

**REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF THE  
STUDIES OF THE SECTION  
CIVIL ENGINEERING  
for the 2021-2022 academic year  
of May 26, 2021**

*The management of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology  
Lausanne*

Having regard to the ordinance on education leading to the bachelor's and master's degrees of the EPFL of June 14, 2004,  
Having regard to the ordinance on the control of studies leading to the bachelor's and master's degrees at EPFL of June 30, 2015,  
having regard to the study plan of the civil engineering section.

*stop:*

**Article 1 - Scope of Application**

This regulation sets out the rules of application for the supervision of bachelor's and master's studies in the Civil Engineering Section that relate to the academic year 2021-2022.

**Art. 2 - Training stages**

- 1 The bachelor's degree is composed of two successive stages of training:
  - the one-year propaedeutic cycle, the successful completion of which results in 60 ECTS credits acquired at once, a condition for entry into the bachelor's cycle.
  - the two-year Bachelor's program, which requires 120 credits to enter the Master's program.
- 2 The master's degree is composed of two successive stages of training:
  - the master's program, which lasts 3 semesters and requires the acquisition of 90 credits, a condition for the master's project.
  - the master project, which lasts 17 weeks and is worth 30 credits. It is placed under the responsibility of a professor or MER affiliated to the civil engineering section. Before the start of the project and on the proposal of the master in charge, the section may extend the duration of the master project to 25 weeks for projects carried out outside EPFL.

**Art 3 - Examination sessions**

- 1 Sessional courses are examined during the winter or summer sessions. They are mentioned in the study plan with the mention H or E.
- 2 Semester courses are taken in the fall or spring semester. They are indicated in the syllabus as sem A or sem P.
- 3 An annual branch, i.e., one that is titled on a single line in the study plan, is examined as a whole during the summer session (E).
- 4 For the sessional branches, the written or oral form of the examination indicated for the session may be supplemented

by written or oral tests of knowledge during the semester, as indicated by the instructor.

**Chapter 1: Preparatory Cycle**

**Art. 4 - Preliminary examination**

- 1 The propaedeutic examination includes "Polytechnic" subjects for 41 coefficients and "Specific" branches for coefficients 19, equally distributed over two blocks.
- 2 The first block of branches corresponds to coefficients 37 and the second block of branches corresponds to coefficients 23
- 3 The propaedeutic examination is passed when:
  - the student has obtained, at the end of the winter semester, an average of 3.50 or more in the first block, which is a requirement for entry into the spring semester, and
  - that, at the end of the summer session, he/she has obtained an average of 4.00 or more in each of the two blocks, a condition for entry into the bachelor's program.
- 4 A student who fails the propaedeutic examination will not be allowed to repeat the following year the semester branches for which he/she has obtained a grade equal to or higher than 4.00.

**Chapter 2: Bachelor's Degree**

**Art. 5 - Organization**

- 1 The courses of the bachelor cycle are divided into 8 blocks :
  - In the second year: three blocks totaling 52 credits.
  - in the 3rd year: three blocks totaling 52 credits.
  - 2 cross-curricular blocks in the 2nd and 3rd year totaling 16 credits.

**Art. 6 - 2<sup>ème</sup> year examination**

- 1 Block 1 "Basic branches" is passed when the credits of the **12 credits** of the study plan are obtained.
- 2 Block 2 "Specific branches A" is passed when the **14 credits** of the study plan are obtained.
- 3 Block 3 "Specific branches B" is passed when the **credits 26** of the study plan are obtained.

**Art. 7 - 3<sup>ème</sup> year examination**

- 1 Block 4 "Specific branches C" is passed when the **20 credits** of the study plan are obtained.
- 2 Block 5 "Specific branches D" is passed when the **25 credits** of the study plan are obtained.
- 3 Block 6 "Electives" is successfully completed when the **7 credits** of the study plan are obtained.

### **Art. 8 - Common examination of 2<sup>ème</sup> and 3<sup>ème</sup> years**

- 1 Block 7 "Projecting Together" is passed when the credits of the **8 credits** of the study plan are obtained.
- 2 Block 8 "SHS and transversal MGT" is passed when the **8 credits** of the study plan are obtained.

## **Chapter 3: Master Cycle**

### **Art. 9 - Organization**

- 1 The master's degree courses are divided into :
  - 1 block of compulsory theoretical subjects totalling credits 12, out of the 15 offered
  - 1 block of compulsory practical subjects totaling 22 credits, including SHS teaching
  - 1 mandatory pre-study of 3 credits
  - 1 group of electives totaling 53 credits.
- 2 Of the 53 elective credits, 30 credits may be taken as a specialization or minor according to Art. 12.
- 3 If the student wishes to register for the 5 branches of the compulsory theory block (Block 1), he/she may transfer one of these branches to his/her elective group by informing the section within two weeks after the deadline for registration for the courses of the semester concerned.
- 4 A maximum of two branches of Block 2 "Compulsory practical branches" may be carried out in the same laboratory.

### **Art. 10 - Prerequisites**

Compulsory and elective courses may require prerequisites that are mentioned in the course description. The prerequisite course is validated if the corresponding credits have been acquired for the course or by block average.

