



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (D-ITET)

Detailed stipulations regarding the doctorate

23 November 2021

This English translation serves information purposes only and has no legal force. The original German version is the legally binding document.

The ETH Zurich Executive Board,

at the request of the Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering at ETH Zurich¹ and pursuant to Art. 52 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate ETH Zurich (DO) of 23 November 2021²

hereby decrees the following detailed stipulations regarding the doctorate:

Section 1 – General provisions

Art. 1 Scope

These stipulations govern the department-specific details for the doctorate at the Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (D-ITET) at ETH Zurich. They are based on the fundamental provisions of the Ordinance on the Doctorate ETH Zurich (DO) of 23 November 2021³ and on the Rector's Implementation Provisions for the ETH Zurich Ordinance on the Doctorate of 23 November 2021⁴.

Art. 2 Doctoral committee

¹ The doctoral committee (Art. 4 DO) is composed of at least four professors of the D-ITET. In the election of the doctoral committee, an appropriate representation of the different research areas of the D-ITET is aimed for.

² One of the members of the doctoral committee may be an adjunct (titular associate) professor.

¹ Decision of the D-ITET department conference of October 6, 2021 (adoption of the detailed stipulations).

² SR 414.133.1

³ SR 414.133.1

⁴ RSETHZ 340.311

Section 2 – Recruitment and admission to the doctorate

Art. 3 Admission and extended doctoral studies

¹ At the departmental level, the doctoral committee decides on admission to the doctoral studies at the D-ITET and, at the request of the supervisor, on extended doctoral studies (Art. 9 DO).

² The D-ITET study administration is available to answer questions regarding the qualification (performances, degrees, universities) of the candidates.

Art. 4 Doctoral programmes

D-ITET doctoral students may participate in a doctoral programme ("doctoral school"). In case of regulatory contradictions between D-ITET rules and the rules of the doctoral programme, D-ITET rules take precedence.

Art. 5 Conducting the aptitude colloquium and deadlines

¹ The doctoral thesis supervisor is responsible for the organisation of the aptitude colloquium (Art. 12 DO) and notifies the doctoral committee of the date and the composition of the aptitude committee (Art. 16 DO) no later than 10 days before the planned date of the aptitude colloquium.

² At the request of the doctoral thesis supervisor, the doctoral committee decides on the person who will chair the committee (Art. 16 DO).

³ The D-ITET provides a form for reporting and conducting the aptitude colloquium.

Section 3 – Supervision of the doctorate

Art. 6 Second advisor

The second advisor (Art. 28 DO) must hold a doctoral degree.

Art. 7 Approval of adjunct (titular associate) professors and *Privatdozenten* as supervisor of the doctoral thesis

The doctoral committee decides on the supervision of doctoral theses by adjunct (titular associate) professors and *Privatdozenten* (Art. 5 DO).

Section 4 – Doctoral thesis and doctoral examination

Art. 8 External doctoral thesis projects

The doctoral committee decides on externally conducting doctoral thesis projects (Art. 25 DO).

Art. 9 Co-examiners

¹ At least one co-examiner must not be affiliated with the same institute as the doctoral thesis supervisor and any previous affiliation with this institute must have been at least five years in the past (at the time of the co-examiner's appointment).

² At least one co-examiner has not co-supervised the doctoral thesis and has not worked with the candidate.

Art. 10 Doctoral examination: deadlines

¹ The members of the examination committee (Art. 40 DO), except the chairperson, must be communicated to the D-ITET doctoral administration by the doctoral thesis supervisor at least 3 months before the scheduled examination date.

² The doctoral thesis must be sent to the co-examiners at least 6 weeks before the examination date. The doctoral thesis supervisor is responsible for meeting this deadline.

³ The written reports of the doctoral thesis supervisor and of the co-examiners ("expert's reports") must be submitted to the D-ITET doctoral administration at least 10 working days before the examination date.

⁴ The request for a definitive examination date must be communicated to the D-ITET doctoral administration at least 6 weeks in advance.

