

DH

Master Thesis Project (PDM)

PDM Duration

- EPFL: 17 weeks
- Other university or institution/company: 25 weeks

Finding a PDM

- At EPFL, proposals from labs (list of available projects on the DH section website)
- At EPFL, your own proposal to a Professor
- In an institution – by the EPFL internship portal or by your own means
- In another university – by your own means or via a EPFL Professor

Finding a PDM

It is important to note that the subject of a PDM in an institution or company has to be a research topic linked to innovation. The EPFL supervisor will be the one who determines if the project is research oriented enough for a PDM.

Do not commit to a company for a PDM without first obtaining the agreement of the professor who will supervise it and the agreement of the DH Section.

Finding a PDM

If a student makes a proposal to a Professor, it may be that the project will have to be adapted to the interests of the DH Faculty.

Supervision of PDM

ALL PDMs must be supervised by an EPFL Professor or Senior Scientist (even PDMs outside of EPFL)

- For all PDMs not offered by an EPFL DH Lecturer directly:
 - Submit the PDM project to an EPFL Professor (DH or from another section) and get her/his approval to supervise you
 - Then register your project in IS-Academia & sign any contract (for PDMs in institutions or companies).

This takes time – start early

Official PDM dates

- Official dates are on the Registrar's Office website:
<https://sac.epfl.ch/projets-master>
 - Please note these dates can be flexible.
 - To change the start date, please write to the DH Section and explain the reason. The section will then approve or not your request.
 - The start date will automatically generate the end date of the PDM.
- The EPFL graduation ceremony is early October, so the PDM has to be defended at least one month before if you want to be part of the ceremony.

Registering to your PDM

- Once you have all the approvals, be sure to register your PDM in IS-Academia (title of project, dates, supervisor) – this is done in the “course registration” module.

Handing in and defending your PDM

- Once you are registered the section will inform you of the exact date at which you must hand-in your PDM
- A date will then be set for the oral defense. This is a private defense done in front of the EPFL supervisor and an expert.

FAQ

- Can I do a PDM in a different faculty at EPFL?
 - This is possible in some cases. Please submit the project you wish to do to the DH Section. The DH Section will then give you the OK or not.
- I will do a PDM in an institution. Is there an EPFL convention to sign?
 - Yes, EPFL has a convention for all EPFL students doing a PDM in an institution or a company. The DH Section will provide you with the convention when you contact them for approval of the project.
- Can I suggest a topic for a PDM to a Professor?
 - Yes, but keep in mind that you may have to be flexible. It can be that the project will have to be adapted to fit the DH Faculty.

Remember: Start Early

Contact:

DH Section

Kathleen Collins Marton

021 693 64 27

kathleen.collinsmarton@epfl.ch