Decision regarding the conditions for the autumn semester 2020

Decision

The President of KTH has decided the following for the operations at KTH Royal Institute of Technology for autumn semester 2020. This decision will be valid until 15 January 2021, however, is subject to change based on the information and recommendations made by the government and other public authorities.

KTH is opening for on-campus education for the autumn semester 2020 and has decided to gradually give students access to all KTH premises starting Saturday 1 August 2020.

Teaching can be carried out on all KTH-campuses in accordance to the government’s information and the recommendations made by the Public Health Agency of Sweden. Educational programming that is normally held in lecture halls will be carried out in alternative formats from the autumn semester.

It is important to carry forward the experience gained from the digitalisation of education and examinations in the spring 2020. The mission of the Working Group for the Digitalisation of Teaching will therefore be prolonged and renewed. This assignment to the working group is decided by the President.

Starting autumn semester, beginning 24 August 2020, examinations shall primarily be carried out through other methods than in-class examinations. In-class examinations may be carried out if it there are pedagogical reasons. Decisions regarding examinations will be taken by the Vice-President for Education based on the presentation by the Director of First and Second Cycle Education (GA) at each School at KTH. Written examinations supervised over Zoom will be phased out during the autumn semester. Deviation from established course plans regarding the format of examination will be accepted during the autumn semester 2020. The Schools shall maintain records of which courses have changed the format of examinations.

The defense of doctoral theses may be held on campus from the beginning of the autumn semester. The opportunity to participate in a doctoral thesis defense remotely will remain.

When KTH opens for on-campus based education in the autumn semester, some of the welcome activities for new students will be carried out digitally instead of in-person information sessions in auditoriums. Other parts of the welcome activities will take place on campus. KTH account details and access cards will be distributed on campus. All social activities will follow the recommendations made by the Public Health Agency of Sweden.

Outgoing exchange students from KTH that are able to take their exchange place at the receiving university may do so. Those who are not able to participate in their exchange placement will be able to continue their programme at KTH in autumn 2020 and will be offered exchange studies in the following semester instead if possible. Incoming exchange students will be offered their placement at KTH as planned.
Tuition fee paying students will be offered a full refund for the tuition fees for autumn semester 2020 until the start of the semester. There will not be any extended payment plans accepted.

The guidelines for KTH employees to return to the workplace on campus will be decided within the next few weeks.

**Case**

Due to the corona-pandemic and spread of COVID-19, the Swedish Government has decided that all teaching and examination shall be organised digitally from 18 March 2020 and onwards.

The President of KTH has therefore decided that all teaching activities during the spring semester 2020 shall be carried out remotely (dnr V-2020-0273). In addition, all examinations during the spring semester including the re-examination period in August 2020 shall be carried out remotely.

On 29 May 2020, the Swedish Government decided that universities and university colleges may return to in-person learning activities on campus. The decision by the government will apply until further notice but is subject to change. The government is prepared to take action as the situation evolves.

**This decision** is taken by Sigbritt Karlsson, President after presentation by Åsa Gustafson, Head of Department. 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 Strategic Council has been given the opportunity to comment on the draft decision. Prior to the decision, collaboration with the trade unions has taken place 4 June 2020. Present at the decision was Mikael Östling, Deputy President, Kerstin Jacobsson, University Director, Katarina Jonsson Berglund, Head of Department, Elisabet Lökvist, Chairman of the Student Union Board and Eva Fredriksson, Secretary.

KTH Royal Institute of Technology

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Sigbritt Karlsson, President

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Åsa Gustafson, Head of the University Management Office, within the University Administration

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