Art. 11 Doctoral examination: chairperson

The chairperson of the examination committee may not be affiliated with the same institute as the doctoral thesis supervisor at the time of the examination.

Art. 12 Conducting the doctoral examination

¹ A presentation on the doctoral thesis topic is usually part of the doctoral examination.

² Doctoral examinations are in principle open to all ETH members. In principle, other participants are admitted too. The chairperson has the right to refuse access to persons.

³ The chairperson decides whether questions from the audience are admitted. Questions from the audience shall have no influence on the result of the examination.

Section 5 – Final clauses

Art. 13 Transitional provisions

Doctoral students who complete their individual doctoral studies under the previous regulations in accordance with DO Art. 65, follow the provisions set out in Annex 1.

Art. 14 Entry into force and repeal of previous law

These detailed stipulations enter into force on 01.01.2022.

They replace the detailed stipulations of the D-ITET to the Ordinance on the Doctorate ETH Zurich of 1 December 2009.

Application of the salary rates

The salary rates for doctoral students are applied in accordance with Art. 8 Para. 3 of the Ordinance governing scientific employees at ETH Zurich⁵, in conjunction with item 1 Para. 3 of the directives for doctoral students employed at ETH Zurich⁶.

At the D-ITET, the institutes and professorships handle the application of salary rates transparently and ensure a fair distribution of work in teaching and service.

⁵ SR 172.220.113.11

⁶ RSETHZ 622

Annex 1

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Entry into force: 01.12.2009

Status: 19.02.2018

Information at: D-ITET student affairs' office

Detailed stipulations of the Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (D-ITET) on the Ordinance on the Doctorate ETH Zurich

The department conference of the Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering of September 30, 2009, decrees the following detailed stipulations, in accordance with Art. 25 of the Ordinance on the Doctorate at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich of July 1, 2008, and the Rector's Implementation Provisions for the ETH Zurich Ordinance on the Doctorate of September 1, 2008:

I. Doctoral Studies

Art. 1 General provisions

¹ Doctoral students shall discuss doctoral studies with their doctoral thesis supervisor.

² Doctoral studies shall be reported in the form of credit points (ECTS). At least 12 credit points (ECTS) must be obtained. One credit point (ECTS) corresponds to a workload of 25 to 30 hours.

³ The doctoral thesis supervisor may require more than 12 credit points (ECTS). In this case, the number of credits requested must be submitted in writing together with the research plan at the latest and the document must be signed by both the supervisor and the doctoral student.

Art. 2 Recognised achievements

¹ As a rule, only courses at the master's or at the doctoral level shall be recognised.

² Successfully passing the performance assessment associated with the course is a prerequisite for the acquisition of credit points. – a certificate of attendance ("Testat") is not sufficient.

³ The supervisor may also award credit points for participation in summer schools or similar.

⁴ *waived*⁷

⁵ Not recognised as credit points are:

- Teaching duties,
- participation in meetings and conferences,
- participation in a regular institute colloquium.

⁶ For the recognition of language courses, the regulations for the compulsory elective GESS⁸ apply.

⁷ According to Art. 25a, Para. 3 of the Doctorate Ordinance ETH Zurich (2008).

⁸ Art. 6 of the Rector's Directive on the compulsory elective GESS of September 24, 2007

II. Doctoral thesis⁹

Art. 3 Co-examiners¹⁰

¹ At least one co-examiner must not be employed at the same institute as the supervisor of the doctoral thesis, and any previous employment at this institute must date back at least five years (at the time of the co-examiner's registration).

² If both the doctoral thesis supervisor and a co-examiner have supervised the thesis, at least one additional co-examiner must be designated.

III. Entry into force

Art. 4 Repeal of previous law

These detailed stipulations replace the detailed stipulations of 24 June 1998 and enter into force after approval by the Rector of ETH Zurich. They apply to doctoral students who begin their doctorate after this date.

Decreed by the D-ITET department conference of September 30, 2009

Approved by the Rector on December 1, 2009

⁹ Art. 15 Doctorate Ordinance ETH Zurich (2008)

¹⁰ Decree of the D-ITET department conference of 27 May 2009