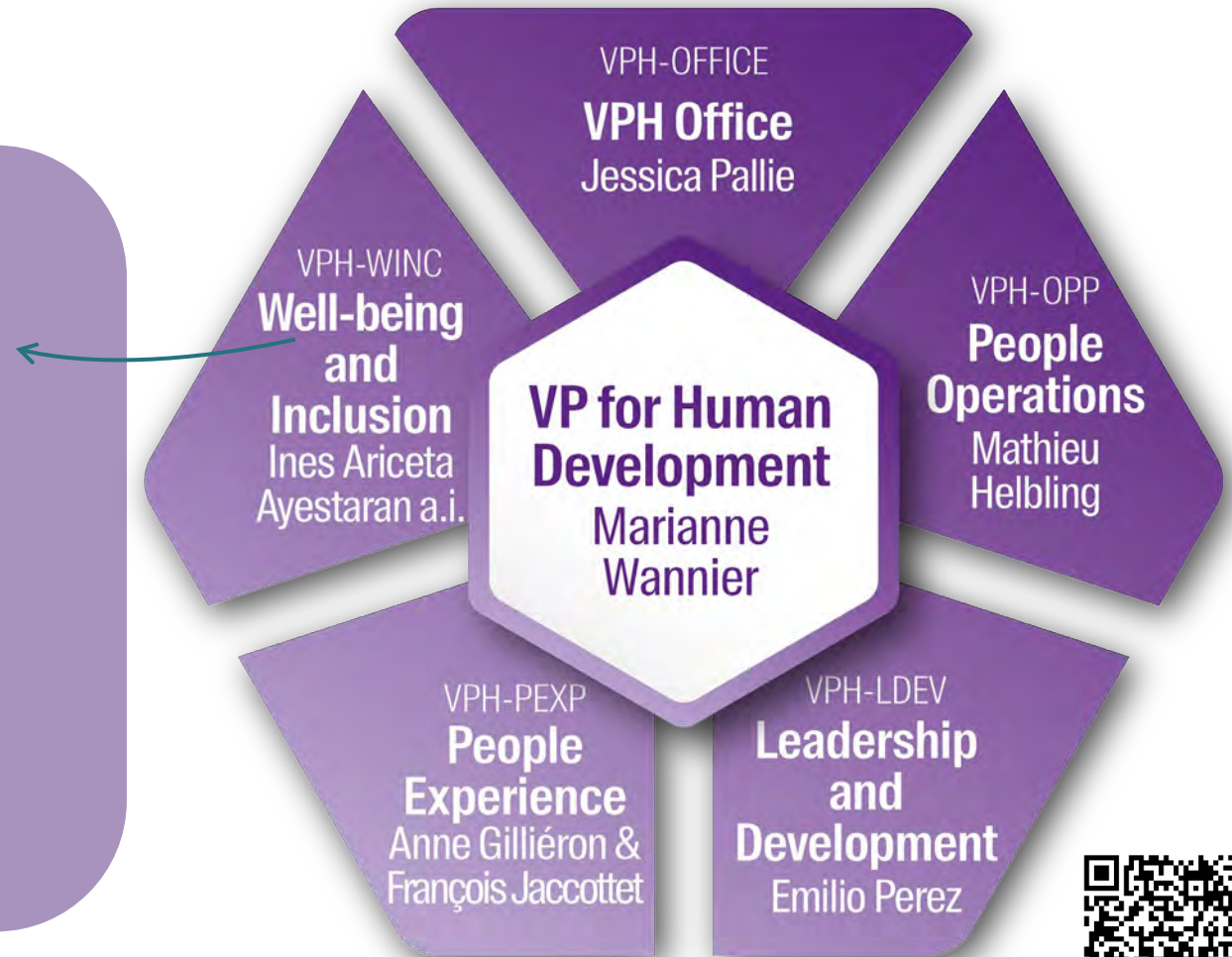
Employee Lifecycle – Counselling  
Case Management -

# Dedicated contact person



# Well-being and Inclusion

- Diversity, Equality and Inclusion
- Spiritual care
- Sport health
- Psychosocial risk prevention
- Mental health
- Respect Compliance Office
- Dual Career program





# E-learning

« *You are not alone.  
Promoting respect* »

