



Disabilities and studies at KTH

Internal regulation no. 18/98

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This policy is based on:

- President's decision no. 440/98, reg. no. 930-665-98, doss. 50
- President's decision no. 808/00, reg. no. 930-1313-00, doss. 50
- University Board decision of 28/10/2004 "Decision concerning the new organisation of KTH", p 3.2, reg. no. 930-2004-2896, doss. 13
- President's decision 1082/04, reg. no. 930-2004-2896, doss. 13

Objectives

The number of people with disabilities who begin a higher education programme has risen in recent years. The term "disability" means a permanent or long-term somatic disability. This is also equated with documented reading and writing difficulties.

Our social responsibility is to ensure that students with disabilities are offered the necessary support in order to study. One overall objective is, as far as possible, to offer disabled students support to enable them to carry on their studies under the same conditions as a non-disabled students.

Prerequisites in order for disabled students to study in higher education

Disabled students, like other students, should be guaranteed good quality teaching and a satisfactory study environment.

KTH should set aside specific financial resources to meet the needs of disabled students for special support measures to enable them to study. A contact person with special responsibility for disability issues should be available at KTH.

Significant factors are as follows:

- the accessibility of the physical environment
- the psycho-social logical environment
- the capacity for individual planning of the overall student environment
- the ability to adapt courses of study

- access to specific information on matters affecting disabled people in terms of finance, accommodation, communications, technical and practical support measures, casualty insurance, leisure activities
- cooperation and exchange of information among study coordinators,
- cooperation with disabled people's organisations and other public bodies.

Support measures

Disabled students registered for first cycle-, second cycle- or third cycle education must receive any support measures they require from KTH which are directly connected to their programme/course of study.

The support measures that may apply to disabled students – which must be paid for with funds for special education costs – may include access to modified rest rooms and study rooms, help with taking notes, assistance by a reader, sign-language interpreters, help with moving around KTH, support teaching/guidance, support from a mentor, additional time in examinations, certain technical aids and other important equipment.

Decisions on funds for special education costs are made after consulting the student, in some cases the concerned official in the school, and the contact person responsible for disability issues at KTH regarding the need for and scope of support. In the case of decisions on continued support, it is necessary to take into account whether the student achieved an acceptable performance in his or her studies according to his or her particular situation.

General advice

The special contact person at KTH and the concerned student counsellor must continuously monitor the student throughout his or her course of studies.

Adjustment of syllabus (or similar)

If, due to the contents of a course or part of a course, a disabled student is considered to be unable to take part in or pass a course or part of a course due to his or her disability, this situation should be clearly established through discussions between the student and the teacher of the course when studies begin. On the basis of this discussion, the Director of Undergraduate and Masters' studies, in consultation with the teacher of a course of study, should decide on an adjustment to the student's studies.

Any adjustment of this kind may mean that certain courses/elements are completely omitted or have their content amended. If an element is completely omitted, it should be stated whether the time which thus becomes available must be used for additional studies in another element or other elements or whether any particular element not included in the syllabus (or similar) must be added.

Adjustment of the contents of degree/course certificates

If an adjustment of syllabus (or similar) means a reduction in the contents of a course of study which are regarded as an essential and obvious part of that course of study, the adjustment and information on the date of the decision must be clearly stated on the certificate. This kind of adjustment may mean that the student does not receive a complete qualification. The officials responsible for making decisions on these matters are obliged to inform the student of this circumstance in good time.

Individual examination

If his or her disability prevents the student from sitting an examination in the manner set out in the syllabus (or similar), he or she should be given an opportunity to be examined individually in another way. In the case of examinations with the aid of sign language interpreters, two interpreters should be present.

Individual course of studies

In certain cases, the nature of the student's disability may require a slower rate of study than normal. The Director of Undergraduate and Masters' studies and the student counsellor and, if necessary, the contact person, are expected, along with the student, to devise an individual course of study for the student. That individual course of study should be regularly reassessed.

Course literature

Some students have contact with the Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille, TPB, for transfer of literature to other media. Since it can take the TPB several months to produce the literature, the teacher responsible for the course should, on request from the student counsellor or the student him or herself, compile a reading list to enable the student to gain access to the literature within a reasonable period and read it while taking the course.

Other

Written and verbal information on its range of courses and application procedure must contain a recommendation by KTH must that disabled prospective students should contact KTH in good time to discuss their possible need for support measures, one or more years in advance in the case of measures that may affect the building. Prior to admission, it may be necessary to invite the applicant to a discussion with the contact person and other officers concerned before any choice of programme or course is made.