Studies for a doctorate degree

Internal regulation no. 79/94
Valid from 17/1/1994
Amended from 01/07/2007, 2011-09-14

This internal regulation is based on:

- The Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100)
- President’s decision 930-1238-94, dossier 60
- President's decision 930-743-97, dossier 60
- President's decision no. 431/00, reg. no. 930-738-00, dossier 60
- President’s decision no. 364/03, reg. no. 930-2003-0582, dossier 60
- President’s decision no. 361/2005, “KTH rules of procedure” reg. no. 930-2005-0480, dossier 10
- President's decision no. 396/2005, reg. no. 930-2005-0553, dossier 60
- President's decision no. UF-0449-07, reg. no. V-2007-0625, dossier 60
- Language Policy for KTH, reg. no. V-2009-0365, established by the University Board April 21, 2010

A doctorate is received after undergoing studies in one of KTH’s third-cycle subjects. The studies correspond to 240 credits. Besides a scientific doctoral thesis (dissertation) of a minimum of 120 credits, a doctorate includes courses of a minimum of 60 credits. Higher requirements for course components may be established in the study plan for a subject. Further objectives within the framework of the Higher Education Ordinance, Qualifications Ordinance (appendix 2 of the Ordinance) and the objectives set out in the local regulation of qualifications are established by the Faculty Council in study plans for third-cycle subjects. For detailed information see the respective study plan.

The qualification is named “Teknologe doktorsexamen” (Doctor of Philosophy). In individual cases, “Filosofie” (Doctor of Philosophy) may be used, as decided by the Director of Doctoral Studies.

After the award of doctorate at KTH, a doctoral student will be well prepared for further independent scientific activities within his or her subject or for other comparable professional activities, consisting primarily of research, development and investigation work, within distinct areas of society. All third-cycle studies must be planned taking into consideration the needs of society and the students to ensure that students acquire knowledge in addition to what is provided in basic higher education studies along with skills in research methodology and experience of research which further develops their ability to make critical judgment on phenomena of various kinds.
The format of doctoral thesis (dissertation)

A doctoral thesis (dissertation) is normally a compilation of scientific papers with an introduction and a short summary (compilation thesis). It may also be a uniform, coherent scientific work (monograph thesis).

The papers included in a compilation thesis may be written by the student alone or jointly with another person or other persons. Papers written by more than one person may be considered if the student’s contribution is clearly stated.

Previously published papers may be attached to a monograph thesis as appendices. Thesis written by two or more persons jointly may be approved as a doctoral thesis. For approval, there must be a clear statement of which part was contributed by each person.

Doctoral theses are normally written in English and shall, according to the Language Policy for KTH, have a summary in Swedish. A doctoral thesis in another language requires approval by the Director of Doctoral Studies. A brief summary – abstract – in English is attached to the doctoral thesis.

Abstracts must:

- state the title of the thesis, the language the thesis is written in, the author or authors and the higher education department and institution
- consist of a maximum of 350 words
- reflect the contents of the thesis according to the outline: problem, methods, and results
- be provided with keywords and other information of significance for literary search in information search systems

Abstracts may be printed at the beginning of each thesis or on the back of a loose "disputation title sheet". One advantage of printing the abstract on the disputation title sheet is that information on the thesis can be distributed cheaply to a wide circle of people.

Abstracts of KTH’s doctoral theses are published in Dissertation Abstracts International. Kungliga Tekniska högskolan ensures via KTHB that abstracts are forwarded to the said publication.

The KTHB acquisitions unit, tel. 08-790 7186, supplies ISBN numbers for KTH doctoral theses.

Quality of doctoral theses

It is extremely important that the doctoral theses presented at KTH are of the highest scientific quality. To meet KTH quality targets, the material, regardless of the format of the thesis, must be publishable internationally in reputable media.
Production

Production and duplication of doctoral theses along with papers and appendices takes place through the agency of the school and within its resources. The school is not obliged to pay for duplication other than by means of the cheapest form of production at KTH or in a greater size or number than stated below.

Number:

A minimum of 100 copies of the thesis must be printed

Size:

The size of theses can vary. As a general guideline, a compilation thesis normally consists of approximately 50 normal pages and a monograph thesis normally consists of approximately 150–200 normal pages. However, deviations from these guidelines can in certain cases be justified. Both types of thesis should contain the necessary bibliography and list of contents.

Doctoral students who wish to attend to the production of their doctoral theses themselves can obtain a subsidy from the School. A subsidy is provided when production at the School would cause the doctoral student additional expense. Doctoral students are obliged to declare to the Dean of the School if a subsidy for the production is expected to be paid by a party other than the School. If such is the case, the subsidy is deducted from the amount payable by the School.