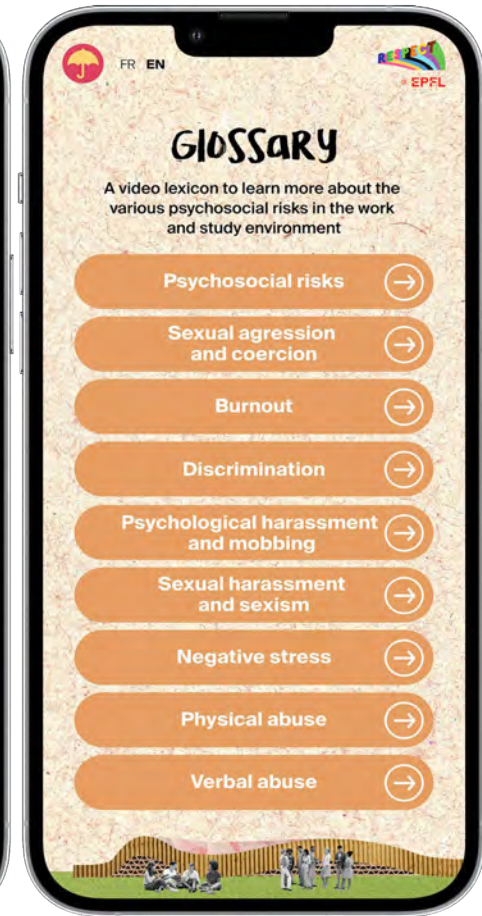
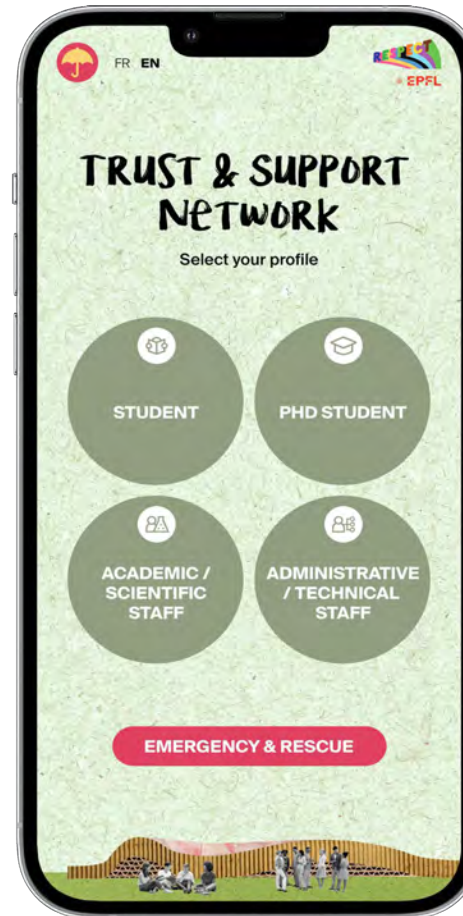
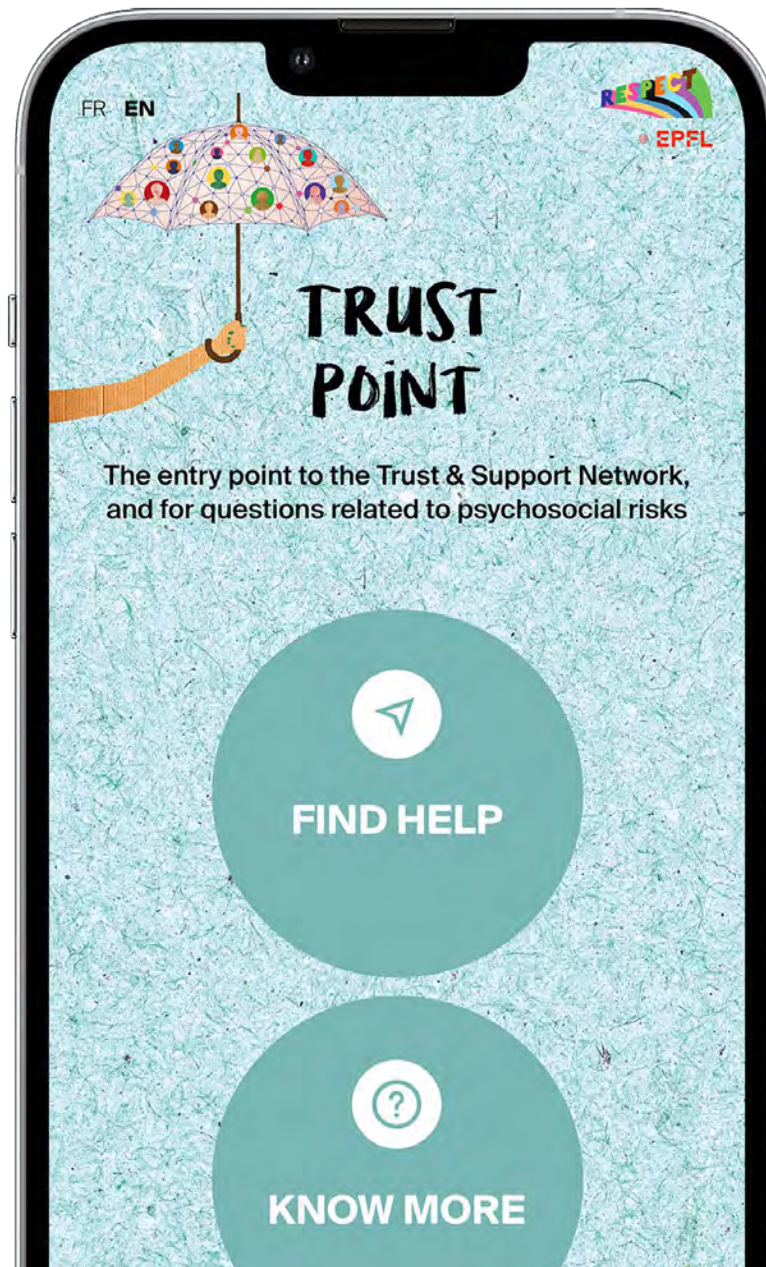
- 50 minutes
- Concrete situations, suggestions on how to **act and react**
- Part of **EPFL Essentials**





