

PhD Milestone Seminar Guide

Doctoral students at KTH ITM are required to complete three mandatory milestone seminars at the 20%, 50%, and 90% stages of their studies, as stipulated in the Subject Study Plan. These seminars assess and support research progress at key points throughout the program. Each seminar follows a structured presentation format and is attended by the supervisory team, department colleagues, and fellow doctoral students.

Seminar I

Milestone: 20% of studies

Presentation Content

- Research background and context
- Research questions and objectives
- Time plan for the doctoral studies
- Literature review status
- Plan for courses and conferences

Structure and Format

The seminar consists of a 30-minute presentation followed by open discussion with all attendees. At this early stage the focus is on establishing a clear research foundation and receiving constructive feedback from the department.

Attendance

The supervisory team, department researchers, fellow doctoral students, and other interested groups are invited. The seminar is open to all department employees.

Seminar II

Milestone: 50% of studies

Presentation Content

- Status update on research progress
- Updated time plan
- Publication plan — manuscripts in progress or submitted
- Plan for remaining courses, conferences, and activities

Structure and Format

The seminar consists of a 30-minute presentation followed by structured discussion. It is recommended to appoint a discussion leader to facilitate the feedback session and ensure constructive and focused input.

Attendance

The supervisory team, department researchers, fellow doctoral students, and other interested groups are invited. The seminar is open to all department employees.

Seminar III

Milestone: 90% of studies

Presentation Content

- Research update and key results
- Publication status — submitted, accepted, and published papers
- Disputation plan — intended date and readiness assessment

Structure and Format

The seminar consists of a 30-minute presentation followed by structured discussion with a discussion leader. This seminar serves as the final checkpoint before the defence and is an opportunity to receive feedback on the completeness and quality of the thesis.

Attendance

The supervisory team, department researchers, fellow doctoral students, and other interested groups are invited. The seminar is open to all department employees.