Distribution list and number of copies

The Dean of the School establishes the distribution list

Form:

Forskning och forskarutbildning

Printed version

The doctoral thesis, including appendices and papers, must be available – exhibited – at KTHB at least three term-time weeks prior to the public defense of the thesis. These three weeks must fall during the periods from 7 January to 15 June and from 15 August to 20 December. Otherwise, each School decides how the thesis must be made available. The thesis and its appendices, etc. must be supplied to each institution/corresponding body at each higher education department in the country within whose subject area the thesis falls at least three term-time weeks prior to the disputation.

KTHB must receive the following number of copies of the thesis:

- Three copies of monograph theses, four if a physical copy is to be exhibited in the library
- Three complete copies of compilation theses, four if a physical copy is to be exhibited in the library
The author is responsible for ensuring that KTHB receives printed copies of the thesis. Compulsory copies (Sw. “pliktexemplar”) are delivered by the printing house under Swedish law. KTHB is not a receiver of these compulsory copies.

Electronic version

The electronic version is published in the KTH publication database.


Theses from 1997 onwards are available via the KTHB electronic library under KTH’s scientific publications. This also contains contact details for further questions.

[www.kth.se/kthb/litteratursokning/kthb-s-katalog-1.265240](www.kth.se/kthb/litteratursokning/kthb-s-katalog-1.265240)

Disputation

Doctoral theses are presented and defended at public disputations. The disputation must take place between 7 January and 15 June or between 15 August and 20 December, unless particular reasons exist why this should not be so.

Doctoral students who wish to present and defend their doctoral thesis must inform the School in question no later than five weeks during term-time before the date expected for the public defence. At the same time, the main supervisor puts forward a proposal (on the same form) for faculty examiner (opponent), chair of the disputation, and members of the grading board. Disputations may not be held in the period from 16 June to 14 August. An established individual study plan for the doctorate and a completed form “Summary of quality assessment for licentiate and doctoral theses” must be attached to the notification (Sw. anmälan).

Notification – Disputation, doctorate (Anmälan – Disputation) (=länktext) länk

[http://intra.kth.se/blanketter-mallar/blanketter/forskning-forskarutbildning](http://intra.kth.se/blanketter-mallar/blanketter/forskning-forskarutbildning)

The director of doctoral studies appoints an opponent, a chair of the disputation and the members of the grading board and decides on the time and place for the disputation.

The Chair of the disputation ceremony should be a person other than the main supervisor.

Form:

Forskning och forskarutbildning

The office of student affairs at the School distributes copies of the record of the decision to the parties concerned. The Registrar is responsible for ensuring that the decision is posted on the KTH official notice board in the administration building, so-called “spikning” (notification of the date of the disputation of a doctoral thesis) at least three term-time weeks prior to the disputation.
After the decision on the disputation has been made, the School is responsible for ensuring that the thesis is distributed according to the distribution list.

The disputation ceremony

Present at the disputation are the faculty examiner (opponent), the doctoral student (respondent), the members of the grading board, the chair and, as a rule, the main supervisor. The disputation is also open to the interested general public.

The main protagonists at the disputation are the opponent and the respondent, but it is also extremely important for the members of the grading board to play an active part in the discussion of the thesis.

There are no detailed regulations on what form the examination and disputation of the thesis must take. The procedure described below is normally adopted at KTH, but small deviations may occur.

1. The chair welcomes those present and introduces the respondent and the opponent. The chair provides details on where the research was carried out and who, besides the respondent, took part in the project. The chair concludes the introduction by informing those present that they will be given the opportunity to ask questions after the opponent’s review.

2. The chair gives the respondent the floor so that he or she has an opportunity to comment on any formal defects in the thesis.

3. The respondent– or in some cases the opponent – then gives a short summary of the thesis. The summary includes such matters as problems, results obtained and the scientific and social interest of the results. The summary applies to the thesis in question and may not be a lecture on current research problems in that area of research. If the opponent summarises the thesis, the respondent is given the opportunity to comment on, and supplement, the summary.

4. The opponent discusses the thesis with the respondent and asks questions mainly relating to the work described in the thesis. It is occasionally necessary for supplementary information to be supplied as background. The opponent declares that the review is concluded and congratulates the respondent if he or she so wishes. The audience may not take part in the discussion during this part of the disputation.

5. When the opponent’s review is concluded, the chair must invite the members of the grading board to discuss with the respondent any issues that the members consider should be illustrated further. Other persons present are then given the opportunity to ask questions and/or comment on the thesis. The main supervisor, the opponent and the respondent are entitled to take part in any discussion that may ensue.

6. The chair then thanks the opponent and the respondent on behalf of the University.

The full disputation ceremony normally takes approximately 2 - 3 hours.

The grading board meets as soon as possible after the disputation.