# A tool to guide you

Access via the EPFL  
Campus application





# A campus in motion

## SERVICE SPORT SANTÉ UNIL+EPFL



### PROGRAMME (FR/EN)

120 activities  
Daytrips | weekends | camps  
Sports field booking  
Events  
Sport & Health checkups



### CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

sportsanteunilepfl.ch  
(not the same login as your EPFL login)



### FOLLOW US



@sportsante\_unilepfl



Sport Santé UNIL EPFL



Sport Santé UNIL+EPFL



sportsanteunilepfl.ch

...AND ENJOY !

Sport Santé  
Unil. EPFL

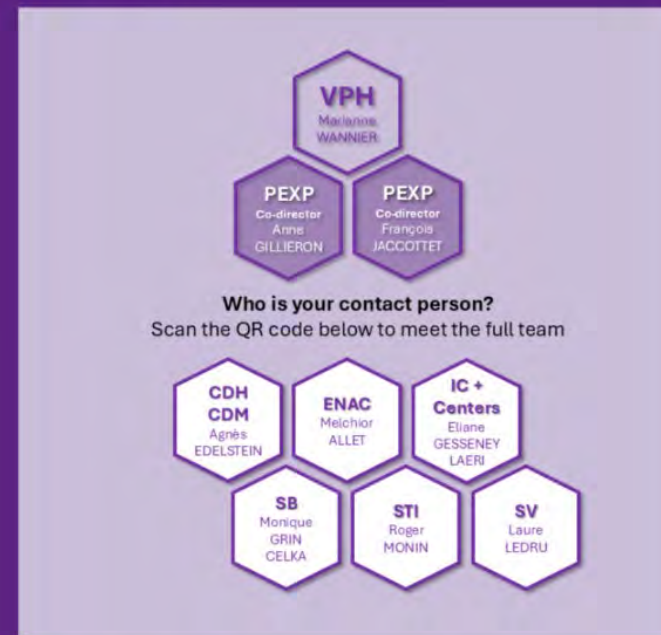
### ON CAMPUS!

- **MyBreak outdoor training**
  - 30 minute sessions on campus
  - Free!
- **MyBreak mindfulness**
- **Box-ups and leisure activities**

# Meet us at our Booths

EPFL

## People Experience (PEXP)



Strategic Counselling | Recruitment | Onboarding and  
Departure | Employee Life Cycle | Case Management

■ Vice Presidency for  
Human Development



28  
EPFL

## Well-being and Inclusion (WINC)



Diversity, Equality, Inclusion | Well-being and Mental  
Health | Sport and Health Service | Psychosocial Risk  
Prevention | Respect Compliance Office | Spritual Care

■ Vice Presidency for  
Human Development





**EPFL**

**Wishing you the  
very best at EPFL!**

■ École  
polytechnique  
fédérale  
de Lausanne



Scientific Intermediate Body

EPFL recognized  
entity:

# ELSA

PhD students

PostDocs

Scientists

POLYDOC 



+ Representatives of each Doctoral School ED--



# PolyDoc – 2 Sides of the Same Medal



Participation in politics at EPFL in close collaboration with ELSA

- Consultation with LEX changes
- Working groups e.g.
  - Food on campus
  - Teaching regulations
  - Mental Health
  - Anything you are concerned about

## Join ELSA:



September 29 (1 consultation including 2 items)

f full professor (LEX)

College of Humanities

20 CHF - PhD  
30 CHF - Postdoc/

!)

Doctoral studies + Terms of employment of EPFL assistants

<https://go.epfl.ch/ELSA-Join>





# PolyDoc – 2 Sides of the Same Medal



Social/Non-work related life on campus

- Apéros, Trivia nights, BBQ
- Sport events
- Information Sessions/Seminars (Health Insurance, Taxes, Immigration ...)
- Any further ideas?



## Join us to be up-to-date



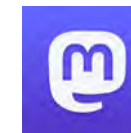
@EPFL\_PolyDoc



@polydoc



PolyDoc



@polydocEPFL



[polydoc-epfl.slack.com](https://polydoc-epfl.slack.com)

And watch out for  
our newsletter!



Whatsapp

### Next Events:

- Seminar on Swiss Immigration Law and Permits 19.11
- Seminar on Suisse Retirement System 25.11

# Visit the stands!

- VPH People Experience
- VPH Wellbeing and Inclusion
- Student Affairs
- Teaching Support Center
- Language Center
- Research Office
- Technology Transfer Office
- EPFL Startup Launchpad
- Research Computer Platform
- EPFL Library
- Doctoral Programs
- Doctoral School
- Registrar's Office
- PhD Student Associations
- Spiritual Services