



ACCREDITATION DECISION

After the external programme evaluation implemented by the High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres) in December 2019, and according to the accreditation criteria adopted by the Hcéres Board on October 4th, 2016,

THE MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (MSE) PhD PROGRAM

Skoltech - Russia

is fully accredited for 5 years
(April 2020 - April 2025)

Paris, April 15th, 2020
Nelly Dupin, Hcéres Acting President

Hcéres is full member of



Hcéres is duly registered by



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The accreditation decision issued by Hcéres shall not grant any rights whatsoever, whether in France or abroad. The decision to accredit an institution confers an accreditation label and does not infer recognition in France of the qualifications issued by the accredited institution. The Hcéres accreditation process therefore has no impact on the process of having the qualifications of accredited institutions recognised in France.



ACCREDITATION DECISION

MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (MSE) DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology
(Skoltech)

Russia

April 2020

SCOPE OF THE ACCREDITATION GRANTED BY HCERES

HCERES has built its evaluation process based on a set of objectives that higher education institution study programmes must pursue to ensure recognised quality within France and Europe. These objectives are divided up into four fields among which are the accreditation criteria.

As for the "External Evaluation Standards", the accreditation criteria have been specifically designed for foreign programmes. The accreditation criteria were adopted by the Board on June 2016 and are available on the HCERES website (hceres.fr).

The accreditation committee, meeting his accreditation decision, has wholly taken into account the final evaluation report of the study programme. This accreditation decision is the result of a collegial and reasoned process.

The accreditation decision issued by HCERES shall not grant any rights whatsoever, whether in France or abroad. The decision on training programme accreditation confers an accreditation label and does not infer recognition of the accredited qualifications. The HCERES accreditation process therefore has no impact on the qualifications recognition process in France.

THE HCERES CRITERIA FOR DOCTORATE ACCREDITATION

HCERES has built its doctorate evaluation and accreditation process on a set of values and objectives that doctorates must pursue to ensure a certain level of quality.

These objectives are organised around four areas:

- Area 1: Positioning of the doctorate
- Area 2: Organisation and management of the doctorate
- Area 3: Supervision and training of doctoral students
- Area 4: Integration of doctors into the job market.

AREA 1: POSITIONING OF THE DOCTORATE

Accreditation criteria

The positioning, the content and the objectives of the doctorate are clearly defined. Its interactions with the stakeholders (lead institution(s), foreign partners, socio-economic environment) are formally set out and effective. Its links with the research units and the institution's scientific policy are effective.

Criterion assessment

The content and the objectives of the Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) Doctoral Program of Skoltech (started in 2014) are clearly defined. They are moreover sufficiently large to be adaptable to long-term evolutions, thus guaranteeing undoubtedly its scientific sustainability. Its distinct features, like an ambitious cross-disciplinary research project management, are well integrated in the local Skolkovo environment and supported by the stakeholders.

The MSE Doctoral Program is part of a coherent ecosystem based on the general Skoltech strategy of scientific and intellectual excellence within the Skolkovo environment, but it is mainly turned to international collaborations. The committee recommends to strengthen the connections with the local industrial sector.

AREA 2: ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DOCTORATE

Accreditation criteria

The doctorate's organisation and management are clearly defined and rely on material and human resources adapted to the requirements of programmes at ISCED level 8. Internal quality assurance mechanisms are in place and effectively used in order to improve the doctorate continuously. The doctoral students recruiting is formally set out, their funding is fair and sustainable.

Criterion assessment

The management of the MSE Doctoral Program is based on a collegial program committee promoting proximity management, supported by an efficient administration. This organization guarantees a very high quality of management at the top of standards international levels. It is very well adapted to the actual size of the program. Internal quality assurance mechanisms are in place and centralized in the Doctoral study office. They are used in order to improve the doctorate continuously, especially the quality of the lectures proposed to the students. The committee observes that, this organization may need to be adapted in case of a significant change of scale, especially to maintain the flow of incoming highly qualified supervisors. The MSE Doctoral Program recruitment procedure is very well organized and integrated in the long-term strategy of the Skolkovo foundation. The recruitment is based on the quality of the candidates and is highly competitive. No tuition fees are requested and good level scholarships and mobility fellowships are provided to PhD students of the MSE Doctoral Program. The committee recommends to take special care to increase the homogeneity of the spreading of the PhD candidates on the panel of supervisors.

AREA 3: SUPERVISION AND TRAINING FOR DOCTORAL STUDENT

Accreditation criteria

A strict policy of supervising and follow-up of doctoral students is set. Doctoral students have access to various teaching and professional trainings and take part in scientific/professional actions. Explicit rules are defined concerning the thesis duration and defense. Measures to combat fraud, plagiarism and corruption are applied within the doctorate.

Criterion assessment

The Skoltech MSE Doctoral Program applies a strict doctoral student supervision and follow-up policy at the highest international level. Attractive fellowships facilitate international leave of students for completing their training. The collegial organization of the program helps in a general goodwill. The rules established within the Skoltech MSE Doctoral Program concerning thesis duration and defense are very well structured, coherent and carried out at a high level of excellence, which is in line with the highest international requirements for doctoral programs.

The program of lectures provided during the MSE PhD is very well structured and complete. Students can choose a tailored panel of lectures out of a rich disciplinary and transversal program. Various supplementary events are also organized, such as workshops with industrial partners. Students can also choose their own courses abroad for a short period of time, or even propose their own lectures. The committee thinks that the program could now benefit from a wider involvement of external lecturers from the socio-economic world or from external universities. Indeed, these two last contributions are currently still very marginal.

AREA 4: INTEGRATION OF DOCTORS INTO THE JOB MARKET

Accreditation criteria

The doctorate implements systems to promote the doctorate and the integration of doctors into the job market. The integration monitoring and analysis are effective and used to perform the continuous improvement of the doctorate.

Criterion assessment

Technically the structures for monitoring the development of integration of the Materials Science Skoltech graduates are in place, but due to the recent set up of the program, it is too early to draw conclusions.

Every service stores its own statistics with a close follow-up of students. The data for recruitment, academic results and integration into the job's market, should be combined. The committee recommends to prepare the students not only for academic careers, but also for jobs in local / national / international industries or highly qualified administrations. Finally, the committee recommends the establishment of close follow-up of students after graduation, strengthening the role of Alumni in order to promote long-term cohesion.

FINAL DECISION

Considering the accreditation criteria analysis detailed above, the accreditation committee issues the following decision:

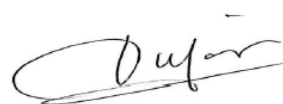
“Five-year unreserved accreditation decision”

and draws attention to the following points:

- Maintain the competitiveness of the structure, through a good adaptability and regular change of governance to foster the rapid emergence of a new generation of supervisors and managers
- The efficient management based on positive methods and individual mentorship system must be preserved despite the structure growth
- Make sure of the good integration into the job market, especially at the local /national scale, to maintain a permanent exit flow and powerful network (an attractive training serving as an efficient springboard for the carrier)
- Maintain and pursue a high level of fundamental research
- Continue irrigating applications and maintain the adaptability of students
- Diversify hiring opportunities
- Boost the recently recruited junior assistant professors to allow them to make the system benefit from their dynamism and creativity.

SIGNATURE

For HCERES and on behalf of



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Nelly DUPIN,

Acting President

Date: Paris, April 15th, 2020

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