Appendix 1

To the Programme Regulations 2020 of the
Master's degree programme in Computer Science

29.10.2019   (Version: 01.01.2022)

Applies to students who commence the direct doctorate programme in Autumn Semester 2020 or later.

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This English translation is for information purposes only. The original German version is the legally binding document.

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Direct doctorate programme

(Ref.: Art. 10 of the Programme Regulations)

Art. 1   Subject and scope

This appendix sets out the policies which govern the direct doctorate programme in Computer Science (direct doctorate programme) at the ETH Zurich department of Computer Science (D-INFK).

Art. 2   Objective

The direct doctorate programme enables candidates with an outstanding university Bachelor's degree to commence doctoral studies directly.

Art. 3   General

The modalities of the direct doctorate programme are based upon the Rector's Directive on the direct doctorate programme of 1 November 2016[1] and further relevant ETH Zurich enactments: the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies ETH Zurich of 23 November 2021[2], the ETH Zurich Admissions Ordinance of 30 November 2010[3] and the ETH Zurich Ordinance on Performance Assessments of 22 May 2012[4].

Art. 4   Components of the direct doctorate programme

The direct doctorate programme is composed of two parts. The first comprises a complete Master's degree programme in Computer Science according to Art. 8 of this appendix, and the second actual doctoral studies.

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[1] See www.directives.ethz.ch
[2] RSETHZ **340.31en** (SR **414.133.1**)
[3] SR **414.131.52**, RSETHZ **310.5**
[4] SR **414.135.1**, RSETHZ **322.021**

Art. 5   Application

[1] Holders of a Bachelor's degree from ETH Zurich or another university or a degree recognised by ETH Zurich as equivalent which demonstrates outstanding academic performance may apply for admission to the direct doctorate programme. The respective degree must be in one of the disciplines which qualify the holder to pursue the Master's degree programme in Computer Science.

[2] Application for the direct doctorate programme is always associated with the D-INFK Master's degree programme in Computer Science. Application proceeds online via the application portal for Master's degree studies.

[3] Application for the direct doctorate programme is also subject to the following:

  a. The same binding stipulations which govern application for the Master's degree programme in Computer Science also apply to the direct doctorate programme, particularly those regarding dates, deadlines and documents to be submitted.

  b. Application may proceed even if the required Bachelor's degree has not yet been issued. Entry to the direct doctorate programme may not proceed, however, until Bachelor's degree studies have been completed.

Art. 6   Admission

[1] Admission to the direct doctorate programme is only possible if all of the following conditions are met:

  a. Official proof of qualifications as per Art. 7 Para. 2 (d) of the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies ETH Zurich[5] have been supplied, with the proviso that the direct doctorate programme includes a Master's degree programme in Computer Science according to the provisions of Art. 8 of this appendix.

  b. All of the admission prerequisites of the D-INFK Master's degree programme in Computer Science have been met and allow admission to the Master's degree programme in Computer Science with no additional requirements. The appraisal of applications is conducted according to the normal procedure through the Academic Services Admissions Office and the admissions committee of the Master's degree programme in Computer Science.

  c. The doctoral committee of D-INFK endorses any admissions to the direct doctorate programme.

  d. D-INFK agrees in writing to designate a doctoral thesis supervisor, at the latest before the candidate begins the Master's thesis.

[2] If the admission requirements of (1) are fulfilled, D-INFK submits a request for admission to the direct doctorate programme to the Rector (represented by the Vice-Rector for Doctoral Studies).

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[5] RSETHZ **340.31en** (SR **414.133.1**)

[3] Admission to the direct doctorate programme comprises:

  a. Admission to the Master's degree programme in Computer Science with no additional requirements

  b. Provisional admission to doctoral studies as per Art. 9 of the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies ETH Zurich[6]

[4] Completion of the Master's degree programme in Computer Science according to the provisions of Art. 8 of this appendix replaces the additional admission requirements described in Art. 59 of the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies ETH Zurich[7].

Art. 7 Matriculation

Students pursuing the direct doctorate programme have two matriculations at ETH Zurich: they are matriculated as both Master's degree and doctoral students. The Master's degree matriculation ends when the Master's degree programme is completed.

Art. 8 Master's degree programme: Policy

[1] Students in the direct doctorate programme complete the D-INFK Master's degree programme in Computer Science and acquire the Master's degree in Computer Science.

[2] To complete the Master's degree in Computer Science in the framework of the direct doctorate programme, students must

  a. adhere to the stipulations of the Programme Regulations 2020 of the Master's degree programme in Computer Science[8];

  b. complete the additional provisions set out in Art. 9 of this appendix, the additional provisions may differ from the stipulations of the programme Regulations 2020.

[3] D-INFK is responsible for checking adherence to the requirements set out in Para. 2 above.

