



DECISION

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This document is a translation. In case of a discrepancy between the Swedish original and the English version of the decision, the Swedish original will prevail.

## **Decision on the conditions for all levels of education for the autumn semester 2021 and onwards**

This decision has been signed electronically.

### **Decision**

The President of KTH has decided the following at KTH Royal Institute of Technology for autumn semester 2021. This decision applies to teaching and examination from and including 2021-08-29 and onwards. This decision includes the introduction weeks for new students, 16-28 August. All re-examinations during the period 16-20 and 23-28 August will be conducted remotely in accordance to the previous decision.

Teaching and examination shall from and including 2021-08-29 be carried out according to the scenario *low*, which means the campus is open. Teaching and examination will be carried out on campus with a focus on physical as well as digital presence and will be managed mainly by pedagogical ambitions in accordance to KTH's Steering Documents for Education with a greater variation in both teaching and examination methods.

Some of the welcome activities in the introduction weeks for new students 16-28 August 2021 will take place on campus. For instance, KTH account details and access cards will be distributed on campus. Portions of the introduction weeks such as information meetings that previously took place in auditoriums will be carried out digitally. Large group activities should be avoided until the restrictions from the government authorities are gradually lifted. This also includes social activities.

KTH students can participate in exchange studies within the framework of their education at KTH provided that the host university is receiving exchange students and that the country permits incoming travel. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must not have any active travel restrictions towards the destination country (for necessary and un-necessary travel). The same applies to students who are planning to do their degree project or internship abroad. Outgoing exchange students will follow the partner university's academic calendar for the autumn semester 2021.

Outgoing exchange students from KTH that are unable to take their exchange places as a result of cancellation of travel restrictions will be offered a place in their programme at KTH.

KTH is accepting incoming students for exchange studies, degree projects or internships autumn semester 2021. Exchange studies require physical presence at KTH. Incoming exchange

students should be present in Sweden for the exchange unless otherwise agreed. Students within a joint programme should also be present in Sweden for the studies at KTH according to the study plan, unless otherwise agreed within the framework of the agreement.

Tuition fee paying students will be offered a full refund for the tuition fees for autumn semester 2021 up until the start of the semester. There will not be any extended payment plans accepted.

The defense of doctoral theses/dissertations may be held on campus and digitally. Doctoral thesis and licentiate seminars are open to the public and are, where applicable, subject to the Government's restrictions on public gatherings. Digital defense of doctoral thesis/dissertation and licentiate seminars are encouraged partly for quality reasons (increased opportunities for international participation in the grading committee and as an opponent), and partly for sustainability reasons (reduced travel). All doctoral thesis/dissertations and licentiate seminars must be digitally accessible for spectators.

Changes may be made as a result of the decisions and recommendations made by the Swedish Government and other public authorities.

## The matter at issue

During the spring 2021, the Committee for First and Second Cycle Education has created three scenarios for how teaching and examination can be conducted at KTH. The purpose is to structure the conditions for education at KTH and create a planning document and transparency from two perspectives. 1) that the pandemic may require swift changes with short notice and 2) KTH's long-term plans and visions for education. [Scenarios for KTH's educational activities | KTH Intranet](#)

The scenario descriptions describe how education can be conducted under three different impact levels, low, medium or high. In addition, the President can close the campus for teaching and examination if the situation so requires.

In summary, the level *high* is governed solely by pandemic-related measures. Impact level *low* and *medium* are also governed by pedagogical ambitions in accordance with KTH's Steering Documents for Education. KTH's educational activities in the long term will move towards the objectives in KTH's development plan 2018-2023 with changes in the pedagogics, format and implementation of education.

The foundation for the decision and the Committee for First and Second Cycle Education's action plan are the following:

- KTH follows the decisions and recommendations made by the government and the other public authorities to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- KTH's employees and students, have a personal responsibility to follow the national and regional advice and recommendations for reducing the spread of COVID-19.
- KTH's education is not considered as public gathering or public events but is affected by the Government's position applying to society as a whole.
- KTH's mission to conduct education and research is regarded as an essential activity in society. Therefore, since travel to and from the university by public transport is considered

necessary, the advisory made by the Public Health Agency of Sweden against non-essential travel does not apply.

- KTH's campus will remain open as long as it is possible and students will have access to study spaces, libraries, and laboratory activities on all campuses.
- In order to promote the mental well-being and learning of all students, KTH believes that all student groups should be given equal priority as much as possible.

This decision has been prepared through discussions in the Committee for First and Second Cycle Education which includes members such as the Director of First and Second Cycle Education of each School and student representatives among others. The Head of Schools have been given the opportunity to comment on the draft decision. Prior to the decision, collaboration with the Central Collaboration Group has taken place through e-mail correspondence.

This decision has been made by Sigbritt Karlsson, President after presentation by Leif Kari, Vice-President for Education. Present at the decision was Kerstin Jacobsson, University Director, Katarina Jonsson Berglund, Head of Division, Åsa Gustafson, Head of Division, Charley Jönsson, Chair of the Student Union Board THS and Eva Fredriksson, Management Secretary.

KTH Royal Institute of Technology

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President Sigbritt Karlsson

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Vice-President for Education Leif Kari

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