Regulation concerning
the Doctoral Program in photonics (EDPO)

Please note that only the French version is legally binding.

June 1, 2014

The EDPO Doctoral Program Commission,

taking into account art. 3 al. 3 and 6 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the doctorate conferred by
the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne of January 26, 1998¹ and art. 2 al. 4 ch. 3
of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de
Lausanne of November 21, 2005²,

decrees:

1. Field of Application

The regulation concerning the doctoral program in Photonics (hereinafter: « EDPO
program ») set forth the rules relating to the study plan for the program, as well as the
candidacy examination for the formal admission to the doctoral thesis in the EDPO
doctoral program at 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 for the EDPO program requires **12 ECTS credits** (European Credit
Transfer and Accumulation System).

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

2.3 The 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 and in accordance with
the terms established by the EDPO program. Regarding the doctoral courses of a
Swiss or foreign university, the credit equivalence is determined case by case. Any

¹ RS 414.133.2
² EPFL LEX 2.4.1
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.

3. Candidacy exam

3.1 To be formally admitted to a doctoral thesis at EPFL, the candidate must successfully pass the candidacy examination at the end of his first year of doctoral studies (art. 6 and 8 al. 1 let. of the Ordinance on the doctorate and art. 8 al. 1 and 2 of the Directives concerning doctoral studies at EPFL). This examination consists in an oral presentation of approximately thirty minutes by the candidate about his research proposal, followed by the questions from the jury. The candidate must demonstrate the originality of his thesis topic, objectives and proposed methods, as well as the general context of the topic of the thesis and the positioning of the work in the field of research. He must also demonstrate a clear vision, plan and methodology for the project and prove that he has acquired during the first year of research at EPFL solid basis to reach these objectives. The topic of the examination is mainly the research plan submitted by the candidate, but the jury may question the candidate on his area of research in general, including its theoretical and methodological foundations.

3.2 The jury for the candidacy exam is composed of a Committee member of EDPO program (excluding PhD representative), of one expert holding a PhD (usually a member of EPFL teaching staff) and the supervisor and co-supervisor if applicable. The member of the EDPO program Committee officiates as president of the jury and writes the minutes of the examination.

3.3 Once the jury has deliberated, the president informs the candidate orally on the outcome of the examination. Further possible recommendations are communicated in writing to the candidate. The candidate receives after the examination the decision from EPFL to be admitted or not to the PhD (art. 8 al. 2 of the Ordinance on the doctorate).

4. Annual Report

During his doctoral study, the candidate has the obligation to submit an annual report on the progress of his work to the EDPO program director. The supervisor (and eventual co-supervisor), signs this report and indicates in writing on the report his/their comments on the progress of the thesis. An EDPO program committee member, usually the mentor, reads the report and informs the program director within one month (art. 10 al. 3 and al. 4 of the Ordinance on the doctorate at EPFL). The candidate submits his first report one year after the candidacy exam and so on for subsequent years.

5. Teaching Assistants

In accordance with the job description in his contract, in principle defined according to the application rules of October 1, 2006 for the directives governing the employment and working relationships of assistants at EPFL, the doctoral candidate hired as an assistant is under the obligation to participate in EPFL teaching activities for the equivalent of 20% of his 100% working hours.
6. **Mentoring**

A mentor is appointed upon registration by the director of the program for each doctoral student. He works as a mediator between the PhD student, his supervisor, and other members of the faculty or administration. The PhD student may directly contact his mentor who will make suggestions to resolve possible issues.

7. **Final Provisions**

The present study regulation of EDPO program takes effect on June 1, 2014 and replaces any prior study regulation for the program.

For the EDPO doctoral program committee:
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Director of the program
École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

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For the doctoral school:
Prof. Cathrin Brisken
Dean of the Doctoral School
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