Art. 9 Master's degree programme: Additional requirements

[1] The additional provisions mentioned in Art. 8, Para. 2 (b) are the following:

  a. Students must acquire at least 16 credits in the category «Interfocus Courses» by the end of the second semester of the programme.

  b. Students must acquire at least 20 credits per semester in the first four semesters of the programme.

  c. Students must achieve grades which average at least a 5 every semester. The average grade is computed as the weighted average of the grades achieved in the respective semester, with the corresponding credits as the weighting value.

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[6] RSETHZ **340.31en** (SR **414.133.1**)
[7] RSETHZ **340.31en** (SR **414.133.1**)
[8] RSETHZ **324.1.1600.12**

   d.   The Master's thesis is governed by the provisions of Art. 35 of the Programme Regulations 2020 of the Master's degree programme in Computer Science[9]. The Master's thesis may not be substituted by other research papers.

   e.   The maximum permitted duration of studies to acquire the Master's degree is four semesters.

[2] The Director of Studies for D-INFK may, in consultation with the doctoral committee of D-INFK, approve exceptions to the additional provisions listed in Para. 1 if sufficient reasons are provided.

Art. 10   Degree request

[1] Students must submit the degree request as soon as they have fulfilled all the academic requirements for the Master's degree as listed in Art. 8 and 9 of this appendix.

[2] Completion of the Master's degree programme is verified with the usual documents (academic record, degree certificate and Diploma Supplement).

Art. 11   Definitive admission to doctoral studies

Definitive admission to doctoral studies proceeds when all of the following apply:

   a.   Master's degree studies have been completed.

   b.   The additional requirements according to Art. 9 of this appendix have been fulfilled.

   c.   All further admission requirements as per Art. 17 of the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies ETH Zurich[10] have been fulfilled.

Art. 12   Maximum permitted duration of doctoral studies

[1] The doctoral examination must be undertaken six years after admission to the direct doctorate programme or provisional admission to doctoral studies at the latest. Students in the direct doctorate programme may, pursuant to Art. 39, Para. 3 of the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies ETH Zurich[11], extend this deadline by one year.

[2] Despite the right to this one-off extension it is not automatic, but requires a request.

Art. 13   Exclusion from the direct doctorate programme

[1] Exclusion from the direct doctorate programme proceeds in the following cases:

   a.   The requirements for obtaining the Master's degree in Computer Science[12] (required number of credits, any other requirements) can no longer be fulfilled.

   b.   The additional requirements as per Art. 9 of this appendix can no longer be fulfilled.

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[9] RSETHZ **324.1.1600.12**
[10] RSETHZ **340.31en** (SR **414.133.1**)
[11] RSETHZ **340.31en** (SR **414.133.1**)
[12] RSETHZ **324.1.1600.12**

[2] Exclusion as mentioned in Para. 1 (a) constitutes simultaneous exclusion from the Master's degree programme in Computer Science, because the latter counts as definitively failed.

[3] The Master's degree programme in Computer Science may be continued after exclusion according to Para. 1 (b). The additional requirements as per Art. 9 of this appendix are then no longer relevant to acquiring the Master's degree. Renewed application for doctoral studies is possible after successful completion of Master's degree studies.

[4] The provisions of Art. 20, 21 and 22 of the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies ETH Zurich[13] also apply.

Art. 14   Withdrawal of agreement to supervise the doctoral thesis

If the professor withdraws her/his agreement to supervise the doctoral thesis or D-INFK rescinds its agreement to designate a supervisor, the provisions of Art. 30, 33 und 49 – 51 of the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies ETH Zurich[14] apply.

Art. 15   Funding, tuition fees waiver and doctoral studies fees

[1] Students in the direct doctorate programme receive a merit-based scholarship for the duration of the Master's degree programme. The respective amount corresponds to the funds required of foreign students by the Migration Office of the Canton of Zurich to cover tuition and living costs.[15]

[2] Students in the direct doctorate programme are not subject to tuition fees for the duration of the Master's degree programme.

[3] Students may work as Teaching Assistants (Hilfsassistentin/Hilfsassistent) while drawing the merit-based scholarship.

[4] Exclusion from the direct doctorate programme means loss of the merit-based scholarship and cessation of the tuition fees waiver.

[5] After Master's studies are completed the student is employed as a doctoral student according to the conditions usual in D-INFK.

[6] Doctoral fees as per Art. 6 of the Ordinance on Doctoral Studies ETH Zurich[16] cannot be waived.

[7] The merit-based scholarship of Para. 1 is funded by D-INFK. It is paid out each semester via the D-INFK.

[8] Any deviations from the stipulations in Para. 1 and 7 are subject to the Rector's approval.

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[13] RSETHZ **340.31en** (SR **414.133.1**)
[14] RSETHZ **340.31en** (SR **414.133.1**)
[15] See https://ethz.ch/students/en/studies/financial/scholarships/excellencescholarship.html
[16] RSETHZ **340.31en** (SR **414.133.1**)