### **Art. 11 - Optional branches**

- 1 The elective branches of the master cycle in civil engineering are of 3 types:
  - Theoretical options offered by the civil engineering section
  - Courses taught by other EPFL sections
  - Courses taught at the University of Lausanne or equivalent institutions.
- 2 One, and only one, interdisciplinary project may be substituted for a 3-credit elective course.
- 3 The choice of elective courses mentioned in paragraph 1 a) is left to the discretion of each student.
- 4 The student must have the choice of elective courses mentioned in paragraph 1 b) and c) endorsed by the Civil Engineering Section.
- 5 In order to define a clear educational profile, however, it is recommended that students focus their choices on a limited

number of areas. The section assists each student in making this choice by providing advice.

### **Art. 12 - Specializations and minors**

- 1 In order to deepen a particular aspect of his training or to develop interfaces with other sections of EPFL, the student can choose to follow the training offered respectively within the framework of a specialization of the civil engineering section or a minor listed in the EPFL offer
- 2 The specializations consist of a group of electives chosen by the student from a list established by the section.
- 3 The selection of courses that comprise a minor is made with the Civil Engineering section and the minor chair. The minor "Civil Engineering" may not be selected.
- 4 The student announces the choice of a specialization or a minor to his or her section no later than the end of the first semester of the Master's degree.
- 5 A specialization or minor is successful when A minimum of 30 credits are obtained from among the endorsed branches.
- 6 If the minor is dropped during the course of study, the civil engineering section determines the number of validated credits to be transferred to the option group.

### **Art. 13 - Choice of a specialization or a minor**

- 1 If the student chooses a specialization, at least one of the branches in Block 2 "Compulsory Practical Branches" must be related to this specialization.
- 2 If the student chooses a minor offered by the section, at least one, but not more than two, of the following branches in Block 2 "Required Practical Branches" must be related to the minor:
  - ENAC Project or UE Architecture
  - Building project
  - Civilian systems project
  - GC Laboratory

### **Art. 14 - SHS Education**

The two SHS branches are each worth 3 credits. The fall semester course introduces the spring semester project. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences may depart from this organization if it considers that the reason is justified. It may also authorize a student to carry out his or her project in a semester that does not immediately follow the semester in which the introductory teaching takes place.

### **Art. 15 - Examination of the master cycle**

- 1 Block 1 "Compulsory theoretical subjects" is passed when the **12 credits** of the study plan are obtained.
- 2 Block 2 "Compulsory practical branches" is passed when the **22 credits** of the study plan are obtained, the student choosing four of the six GC or PENS branches proposed.

3 **The completion of the 3 credits** of the Pre-Study Master's Project branch is mandatory.

4 The group of electives is passed when **53 credits** are obtained independently, through individual success in each branch.

## Chapter 4: Internship and master project

### Art. 16 - Engineering internship

1 Students will have to complete an engineering internship of a minimum of 8 weeks and a maximum of 6 months. This internship must be carried out between the end of the bachelor cycle and the beginning of the master project.

2 The internship can be split in two times, but in the same company.

3 The EPFL internship supervisor evaluates the internship by giving a "successful" or "unsuccessful" assessment. If the internship is not successful, it can be repeated once, usually in another company.

4 It is validated with the 30 credits of the master project.

5 The organization of the internship and the criteria for its validation are the subject of an internal directive of the section.

### Art. 17 - Master project

1 To be admitted to the master project, the student must have successfully completed the mandatory internship.

2 The master's project is generally carried out individually. However, it can be carried out with one or two candidates from other sections in the spirit of "project together".

3 The master project is preceded by a mandatory pre-study in the 3rd semester of the master cycle.

4 Registration for the pre-study must be made with the section, at the latest at the end of the second semester of the Master's cycle.  
At the student's request, the pre-study can be carried out during the vacations preceding the 3rd<sup>ème</sup> semester of the Master's cycle, in agreement with the teacher responsible for the Master's project.

5 The pre-study must be successfully completed before the start of the Master's project (art. 14 al. 3). In the event of failure, a supplementary study, or even a new pre-study, is required.

### Art. 18 - Authorized periods of mobility

The students of the civil engineering section can carry out a mobility stay in the 3rd year of their bachelor's degree and/or within the framework of the master's project.

### Art. 19 - Conditions

1 For a mobility in the 3rd year of the Bachelor program, the student must have passed the propaedeutic exam with a minimum average of 4.5 (in Europe) or 5.0 (outside Europe), and not be behind in the acquisition of the 60 credits of the 2nd year of the Bachelor's program.

2 For a mobility to the master project, the student can be conditionally admitted if he/she has no more than 8 missing credits in the master cycle.

3 Specific conditions exist depending on the destination, the agreement of the mobility delegate is necessary to go on a mobility stay. For mobility in the Master's project, the additional authorization of the section is required.

On behalf of the EPFL management

The President, M. Vetterli  
Academic Vice President, J. S. Hesthaven

Lausanne, 26 May 2021

## Chapter 5: Mobility