

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 2016)

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'EPFL¹ of 13 November 2003, hereby adopts the following:

Section 1 Generalities and definitions

Art. 1 Subject

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

² 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*² of 8 May 1995.

¹ RS 414.110.37

² RS 414.110.422.3

Art. 3 Degrees

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

- a. Bachelor;
- b. Master.

² 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.

³ Repealed⁴.

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

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

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

⁷ 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

¹ 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.

² 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 2015⁵. The implementing regulations for study evaluation

³ 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).

⁴ 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).

⁵ RS **414.132.2**

referred to under Art. 5 of the aforementioned ordinance define the number of credits allocated to each branch of study⁶.

³ 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 year⁷.

Art. 5⁸ Number of ECTS credits acquired

¹ 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 2015⁹ and the implementing regulations referred to under Art. 5 of the aforementioned ordinance.

² 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

¹ The EPFL Bachelor consists of two successive levels of study:

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

² Repealed¹⁰

Art. 7 Preparatory first year (foundation year)

¹ The Foundation Year consists of two semesters.¹¹

⁶ 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).

⁷ 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).

⁸ 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).

⁹ **RS 414.132.2**

¹⁰ Abrogé par le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, avec effet au 1^{er} sept. 2016 (RO **2015** 2539).

¹¹ 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).

² 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.

³ Its duration must not exceed two years.

⁴ 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

¹ The Bachelor programme comprises two years of studies.

² 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.

³ 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 completed¹².

⁴ 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 2015¹³ is reserved¹⁴.

Section 3 Master

Art. 9 Levels of study

¹ The Master consists of two successive levels of study:

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

² Repealed¹⁵

¹² 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).

¹³ RS **414.132.2**

¹⁴ 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).

¹⁵ Abrogé par le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 30 juin 2015, avec effet au 1^{er} sept. 2016 (RO **2015** 2539).

Art. 10 Master programme

¹ 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.

² 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.

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

Art. 11¹⁶ Master project

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

² 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 2015¹⁷).

³ 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. 12¹⁸ Duration requirements

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

² 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.

¹⁶ 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).

¹⁷ RS **414.132.2**

¹⁸ 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

¹ 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.

² EPFL directives apply¹⁹.

Art. 14 Amendment of present law

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

Art. 15 Transitional provisions

¹ The diploma is awarded until 31 December 2004.

² The Bachelor and Master degrees are awarded as from 1 January 2005.

Art. 16 Coming into force

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

² Annexe II comes into force on 1 January 2005.

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).

Titles and professional designations

| Bachelor and Master | Sections/Domains | Professional designation related to the Master |
|---|---|--|
| Bachelor of Science BSc Master of Science MSc | Génie civil Civil Engineering | Ingénieur civil (ing. civ. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc Master of Science MSc | Sciences et ingénierie de l'environnement Environmental Sciences and Engineering | Ingénieur en environnement (ing. env. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc Master of Science MSc | Génie mécanique Mechanical Engineering | Ingénieur mécanicien (ing. méc. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc Master of Science MSc | Microtechnique Microengineering | Ingénieur en microtechnique (ing. microtechn. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc Master** of Science MSc | Génie électrique et élec- tronique Electrical and Electronic Engineering | Ingénieur électricien (ing. él. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc Master of Science MSc | Systèmes de communica- tion Communication Systems | Ingénieur en systèmes de communication (ing. sys. com. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc Master of Science MSc Master of Science MSc | Physique Physics Ingénierie physique Applied Physics | Physicien (phys. dipl. EPF) Ingénieur physicien (ing. phys. dipl. EPF) |
| Master of Science MSc EPF Lausanne – ETH Zürich*** | Génie nucléaire Nuclear Engineering | Ingénieur en génie nucléaire (ing. nucl. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc | Chimie et génie chimique Chemistry and Chemical Engineering | |

²⁰ Nouvelle teneur selon le ch. I de l'O de la Direction de l'EPFL du 20 juillet 2016, en vigueur depuis le 1^{er} sept. 2016 (RO 2016 2873).

| Bachelor and Master | Sections/Domains | Professional designation related to the Master |
|--|--|---|
| Master of Science MSc | Chimie moléculaire et biologique Molecular and Biological Chemistry | Chimiste (chim. dipl. EPF) |
| Master of Science MSc | Génie chimique et biotechnologie Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology | Ingénieur chimiste (ing. chim. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc | Mathématiques | |
| Master* of Science MSc | Mathematics Mathématiques Mathematics | Mathématicien (math. dipl. EPF) |
| Master of Science MSc | Ingénierie mathématique Applied Mathematics | Ingénieur mathématicien (ing. math. dipl. EPF) |
| Master of Science MSc EPF Lausanne – HEP Vaud **** | Mathématiques pour l'enseignement Mathematics for education | Mathématicien pour l'enseignement (math. ens. dipl. EPF-HEP) |
| Master of Science MSc | Science et ingénierie computationnelles Computational Science and Engineering | Ingénieur en sciences computationnelles (ing. sc. comput. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc Master of Science MSc | Informatique Computer Science | Ingénieur informaticien (ing. info. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc Master of Science MSc | Science et génie des matériaux Materials Science and Engineering | Ingénieur en science des matériaux (ing. sc. mat. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc Master of Science MSc | Architecture Architecture | Architecte (arch. dipl. EPF) |
| Bachelor of Science BSc Master of Science MSc | Sciences et technologies du vivant Life Sciences and Technology | Ingénieur en sciences et technologies du vivant (ing. sc. technol. viv. dipl. EPF) |

| Bachelor and Master | Sections/Domains | Professional designation related to the Master |
|--|---|--|
| Master of Science MSc | Bioingénierie Bioengineering | Ingénieur en bioingénierie (ing. bioing. dipl. EPF) |
| Master of Science MSc | Ingénierie financière Financial Engineering | Ingénieur en sciences financières (ing. fin. dipl. EPF) |
| Master of Science MSc | Management, technologie et entrepreneuriat Management, Technology and Entrepreneurship | Ingénieur en management de la technologie et entre- preneuriat (ing. manag. techn. entrepr. dipl. EPF) |
| Master of Science MSc | Gestion de l'énergie et durabilité Energy management and Sustainability | Ingénieur en gestion de l'énergie et durabilité (ing. ener. manag. sust. dipl. EPF) |
| Master of Science MSc | Humanités digitales Digital Humanities | Ingénieur en humanités digitales (ing. hum. digit. dipl. EPF) |
| <p>* 90 ECTS credits Master (60 ECTS credits Master programme), others comprising 120 ECTS credits</p> <p>** Master also offering a specialisation in Micro- and Nanotechnologies, leading to a Master of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering awarded jointly with two other universities</p> <p>*** Master awarded jointly with EPFZ</p> <p>**** Master awarded jointly with Haute école pédagogique du canton de Vaud</p> | | |

Annexe II
(Art. 14)

Amendment of present law

Ordonnances hereafter are modified as follow:

...²¹

²¹ Changes are available on RO **2004** 4335.