

*The French text of this document shall be deemed the authentic version, the English translation being intended for information purposes only.*

*For the sake of convenience, the masculine form is employed in this document to designate persons of either gender.*

**Ordinance** [RS 414.132.3](#)  
**on Bachelor and Master studies at**  
**the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne**  
**(Ordinance on studies at EPFL)**

of 14 June 2004 (Status as at 1 September 2022)

---

*The Direction of the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL),  
based on Art. 3, par. 1, letter b, of the *ordonnance sur l'EPFZ*  
et l'EPFL<sup>1</sup> of 13 November 2003,  
hereby adopts the following:*

**Section 1      Generalities and definitions**

**Art. 1              Subject**

<sup>1</sup> The present ordinance governs the studies leading to the Bachelor and Master degrees awarded by EPFL.

<sup>2</sup> The Bachelor and Master studies constitute the two successive phases of this education.

**Art. 2              Admission**

Admission to the Bachelor and Master studies is determined by the *ordonnance concernant l'admission à l'École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne*<sup>2</sup> of 8 May 1995.

<sup>1</sup> RS 414.110.37

<sup>2</sup> RS 414.110.422.3

### **Art. 3** Degrees

<sup>1</sup> EPFL awards the following degrees in its fields of study (Sections or domains):<sup>3</sup>

- a. Bachelor;
- b. Master.

<sup>2</sup> The degrees bear the official EPFL stamp and the name of the holder. They are signed by the President of EPFL, the Vice President for Academic Affairs at EPFL and the Section Director. They are awarded together with the «Diploma Supplement» describing the level, context, content and status of the successfully completed studies. The degrees state the field of study and, in the case of the Master, the professional designation of the holder, plus any particular specialisation.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> ...<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> All EPFL diploma holders (Art. 15, par. 1) are entitled to use the title of EPFL Master degree holder (Annexe I).

<sup>5</sup> The list of degrees and corresponding designations according to the fields of study is given in Annexe I of the present ordinance.

<sup>6</sup> The Master degrees awarded by EPFL jointly with other institutions are governed by specific agreements.

<sup>7</sup> EPFL also awards the title of docteur ès sciences (or PhD) and other qualifications corresponding to continuing education. These qualifications are the subject of specific ordinances.

### **Art. 4** ECTS study credits

<sup>1</sup> EPFL allocates credits for evaluated study results, in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, hereinafter referred to as ECTS. The number of credits allocated to a subject is based on the volume of work that must be accomplished in order to attain the educational objective.

<sup>2</sup> ECTS credits are acquired cumulatively according to the conditions specified by the Ordinance on the evaluation of Bachelor and Master studies at EPFL of 30 June 2015<sup>6</sup>. The implementing regulations for study evaluation

<sup>3</sup> Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 12 juin 2006, en vigueur depuis le 23 oct. 2006 (RO **2006** 3307).

<sup>4</sup> Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 28 juil. 2022, en vigueur depuis le 1er sept. 2022 (RO **2022** 441).

<sup>5</sup> Abrogé par le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, avec effet au 1er sept. 2016 (RO **2015** 2539).

referred to under Art. 5 of the aforementioned ordinance define the number of credits allocated to each branch of study<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> The study plans referred to under Art. 5 of the Ordinance on the evaluation of studies at EPFL are designed in such a way that 60 ECTS credits can be acquired each academic year<sup>8</sup>.

#### **Art. 5<sup>9</sup>**                      Number of ECTS credits acquired

<sup>1</sup> In order to obtain the Bachelor, the student must have acquired 180 ECTS credits in accordance with the Ordinance on the evaluation of studies at EPFL of 30 June 2015<sup>10</sup> and the implementing regulations referred to under Art. 5 of the aforementioned ordinance.

<sup>2</sup> In order to obtain the Master, the student must have acquired, in addition to the Bachelor, 60 ECTS credits, or 90 ECTS credits for the Sections that require them in accordance with Annexe I, and successfully completed the Master project representing 30 credits, in accordance with the Ordinance on the evaluation of studies at EPFL and the implementing regulations.

## **Section 2            Bachelor**

#### **Art. 6**                      Levels of study

<sup>1</sup> The EPFL Bachelor consists of two successive levels of study:

- a.    the preparatory first year (foundation year);
- b.    the Bachelor programme.

<sup>2</sup> ...<sup>11</sup>

#### **Art. 7**                      Preparatory first year (foundation year)

<sup>1</sup> The Foundation Year consists of two semesters.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>6</sup>    RS 414.132.2

<sup>7</sup>    Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, en vigueur depuis le 1er sept. 2016 (RO 2015 2539).

<sup>8</sup>    Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, en vigueur depuis le 1er sept. 2016 (RO 2015 2539).

<sup>9</sup>    Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, en vigueur depuis le 1er sept. 2016 (RO 2015 2539).

<sup>10</sup>   RS 414.132.2

<sup>11</sup>   Abrogé par le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, avec effet au 1er sept. 2016 (RO 2015 2539).

<sup>12</sup>   Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, en vigueur depuis le 1er sept. 2016 (RO 2015 2539).

<sup>2</sup> Its objective is to verify the acquisition of the basic knowledge and skills required for the next stage of study in the natural sciences and an initiation in the human and social sciences.

<sup>3</sup> Its duration must not exceed two years.

<sup>4</sup> Passing the foundation year examination results in the acquisition of 60 ECTS credits and constitutes the condition for admission to the Bachelor programme.

## **Art. 8 Bachelor programme**

<sup>1</sup> The Bachelor programme comprises two years of studies.

<sup>2</sup> Its objective is the acquisition of a general and scientific basis specific to the field of study and a sector of the human and social sciences.

<sup>3</sup> It must be successfully completed at the latest 4 years after succeeding in the Foundation Year or, in case of admission to a higher semester, within a deadline equivalent to twice the number of semesters to be completed<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> The Bachelor programme has been successfully completed when 120 ECTS credits have been acquired. Successful completion of the Bachelor programme constitutes the condition for admission to the Master programme. Art. 29, par. 1 of the Ordinance on the evaluation of studies at EPFL of 30 June 2015<sup>14</sup> is reserved<sup>15</sup>.

## **Section 3 Master**

### **Art. 9 Levels of study**

<sup>1</sup> The Master consists of two successive levels of study:

- a. the Master programme;
- b. the Master project.

<sup>2</sup> Repealed<sup>16</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, en vigueur depuis le 1er sept. 2016 (RO 2015 2539).

<sup>14</sup> RS 414.132.2

<sup>15</sup> Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, en vigueur depuis le 1er sept. 2016 (RO 2015 2539).

<sup>16</sup> Abrogé par le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, avec effet au 1er sept. 2016 (RO 2015 2539).

**Art. 10** Master programme

<sup>1</sup> Its objective is the acquisition of the specific knowledge of the particular field of study allowing mastery of the profession, and the study of a discipline of the social and human sciences.

<sup>2</sup> The duration of the Master programme comprising 60 ECTS credits is one year, but must not exceed two years; that of the programme comprising 90 ECTS credits is one and a half years, but must not exceed three years.

<sup>3</sup> The Master programme has been successfully completed when 60 or 90 ECTS credits have been acquired.

**Art. 11<sup>17</sup>** Master project

<sup>1</sup> The Master project comprises one semester and its successful completion results in the acquisition of 30 ECTS credits.

<sup>2</sup> The Master project must be successfully completed within one year of succeeding in the Master programme or, if applicable, following conditional admission (Art. 29, par. 3 of the Ordinance on the evaluation of studies at EPFL of 30 June 2015<sup>18</sup>).

<sup>3</sup> Successful completion of the Master programme constitutes the condition for starting the Master project, subject to Art. 29, par. 3 of the Ordinance on the evaluation of studies at EPFL of 30 June 2015; if the latter applies, successful completion of the Master project requires prior success in the Master programme.

**Section 4 Study duration**

**Art. 12<sup>19</sup>** Duration requirements

<sup>1</sup> The required credits must be acquired within the durations stipulated by this Ordinance for each study programme.

<sup>2</sup> Notwithstanding par. 1, EPFL may extend the maximum duration of a study programme or grant an interruption between two levels to students who assert a valid reason, particularly a long illness, pregnancy, or period of obligation to serve, as soon as they become aware of it and before the maximum duration has elapsed.

17 Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, en vigueur depuis le 1er sept. 2016 (RO 2015 2539).

18 RS 414.132.2

19 Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, en vigueur depuis le 1er sept. 2016 (RO 2015 2539).

## **Section 5      Other terms and conditions**

### **Art. 13            Mobility**

<sup>1</sup> For mobility reasons, EPFL may authorise students to study at another university or equivalent institution during one semester or one year, or to do a Master project in another university or equivalent institution, in a public sector or in industry, while remaining enrolled at EPFL. The study evaluations for which successful results have been obtained in another university or equivalent institution are taken into account insofar as the study programme had been decided on beforehand with the person responsible for the field of study at EPFL.

<sup>2</sup> EPFL directives apply<sup>20</sup>.

### **Art. 14            Amendment of present law**

The amendment of the present law is specified in Annexe II.

### **Art. 15            Transitional provisions**

<sup>1</sup> The diploma is awarded until 31 December 2004.

<sup>2</sup> The Bachelor and Master degrees are awarded as from 1 January 2005.

### **Art. 16            Coming into force**

<sup>1</sup> The present ordinance comes into force on 18 October 2004, with the exception of par. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Annexe II comes into force on 1 January 2005.

20    Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, en vigueur depuis le 1er sept. 2016 (RO 2015 2539).

*Annexe P<sup>21</sup>*  
(Art. 3, par. 5)

See : [https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2004/653/fr#annex\\_I](https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2004/653/fr#annex_I)

21 Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. II de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 28 juillet 2022, en vigueur depuis le 1er sept. 2022 (RO **2022** 441).

*Annexe II*  
(Art. 14)

**Amendment of present law**

Ordonnances hereafter are modified as follow:

...<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Changes are available on RO 2004 4335.