

Directive on Master and Minor programmes at EPFL

LEX 2.11.2

17th October 2005, status as at 1st January 2017

The Direction of Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne,
based on Art. 3, para. 1, letter a of the [Ordonnance sur l'EPFL et l'EPFZ of 13th November 2003](#) (RS 414.110.37),
based on the [Ordinance on Bachelor and Master studies at EPFL of 14th June 2004](#) (RS 414.132.3),
hereby adopts the following:

Article 1 Scope of application

The present Directive lays out the framework applicable for:

- a. the creation of EPFL Master programmes;
- b. the creation of Master programmes in collaboration with one or several academic institutions;
- c. the creation of Minor programmes attached to EPFL Master programmes;
- d. the ECTS pathway credits required for admission for Master's studies at EPFL.

Article 2 Framework applicable for the creation of Master programmes

¹ The direction takes the decision to adopt a new Master programme, of 90 or 120 ECTS credits, upon proposal from the section and the school concerned, and on recommendation by the Section Directors' Committee.

² The direction's decision is based particularly on the following criteria:

- course objectives;
- demand and existing offers of training in the suggested field;
- durability of the course;
- positioning in relation to other existing EPFL programmes;
- synergies with research.

Article 3 Collaborative Master programmes

¹ For a Master programme in collaboration with one or several academic institutions, the direction signs a collaboration agreement upon proposal from the section and the school concerned and on recommendation by the Section Directors' Committee. The Vice-President for Education is involved in the negotiations concerning each international collaboration and gives his/her recommendations to the direction.

² The criteria laid out in Art. 2 para. 2 remain applicable, with the addition of the quality of the partner institutions and the added value to be gained from a collaboration.

³ The direction of EPFL defines the conditions necessary to be awarded an EPFL Master's degree.

Article 4 Definitions of Minors

¹ A specialisation Minor is a collection of courses on a specialised topic attached to the field of study of a Master programme.

² A complementary Minor is a collection of courses on a different field of study to that of the Master programme.

Article 5 Framework applicable for the creation of Minor programmes

¹ The Vice-President for Education decides to adopt a new Minor programme upon proposal from one or several sections and their school(s) and decides to which section this Minor will be attached.

² The Minor represents approximately 50 ECTS credits, allowing students the free choice of 30 additional credits which will be compatible with the programme of their Master timetable.

³ The 30 credits from a Minor will be added to the 90 credit Master programme, so that they form part of a 120 credit Master programme.

Article 6 Conditions for the successful completion of a Minor

¹ Each section indicates the complementary Minor programmes available for their students within their own rules and regulations applicable for the evaluation of studies. Each section will also publish a study plan for specialisation Minors.

² Any student wishing to study a Minor programme must enrol with the section to which the Minor is attached by the end of the first semester of Master studies at the latest.

³ He/She must obtain the 30 ECTS credits from the Minor programme before beginning the Master project, in accordance with Art. 11, para. 2 of the Ordinance on Bachelor and Master studies at the Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne.

Article 7 Mention of the Minor programme

The Diploma Supplement will mention the Minor programme successfully completed during the course of the Master studies.

Article 8 Pathway credits

¹ For candidates without a Bachelor's degree from an ETH or a Swiss university, admission for EPFL Master studies may be related to obtaining ECTS pathway credits.

² The section decides the number of ECTS pathway credits to be obtained by a candidate for Master studies on a case by case basis.

³ Pathway credits must be obtained by the end of the first year of Master studies at the latest.

⁴ In derogation of Art. 5, para. 3, for a candidate whose level of training is superior to that of an EPF Bachelor's degree, the section may offer the replacement of 30 ECTS credits on the Master study plan by 30 credits from a specialisation or complementary Minor.

Article 9 Entry into force and miscellaneous

¹ This Directive entered into force on 17th October 2005, version 1.0, current status as at 1st January 2017.

² The Vice-President for Education ensures the respect of the present Directive.

On behalf of the EPFL Direction:

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President

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