Regulation of the doctoral program in Energy (EDEY)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding
Effective May 1st, 2017

In this document the masculine form is used to designate both male and female genders.

The EDEY doctoral program Committee,

taking into account art. 3 al. 3 and 6 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at EPFL conferred by EPFL of January 26, 1998 and art. 2 al. 4 ch. 3 of the Directive concerning doctoral studies at EPFL of November 21, 2005,

decrees:

1. Field of Application

The regulation concerning the EDEY doctoral program (hereinafter: EDEY program) sets forth the rules relating to the study plan of the EDEY program as well as the candidacy examination for the formal admission to prepare for the doctoral thesis in the EDEY program of the EPFL. Furthermore, it reiterates and details the application of certain essential rules concerning the doctorate at EPFL.

2. Study Plan

2.1 The study plan of the EDEY program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).

2.2 At least **4 of these 12 credits** must be obtained during the first year of the doctoral studies.

2.3 **The required credits** may be obtained by successfully passing either Master or doctoral courses at EPFL, approved by the thesis director. For external courses of a Swiss or a foreign university, the equivalence of the credits is set on a case-by-case basis. The request must be approved by the thesis director and then the director of the doctoral program according to the conditions set by EDEY program.

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1 RS 414.133.2
2 EPFL LEX 2.4.1
3. **Candidacy Exam**

3.1 To be formally admitted to start a doctoral thesis at EPFL, the candidate must successfully pass the candidacy examination at the end of his 1st year of doctoral studies (art. 6 and 8 al. 1 let. a of the Ordinance on the Doctorate and 8 al. 1 and 2 of the Directive concerning doctoral studies at EPFL).

The candidate writes a research plan that he submits to the members of the jury a week prior to the date of his exam. The examination consists of an oral presentation of approximately thirty minutes by the candidate, followed by questions from the jury. The candidate must demonstrate the originality of his 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 of the candidacy exam is composed of:

- a president being part of EDEY Committee.
- the candidate’s thesis director and co-director (if existing).
- a professor, MER or member of EPFL teaching body who is not part of the same laboratory as the candidate's thesis director (expert 1).
- facultative: in addition, an expert internal or external to EPFL can be part of the jury (expert 2).

Upon request and with the explicit (written) agreement of the Phd student, the director of the doctoral program may authorize participation in the candidacy exam by videoconference for a single member of the jury. As a last resort, the president of the jury may participate by videoconference. Videoconferencing is not allowed for the PhD student.

The examination date is set by mutual agreement between the thesis director and the president of the jury and conveyed in writing to all various interested parties at least two weeks before the examination.

The presence of an audience is not allowed.

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, in the meeting minutes, to the candidate. It will mention: the date and place of the examination, the verdict of the jury and the explanatory memorandum; it is signed by every member of the jury. Thereafter, the candidate receives a decision from EPFL formally admitting or refusing the start of a doctoral thesis (art. 8 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at EPFL).

4. **Annual Report**

During his thesis work, the doctoral candidate has the obligation to submit each year, starting one year after his candidacy exam, a report on the progress of his work to the thesis director. In case of disagreement the thesis director uses the dedicated section box in the EDEY program “annual report” form to officially share his remarks with his doctoral candidate. The thesis director then reports in writing to the EDEY program director within a deadline of one month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at the EPFL).
5. **Mentoring**

One mentor for all PhD students is nominated by the members of the EDEY Committee. The doctoral candidates receive the information and may directly contact his mentor, who will make suggestions to solve possible issues.

EDEY Committee designates another member of the Committee as the mentor for the doctoral candidates of the main mentor.

6. **Dispositions finales**

The present regulation on studies shall take effect on May 1, 2017 and replaces any other doctoral program regulation.

For the EDEY program committee:
Prof. John R. THOME
Program director
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

For the Doctoral School:
Prof. Pierre Vandergheynst
Vice President for Education
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne