

Rules for doctoral education at Karolinska Institutet

Dnr 1-8/2020



**Karolinska
Institutet**

Introduction

Doctoral education is regulated by the Higher Education Act and the Higher Education Ordinance and by local regulations decided by Karolinska Institutet (KI). This document is a compilation of the national and the local regulations.

This document is updated regularly following any changes to existing rules and regulations. In the beginning of the document the latest updates are listed together with a reference to where and when the decisions are taken. At the end all previous revisions are listed.

The latest version of this document is published on KI's website: Staff > Education & Research > Doctoral education.

This document replaces all earlier versions of *Rules for doctoral education at Karolinska Institutet*.

This document is a translation from Swedish. In the event of any discrepancy, the Swedish version has preferential interpretation.

Updates

Updates since the last version 2019-01-10 (ref.no. 1-17/2019):

Section	Updates	Decision
5.3	The whole section is changed following the revision of rules and routines for the half time review	KFU 2019-10-10, § 10 2019:38
7.2.1	A section is added describing the routines of plagiarism check (in place since 2015 but previous not included in this document)	FUS 2015-03-03, § 14 FUS 2018-09-011, § 11

FUS = Board of Doctoral Education
KFU = Committee of Doctoral Education

Minor revisions:

Section 2.4.1: Information added that a completed ISP seminar should be documented in the individual study plan

Avsnitt 7.2.1: Istället för att specificera Disputationskommitténs uppdrag hänvisas till aktuellt dokument som reglerar uppdraget.

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1 Doctoral Education at Karolinska Institutet

Karolinska Institutet's (KI) mission is to contribute to the improvement of human health through education and research. KI strives to carry out high quality, innovative research with the highest possible international impact. This commitment shall also permeate doctoral education.

1.1 Aim

The aim of doctoral education at KI is to advance knowledge in the subject of **medical science** and contribute to societal development within this field. Doctoral education should, therefore, provide a broad base and prepare students for research and other work, both within academia and in society as a whole.

After taking a licentiate degree or doctorate, our graduates may continue their careers within research, as combined researchers and teachers in higher education, as managers with research expertise in industry or healthcare, as scientific journalists or consultants, etc.

1.2 Outcomes of doctoral education

After completing their doctoral education at KI, our graduates will possess a grounding in medical science, a broad knowledge and systematic understanding of his or her research field, and an advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in his or her project and the surrounding context.

See below the outcomes for doctoral education as specified in the Higher Education Ordinance.

1.2.1 Outcomes for the Degree of Doctor

Higher Education Ordinance – Appendix 2 - Qualifications ordinance

Knowledge and understanding

For the doctoral degree, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field, and
- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

For the doctoral degree, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work,
- demonstrate through a dissertation the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her own research,
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general,
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and
- demonstrate the capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity.

Judgement and approach

For the doctoral degree, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and
- demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

1.2.2 Outcomes for the Degree of Licentiate

Higher Education Ordinance – Appendix 2 - Qualifications ordinance

Knowledge and understanding

For a licentiate degree, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research including current specialist knowledge in a limited area of this field as well as specialised knowledge of research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

For a licentiate degree, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and plan and use appropriate methods to undertake a limited piece of research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames in order to contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as to evaluate this work,

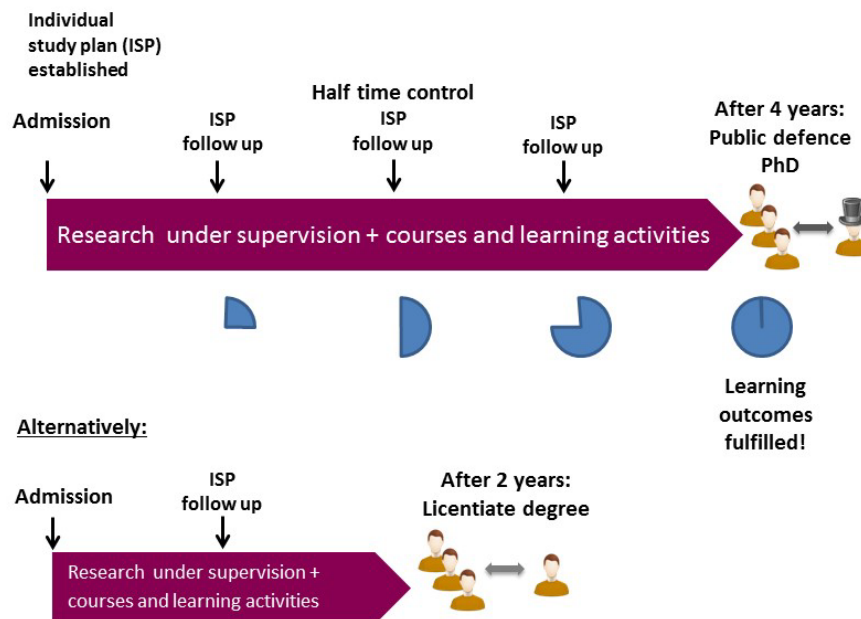
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and
- demonstrate the skills required to participate autonomously in research and development work and to work autonomously in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a licentiate degree, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of his or her own research
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning.

1.3 An overview of doctoral education



Doctoral education is, to a great extent, based on the doctoral student's individual research project, which is complemented with a specific knowledge requirement.

For a doctoral degree, the equivalent of four years of full-time third-cycle education is required. A licentiate degree corresponds to two years of doctoral education. Doctoral studies may be conducted in parallel to clinical practice or other duties, but must be completed within eight years for a doctoral degree and within four years for a licentiate degree.

An individual study plan is established for each doctoral student stating the university's and the student's commitments and how the student plans to achieve the objectives/outcomes for doctoral education, both through his or her research and by attending courses and other educational activities.

The progress of doctoral studies is followed up annually. The half-time review, which takes place after the equivalent of two years of full-time doctoral studies, is more comprehensive than the annual follow-up.

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student shall have achieved the outcomes for the degree of doctoral and been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis. The thesis is defended during a public defence. For a licentiate degree, the doctoral student shall have achieved the outcomes for the degree of licentiate and been awarded a pass grade for a licentiate thesis. This thesis is defended during a licentiate seminar.

KI's ethical regulations and guidelines shall be adhered to at all times while pursuing doctoral education.

1.4 Organisation of doctoral education at KI¹

1.4.1 Faculty

The Faculty Board has overall responsibility for ensuring that doctoral education is given the best possible opportunities to develop and maintain a high standard. The Faculty Board has delegated responsibility for quality development, assurance and evaluation to the Committee for Doctoral Education.

1.4.2 Department

Head of Department

The President has delegated the right of decision to the Head of Department as regards:

- a. The establishment of doctoral positions
- b. Admissions to doctoral education
- c. The approval of financing plans
- d. The appointment of supervisors

The following decision-making rights have also been delegated for the purposes of sub-delegation:

- e. The establishment of ISPs (Director of Doctoral Education)
- f. Decisions on credit transfer (Director of Doctoral Education)
- g. The appointment of course examiners

¹ Karolinska Institutet's decision-making procedures and delegation rules (doc. no 1-876/2018)

Director of Doctoral Education

Every department has at least one Director of Doctoral Education to support its doctoral students and supervisors as instructed by the Committee for Doctoral Education.

Doctoral boards

Every department is to have a board that deals with matters relating to doctoral education.

The purpose of such a board is:

- to assess the scientific project when the doctoral position is first established
- to assist the Director of Doctoral Education in making a decision on the admission of a prospective student, when necessary
- to assist with other matters relating to doctoral education, if the department so wishes

The board is to comprise:

- the departmental Director of Doctoral Education (chairperson/convenor)
- at least two other researchers/teachers
- at least one student representative

The board may co-opt specific expertise when necessary.

2 Admission to Doctoral Education

Chapter 6 Higher Education Ordinance

3 §...Higher education institutions shall also ensure that the admission regulations are available. The admission regulations comprise the regulations that apply at the higher education institution to applications, entry requirements, selection, and admission, as well as how decisions are made.

Admission regulations setting the general frameworks for admission, entry requirements, advertisement and selection for doctoral education have been established by the University Board (doc. No 1-419/2018). More detailed rules and instructions have been produced under these regulations for the purposes of the quality assurance of the admission process.

Quality-assured admission

The admissions process is to have the same general four-step structure at all departments:

Step 1: The establishment of a doctoral position

Quality assurance of the research project, supervision and the doctoral environment in general.

Step 2: Recruitment

Quality assurance of the prospective doctoral student on grounds of eligibility, suitability and capability.

Step 3: Admission decision

Decision to admit the selected applicant to doctoral education on the basis of steps 1 and 2.

Step 4: The preparation of an individual study plan

Quality assurance of individual study plan.

2.1 Step 1: The establishment of a doctoral position

A prospective principal supervisor applies to establish a doctoral position at the department at which the student is planned to be registered. Note that a doctoral position must be established even when the student is to study as part of a position of employment outside the university (e.g. with Region Stockholm).

The aim of this step is to ensure at an early stage that all doctoral students have the opportunities and resources needed to pursue quality doctoral education.

The following conditions must be met before a doctoral position can be established:

- The scientific project is viable and suitable as a doctoral project
- The principal supervisor meets the Green Light requirements (*see 2.1.1*)
- The supervisory constellation is relevant to the project
- The doctoral student can be offered a sound doctoral study environment (*see 2.1.2*)
- Ethical permits (if required) are in place or planned

Prospective doctoral positions are assessed on the basis of the material appended to the application for the establishment of a doctoral position.

The assessment of a project must include a collegial review (*see section 1.4 on doctoral committees*). The assessment of financial resources must involve the department's head of administration.

Whether the doctoral position is to be advertised or exempted from this requirement by the Higher Education Ordinance is also decided at this stage (*see 2.2.1*).

The decision to establish a doctoral position is made by the Head of Department. It remains in effect for one year and at that department only. Reasons for rejections must always be stated. Rejected applicants are entitled to re-apply.

2.1.1 Assessment of supervisor – the “Green Light”

The assessment of prospective doctoral positions includes an assessment of the intended principal supervisor's “Green Light” application.

It is also possible for a supervisor to apply for a Green Light under circumstances separate from the establishment of a doctoral position, such as funding applications or the replacement of principal supervisor during an ongoing doctoral project.

The following apply to “Green Light”:

- The following aspects of the prospective supervisor are assessed:
 - Suitability (time available for supervision and track record)
 - Financial resources
- A Green Light assessment and decision must be made by at least three people representing the following offices: Head of Department, Head of Administration and Director of Doctoral Education.
- There are three possible outcomes: 1) Approved, 2) Conditionally approved and 3) Rejected. Note that in the event of outcome 2, any reservations must be seen to before a doctoral position may be established.
- Reason must always be given in the event of a rejection. A rejected applicant is entitled to re-apply.

2.1.2 Assessment of doctoral environment

The establishment of a doctoral position requires an environment that is conducive to doctoral education of the highest standards.

Questions to consider when assessing the environment:

- Are there opportunities for contacts with other doctoral students and researchers, e.g. through networking activities, seminars etc.?
- Is there support available for the doctoral student's studies, e.g. in the form of postdocs, statisticians, biomedical analysts and other researchers?
- Are there opportunities for international exchange/contacts?
- Have alternative ways to achieve the objectives, should those outlined not lead to success?
- What previous experience of supervision does the supervisory group have, i.e. the principal and co-supervisors?
- Presence of the supervisors in the group - full or part-time, the same physical workplace, etc.? How many doctoral students are currently being supervised?
- How well described is the supervisory approach?
- How will the supervision of the proposed doctoral project be organised (in which way will the various competencies of the supervisors be utilised in the project)?

2.2 Step 2: Recruitment of doctoral student

Once a doctoral position has been established, the recruitment process is as follows:

1. Advertisement and application
2. Eligibility assessment
3. Selection among eligible applicants

2.2.1 Advertisement

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7

Section 37. Questions relating to admission are dealt with by the higher education institution. Those who wish to be admitted to a doctoral course or study programme shall apply within the time and in the manner prescribed by the higher education institution.

When a higher education institution intends to admit one or more doctoral students, information shall be provided by the higher education institution through advertising or some equivalent method. Information need not, however, be provided

1. when admitting a doctoral student who is to complete the course or study programme within the framework of employment by an employer other than the higher education institution
2. when admitting a doctoral student who has previously begun doctoral studies at another higher education institution, or
3. if there are similar special grounds.

All doctoral positions at KI must be advertised. Exceptions from the required advertisement may be allowed in accordance with Chapter 7, Section 37 of the Higher Education Ordinance (see above). “Similar special grounds” could for example be when the doctoral student has been selected in another competitive recruitment process.

When advertised, positions must:

- be advertised via the KI recruitment system
- be advertised at a suitable time, and for an application period which is recommended, as a rule, to last for three weeks or longer
- the position must be advertised in Swedish and/or English. The choice of advertising language depends on the tasks involved in the position.

Before a doctoral position may be advertised, it must be formally established by the head of the department in question.

2.2.2 Entry requirements

In order to be admitted to doctoral education, the potential doctoral student must meet the general and specific entry requirements. Assessment of qualifications is conducted by administrators at the University Administration.

General entry requirements

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7

Section 39. A person meets the general entry requirements for doctoral education if they:

1. have been awarded a second-cycle qualification,
2. have satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second-cycle, or
3. have acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way, either in Sweden or abroad.

The higher education institution may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant if there are special grounds.

Specific entry requirements

To be eligible for doctoral education at KI, the student must have knowledge of the English language equivalent to a pass grade at English B/English 6.

Applicants who fulfil the general entry requirements (in accordance with Chapter 7, Section 39, points 1 and 2 above) as a result of academic education in an educational institution in one of the Nordic countries are judged to have fulfilled this requirement.

For other equivalence assessments, the Association of Swedish Higher Education (SUHF) recommendations.

2.2.3 Selection

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7

Section 41. In selecting between applicants who meet the requirements laid down in Sections 35 & 36 their ability to benefit from the course of study programmes shall be taken into account.

The higher education institution determines which assessment criteria shall be used in determining the ability to benefit from the courses and study programmes.

However, the fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not alone give the applicant priority over other applicants.

Selection from amongst the applicants will take place on the following grounds:

- Documented knowledge of the subject that is of significance to the research area
- Analytical expertise
- Other documented knowledge/experience which may be of significance

A combined assessment of the applicants' qualifications and suitability will be conducted.

It is the responsibility of the department to ensure ability and suitability, even if the position is exempt from the advertisement requirement.

In order to quality-assure the selection process, potential candidates should ideally be invited to the research group for interview and/or demonstrations of ability. It is also recommended that a recruitment group be set up with the competence and experience to assess candidates.

Departments may introduce their own compulsory recruitment processes and procedures.

2.3 Step 3: Decision on admission

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7

Section 34. The number of doctoral students admitted to doctoral courses and study programmes may not exceed the number that can be offered supervision and otherwise acceptable conditions for study and whose studies are funded pursuant to Section 36.

Section 35. The requirements for admission to doctoral courses and study programmes are that the applicant

1. meets the general and specific entry requirements that the higher education institution may have prescribed, and
2. is considered in other respects to have the ability required to benefit from the course or study programme

The President has delegated decisions on doctoral admission to the head of the department at which the student is to be registered¹. The report is made by the departmental Director of Doctoral Education. The Head of Department's decision is final.

Decision on admission is made at once when a candidate has been selected.

Departments that fail to comply with the rules of doctoral education in effect at KI may have their right to admit doctoral students restricted.

2.4 Step 4: Establishment of individual study plan

Within one month of the commencement of studies, the student and his/her supervisor are to submit a proposed individual study plan (ISP) to the department's Director of Doctoral Education.

Within three months of the commencement of studies, all doctoral students at KI are to have an established ISP.

The ISP rules can be found in chapter 5.

2.4.1 ISP seminar

The doctoral student is to attend an ISP seminar at the department before the establishment of his/her ISP.

The purpose of the seminar is:

- to welcome the student
- to allow the student to present the research project from his/her own perspective and gain feedback
- to serve as a learning opportunity for the doctoral student
- to help the department make sure that all doctoral students have an ISP

ISP seminars are held in English.

Completed ISP seminar is documented in the individual study plan.

2.5 Admission towards a licentiate degree

Doctoral students shall, as a rule, be admitted with a doctoral degree as their goal. Only those who are professionally active and who would like to complement or deepen their knowledge in a field of research and only wish to take a licentiate degree may be accepted with a licentiate degree as their goal.

3 Courses

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6 – Examination

Section 32. Examinations that form part of doctoral courses and study programmes shall be assessed in accordance with the grading system prescribed by the higher education institution.

3.1 Syllabus

All doctoral courses at KI must have an established syllabus. The establishment of a syllabus (and course credits) is carried out by the Committee of Doctoral Education.

3.2 Admission to doctoral courses

Course organisers are responsible for the selection and admission of applicants. For admission to doctoral courses, the following general selection criteria must be followed:

1. doctoral students at KI (doctoral students in collaborative programmes are considered KI doctoral students)
2. post docs at KI
3. doctoral students at other universities (in Sweden or abroad)
4. other applicants.

3.3 Examination

Examination of doctoral courses is performed at an individual level. The examiner must hold a PhD degree. If a person other than the examiner is responsible for the course, he/she is recommended to hold a PhD degree. The Head of the department appoints examiners.

3.4 Evaluation of doctoral courses

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 1 – course evaluations

Section 14. Higher education institutions shall enable students who are participating in or have completed a course to express their experiences of and views about the course through a course evaluation to be organised by the higher education institution. The higher education institution shall collate the course evaluations and provide information about their results and any actions prompted by the course evaluations. The results shall be made available to the students.

KI's template for doctoral course evaluation must be used for the evaluation of doctoral courses at KI. Course evaluations shall be used for the continuous development of the courses. Course evaluations are followed-up and feedback is provided to the Committee of Doctoral Education.

Course evaluations must be made available for past and future participants.

4 General syllabus and credit transfer

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6

Section 2. The extent of a course or study programme shall be denoted by credits, with full-time study during a normal academic year of 40 weeks corresponding to 60 credits.

Section 25. A university or higher education institution entitled to award doctoral qualifications shall determine the subjects in which doctoral education may be offered.

Section 26. For each subject in which doctoral courses or study programmes are offered, a general syllabus is required.

Section 27. A general syllabus shall indicate the following: the main content of the study programme, specific entry requirements and any other regulations required.

The doctoral students shall complete their doctoral education following the course requirements specified in the general syllabus for which they have been admitted.

4.1 Medical science

There are five general syllabi in the subject of medical science:

General syllabus for doctoral students admitted from 1 Jan 2018, ref no. 3-3225/2017

General syllabus for those admitted from 01/07/2013 to 31/12/2018, ref. no. 3-749/2013

General syllabus for those admitted from 01/07/2009 to 30/06/2013, ref. no. 1993/09-506

General syllabus for those admitted from 01/07/2007 to 30/06/2009, ref. no. 197/06-506

General syllabus for those admitted from 01/07/2006 to 30/06/2007, ref. no. 197/06-506

4.2 Other doctoral education subjects

Earlier, KI had a large number of different doctoral education subjects, but since 01/03/2006, there is only one subject for doctoral students at KI; *Medical science*.

For doctoral students admitted to another doctoral education subject (admission before 01/03/2006), it is possible to change to medical science. In such a case, there should also be a revision of the individual study plan so that a complete doctoral education can be fulfilled in accordance with the *General Syllabus for Medical Science*.

4.3 Credit transfer

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6

Section 6. If a student at a higher education institution in Sweden has successfully completed a higher education course or study programme, they are entitled to transfer the credits awarded for a course or study programme at another higher education institution. This does not apply, however, if there is a substantial difference between these courses or study programmes.

The same applies to students who have successfully completed a course or study programme

1. at a university or other higher education institution in Denmark, Finland, Iceland or Norway or a signatory to the Council of Europe's Convention of 11 April 1997 on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, or
2. at the Nordic School of Public Health.

Section 7. A student is entitled to transfer credits from a course or study programme other than that laid down in Section 6 if the nature and extent of the knowledge and skills cited by the student are such that they correspond, on the whole, to the course or study programme for which the credits are to be recognised. A student may also be given credit for equivalent knowledge and skills acquired in a vocational or professional capacity.

The credits from courses taken within the framework of a licentiate degree may be transferred to a subsequent doctoral degree, which has the same specialisation.

The Head of Department may delegate decisions about credit transferral to the Director of doctoral education. Decisions about the transfer of credits may be appealed.

5 Individual study plan

Higher education ordinance Chapter 6 – Individual study plan

Section 29. An individual study plan shall be drawn up for each doctoral student. This study plan shall contain the undertakings made by the doctoral student and the higher education institution and a timetable for the doctoral student's study programme. The study plan shall be adopted after consultation with the doctoral student and their supervisors.

The individual study plan shall be reviewed regularly and amended by the higher education institution, to the extent required after consultation with the doctoral student and their supervisors. The period of study may only be extended if there are special grounds for doing so. Such grounds may comprise leave of absence because of illness, leave of absence for service in the defence forces or an elected position in a trade union or student organisation, or parental leave.

5.1 Establishing an individual study plan

Establishing an individual study plan is the step 4 in the admission process, *see chapter 2*.

KI uses a digital system² for drawing up and establishing individual study plans. Students with study plans on paper may transfer the content, either on their own initiative or at their department's request, to the ISP system at any time.

The individual study plan shall include details of the intended degree, project title, supervision plan, research plan, how the degree outcomes will be attained, timetable, mentor, existing ethical permits and ethical permits that need to be applied for.

The individual study plan shall be approved by the department's director of doctoral studies on behalf of the head of department

The following should be considered:

- if the proposed courses and the general content of the study plan are relevant and sufficiently extensive in relation to the learning outcomes according to the Higher Education Ordinance

² Implementation of the ISP system starts during spring semester 2019.

- if the requirements of the general syllabus have been met (e.g. are all mandatory courses included)
- if the timetable is reasonable

If the applicant plans to pursue doctoral education in parallel with employment within another organisation, e.g. Region Stockholm, there is a requirement that the head of the organisation approve the financing plan and certify that the doctoral student will have time and opportunity to perform the doctoral education.

5.2 Annual follow-up

The individual study plan and the student's progress in the doctoral education must be followed-up once a year.

The follow-up contains the following:

- completed elements
- an update on the planned research project and planned courses/credit-generating elements
- an update of the timetable and funding plan
- other parts of the current individual study plan that are to be revised.

The department's Director of doctoral education control that there has been a follow-up and decide on revisions to the individual study plan.

In connection to the first annual follow-up the doctoral student shall be offered a meeting with the department's Director of doctoral education. This can take place individually or in a group containing all of those recently admitted to the department. The aim is to identify any possible uncertainty, to ensure that the doctoral education is proceeding according to plan, and to establish contact between the Director of doctoral education and the doctoral student.

5.2.1 Reporting of activities and financial support

Each term, doctoral students must report their activities and financial support to their department, and this information will be registered in Ladok. Activities refer, here, to the proportion of equivalent full-time involvement that a doctoral student has devoted to their doctoral education. The activities are reported in per cent (proportion of equivalent full-time commitment).

5.3 Half-time review

The half-time review shall be carried out for each doctoral student planning to take a doctoral degree. The principal supervisor and the doctoral student are responsible for, and will take the initiative in, conducting the half-time review.

The half-time review consists of a seminar, and a follow-up meeting.

5.3.1 When?

The half-time review shall take place following the equivalent of two years of full-time doctoral education. The time for the half-time review is not dependent on the number of manuscripts or published articles.

5.3.2 Half-time committee

After proposal by the supervisor and the doctoral student, the Director of doctoral studies will appoint a board consisting of three researchers with adequate knowledge of the subject, and who are independent from the project and have obtained a doctoral degree. If possible, it is recommended that at least one of these should later form part of the examination board at the public defence (*see 7.2.5*)

The committee, together with the supervisors and the doctoral student, shall assess the prospects of the project leading to a doctoral degree, and propose any necessary changes to the individual study plan.

5.3.3 Half-time report

Ahead of the half-time review, the doctoral student shall write a half-time report comprising:

- a literature review of the research field*
- a status report of the doctoral education project
- a status report on the progress the student is making towards the outcomes for the degree of doctor (*see 1.2.1*)
- a plan for the remaining of his/her doctoral studies
- his/her reflection on ethical considerations, stating for each constituent paper:
 - existing ethical permits (*ref.no/diarienummer*).
 - whether there are plans to apply for ethical permits, or
 - reasons why ethical permits are not required

*The literature review is to be uploaded into the designated text matching software as the basis for an instructive discussion on scientific writing between supervisor and student.

5.3.4 Documents to the half-time committee

The supervisors and the doctoral student ensure that the committee receives the documents at least two weeks ahead of the half-time seminar. These documents are:

- half-time report (*see 5.3.3*)
- the doctoral student's individual study plan (an updated printed copy from the ISP-system³)

³ Those without a digital individual study plan must also include a Ladok excerpt.

- ethical permits⁴, if any
- completed publications and manuscripts that will form part of the thesis, if any.

5.3.5 Half-time seminar

The seminar consists of a presentation held by the doctoral student in English, followed by a discussion and questions from the committee and others present.

The presentation shall summarise results and further planning of the doctoral education in relation to the doctoral student's individual study plan.

The half-time seminar shall be public and advertised internally at KI.

5.3.6 Follow-up meeting

After the half-time seminar, the committee meets with the supervisors and the doctoral student and, if possible, the mentor, to review the progress.

The following factors will be discussed, based on the individual study plan, the half-time report and the seminar:

- Doctoral student:
 - Progress towards realising the intended outcomes of a doctoral degree
 - Progress towards independence
 - Overall performance at the half-time seminar
- Doctoral education project:
 - Progress and time plan
 - Plans for remaining education
- Supervision:
 - Scope and structure
 - Plans for remaining education
- Courses and other learning activities:
 - Plans for remaining education
- Ethical matters

After the discussion, the student and his/her supervisor leave the room in turns for the committee to hold separate meetings with each to discuss their views on their collaboration, working conditions and communication.

Comments and recommendations from the committee is documented in the half-time review protocol. The departmental study director confirms that he/she has read the comments by signing the protocol. A copy is uploaded to the ISP system⁵.

⁴ Only the decisions, not the applications

⁵ Doctoral students without a digital individual study plan saves a copy of the protocol elsewhere.

5.3.7 Following the half-time review

The completed half-time review is registered in Ladok.

The individual study plan can be revised as necessary in accordance with the comments and suggestions of the half-time committee. Any revisions shall then be endorsed by the principal supervisor and then approved by the director of studies in line with usual practice.

5.3.8 Exceptions

Half-time reviews, completed at KI, are mandatory for those who wish to conduct a doctoral dissertation. However, exceptions are made for those doctoral students who hold a previous licentiate degree within the same subject area.

6 Supervision

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6 – Supervision

Section 28. At least two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student. One of them shall be nominated as the principal supervisor. Doctoral students are entitled to supervision during their studies, unless the President has decided otherwise by virtue of Section 30.

A doctoral student who so requests shall be allowed to change supervisor.

Supervisors are appointed by the head of department.

The individual study plan describes how the supervision and activities will be organised and divided between the supervisors.

Even though a doctoral student may only be registered at one department, the doctoral education may benefit from taking place in more than one department and with supervisors from more than one department.

6.1 Requirements for supervisors

Following requirements apply for a doctoral supervisor:

- A principal supervisor must have the means to assist with good, professional supervision (must have ‘green light’, *see 2.1.1*).
- A co-supervisor shall contribute the relevant complementary expertise.
- All supervisors must have a doctoral degree.
- At least one of the supervisors must be an associate professor (*docent*) or a professor.
- The principal supervisor must be either employed by KI or formally affiliated to KI.
- At least one of the supervisors, preferably the principal supervisor, must be active in the department to which the doctoral student is admitted.
- The principal supervisor must have completed doctoral supervisor training as below.

- Family relationships or other close relationships between doctoral student and supervisor is not allowed.
- Two persons with a close relationship or family relationship may not be in the same supervisor group.

All supervisors shall be thoroughly familiar with KI's regulations governing doctoral education.

6.1.1 Supervisor training

A principal supervisor must have completed doctoral supervisor training arranged according to the instructions of the Faculty Board.

It is mandatory for all principal supervisors, including those with equivalent expertise, to complete the web course for supervisors for doctoral students. A passing score on the web course cannot be older than 5 years prior to accepting a new doctoral student. The purpose is to ensure that all supervisors are familiar with the prevailing rules for doctoral education.

In addition, a principal supervisor, unless having equivalent expertise, must complete the introductory course in doctoral supervision. The aim of the course is to prepare participants for the role of supervisor and to provide insight into the responsibilities that it entails.

Equivalent expertise

Those who have equivalent expertise

- have been principal supervisors for doctoral students who have graduated with doctoral degrees from, for example, a university in one of the Nordic countries or another country which has comparable doctoral education,
- have taken part of another research supervisor training equivalent to the course given by KI.

6.2 Duties of the principal supervisor

The principal supervisor shall have the overall responsibility for supervision when it comes to the planning and execution of the research project. The principal supervisor also has, together with the doctoral student, a responsibility to ensure that the doctoral courses and other elements that are specified in the general syllabus and individual study plan, are completed.

The principal supervisor shall work to ensure that the annual follow-up, as well as the half-time review and defence of thesis, or licentiate seminar, are planned and implemented.

The principal supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the funding plan is drawn up and revised.

6.3 Duties of the co-supervisor

A co-supervisor is primarily responsible for providing complementary scientific expertise to the project. The role of the co-supervisor shall be clearly stated in the individual study plan.

6.4 Supervisors' obligations

Supervisors at KI shall have a professional approach to doctoral education. This means that a supervisor shall take responsibility for ensuring that planned and implemented doctoral education is of good quality and has a realistic scope in relation to the doctoral student's individual study plan.

The supervisor shall be thoroughly familiar with the regulations and conditions of doctoral education.

The supervisor shall be available for the doctoral student, be clear and consistent in their supervision, and critically review the results achieved. Supervisors shall always work to ensure equality of treatment, by clearly working against all forms of discrimination and harassment.

6.5 Changing supervisors

A doctoral student has, according to the Higher Education Ordinance, the right to change supervisors.

A change of supervisor must be approved by the Head of Department. If the change involves a principal supervisor an assessment of suitability has to be done (*see section 2.1.1 "Green Light"*).

Changing supervisors will necessitate the revision of the individual study plan.

6.6 External mentor

As a complement to the supervisor, an independent person shall be appointed to act as mentor to the doctoral student during the doctoral education. The external mentor may be from the university, county council, industry or another sector of society. The external mentor should provide support to the doctoral student with regard to advice from an independent person concerning issues such as career planning, contacts outside KI, or other types of advice.

The doctoral student chooses a mentor within a year of the admission, which is documented in the individual study plan.

7 Examination

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6 – Examination

Section 32. Examinations that form part of doctoral courses and study programmes shall be assessed in accordance with the grading system prescribed by the higher education institution.

The grade shall be determined by a teacher specifically nominated by the higher education institution (the examiner).

Section 33. The qualification descriptions of doctoral degrees indicate that an approved doctoral thesis, amongst other things, is required for the award of these degrees.

The doctoral thesis shall be presented and defended orally in public. A faculty examiner (opponent) shall be appointed for this presentation.

Section 34. At least one of those participating in the grading of a doctoral thesis shall be someone who does not have a post at the higher education institution awarding the degree.

Section 35. A higher education institution may issue regulations on the grading system to be used and on public defences and grading in other respects.

7.1 Public defence application

To ensure the highest possible quality of theses from KI, and to verify that all elements of the doctoral education have been completed prior to the examination, an application for examination shall be submitted to the Dissertation Committee in accordance with the instructions on the website; Staff > Education & Research > Doctoral education

The Dissertation Committee shall ensure that the regulations concerning public defence, licentiate seminar and examination are adhered to⁶.

The Dissertation Committee appoints the Examination Board, and also the opponent in the case of a doctoral thesis defence and decides the date and place for the licentiate seminar or thesis defence.

Incomplete information regarding ethical approval may result in further investigation concerning suspicion of irregularities.

Further practical information about the application may be found on KI's website.

7.2 Doctoral degree

The examination for a doctoral degree may be carried out following the equivalent of four years' full-time doctoral education (240 higher education credits). For a doctoral student to receive a doctoral degree from KI, they are required to have:

- been admitted to doctoral education at KI

⁶ Regulated in *Arbets- och beslutsordning för Disputationskommittén* (Work and Decision Ordinance for the Dissertation committee), ref.no 1-450/2019.

- completed at least half of their doctoral education at KI (as evidenced by their KI departmental affiliation in the articles included in the thesis)
- conducted their half-time review at KI, or have a licentiate degree within the same subject area
- fulfilled the knowledge requirements for a doctoral degree in accordance with the general syllabus to which the doctoral student was admitted
- written a doctoral thesis that has been awarded a pass
- conducted a public defence of their doctoral thesis that has been awarded a pass.

At KI, the following doctoral degrees are awarded: “*Medicine doktorsexamen*”, “*Filosofie doktorsexamen*”, “*Teknologie doktorsexamen*”, and “*Odontologie doktorsexamen*”. In English all doctoral degrees have the title *Doctor of Philosophy*, which is abbreviated to Ph.D.

7.2.1 Time and place of the examination

The examination shall take place during the established public defence term. The examination shall be held at a venue and in such a way that students and employees of KI are easily able to participate.

7.2.2 Compilation thesis

Most theses from KI are compilation theses, based on a number of separate original papers combined with a thesis frame (comprehensive summary).

Constituent papers

The constituent papers should be original papers (not reviews). One of the constituent papers can be a systematic survey article, for example a meta-analysis. The requirement for such an article is that it creates new knowledge.

The number of constituent papers in a compilation thesis varies, but they must have a scope that in total is equivalent to four years of full-time doctoral education and a scientific quality expected at an international renowned university. The doctoral student's contribution to the constituent papers must be clearly identified.

At least two of the constituent papers included in the thesis must have been accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals, the remainder may be in manuscript form. Doctoral education includes taking active part in the publication of scholarly articles.

A doctoral student admitted to KI must indicate the department at KI as their address on each scientific article they publish.

Thesis frame

The constituent papers that are included in a compilation thesis shall be introduced and discussed in the thesis in the form of a thesis frame (comprehensive summary).

Preliminary results that are not part of any paper, but which the doctoral student wishes to include in the thesis, may be presented in the summary.

The part of the summary that relates to the thesis' research field from an international perspective may, if the doctoral student so wishes, be written in the form of a review, in which case it may be written with the intent to publish and may then be included in the thesis as a separate part. If this solution is chosen, which may be a method of confirming the doctoral student's contribution in a thesis based on a larger collaborative project, or when there are only a few papers, the doctoral student shall either be the first author, or the only author of the review.

Plagiarism check

All thesis frames are checked for plagiarism. They are uploaded in a text matching software and the result sent to the examination board. The board has a duty to report cheating and this report serves as a supporting document in the review of the thesis. The Dissertation committee has an assignment to, when needed, help the examination boards in their interpretation of the text matching reports.

7.2.3 Monograph thesis

A doctoral thesis may also be presented in the form of a monograph thesis. Special rules of review then apply:

1. A draft of the monograph is submitted together with the application for public defence of the thesis, along with suggestions for two expert reviewers, one active at KI and one external.
2. The reviewers read through the work and write a report similar to the referee reports of scientific journals. The report will result in a statement on the quality and scope of the thesis. The report is administered by the Dissertation Committee.
3. The doctoral student is invited to submit a response to the report and, if necessary, a revised version of the monograph, in which the changes are clearly marked.
4. The thesis is then submitted in the regular way to the members of the Examination Board, together with the reviewers' detailed written reports. Following the recommendation by the board members that the thesis shall be defended in a public defence, the work is submitted for printing.

7.2.4 Opponent

The opponent shall be a researcher who must hold a doctoral degree (exceptions may be made for very well qualified professors), who is an expert in the field of the project, and who is unbiased with respect to the doctoral student, the supervisors and the project.

The role of the opponent is to critically review all parts of the thesis, both the comprehensive summary and the constituent papers, and to discuss these in detail with

the respondent⁷ during the thesis defence. The opponent is to highlight the strengths and weaknesses in the thesis in a discussion with the respondent, in which the respondent shall also have the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge obtained. This discussion shall cover both technical and practical details, and how the results of the thesis may be viewed in a broader context.

7.2.5 Examination Board for doctoral degrees

The following apply to Examination Boards for doctoral degree:

- The Examination Board shall comprise three members (if there are special reasons, such as a doctoral thesis being of a pronounced interdisciplinary character, the number of members on the Examination Board may be increased to five).
- One of the members shall be designated as the coordinator. The coordinator shall not belong to the same department as the doctoral student, the principal supervisor or any of the co-supervisors.
- All of the members of the Examination Board must be associate professors (*docent*) or professors.
- All of the members must be experts in the field of the project. The combined expertise of the Examination Board shall cover the entire content of the thesis.
- The members of the Examination Board must be independent of and unbiased in relation to the doctoral student, the supervisors and the project.
- If possible, at least one member of the Examination Board shall have been a member of the committee at the doctoral student's half-time review.
- Only one of the members may belong to the same department as the doctoral student (or the principal supervisor, in cases when the principal supervisor is in a different department as the doctoral student).
- At least one member shall come from another university than the doctoral student, principal supervisor and co-supervisors.

7.2.6 Preliminary review

Before the thesis is submitted for printing, the Examination Board shall conduct a preliminary review of the thesis in order to assess if the quality of its constituent papers is of a sufficiently high standard for a PhD. In the event of disagreement, the matter is decided by the majority opinion, even if all members of the board are expected to comment in its pronouncement.

⁷ The "respondent" refers to the doctoral student who is defending the thesis to gain a degree.

If the Examination Board deems the quality of a thesis to be insufficient, the student is recommended to postpone the defence of his/her thesis. On the first such occasion, the student is entitled to further supervision and educational resources for an additional six months over and above the original study schedule in order that he/she may have the opportunity to improve the quality of his/her work.

7.2.7 Graphic rules

A thesis from KI must follow KI's regulation regarding visual identity (graphic style) Information and templates regarding thesis design and structure can be found on the KI website.

7.2.8 Public notification – "nailing"

A doctoral student shall publish the thesis by a notification process known as "nailing". Before nailing, a faculty representative, appointed by the Committee of Doctoral Education, shall approve the thesis for distribution. The nailing process consists of the following elements:

- The faculty representative checks that the thesis complies with the content of the public defence application, in which case they endorse it with the words "må spikas" ("May be nailed"). The thesis is thus approved as the basis for a public defence/licentiate seminar.
- The thesis is also to be digitally "nailed" in the KI thesis database, no later than three weeks prior to its public defence.
- There is an obligation to provide a set number of copies to KI's library in either Solna or Flemingsberg.
- When the above tasks have been completed, the doctoral student receives a nail and piece of string, which they are to use to nail the signed thesis to the designated place in KI's library in either Solna or Flemingsberg.

On the same day as the thesis is nailed, a copy of the thesis shall be sent to the opponent, the Examination Board, and the chairperson for the public defence.

Publication of the thesis also takes place through distribution by the doctoral student, the department, and by the Communications and Public Relations Office at KI notifying the media of new research from KI via press releases.

7.2.9 Public defence

The doctoral thesis shall be presented and defended orally in public.

The public defence is led by a public defence chairperson. A member of KI faculty who has a doctoral degree is appointed chairperson. It is not recommended that the chairperson be one of the supervisors

The public defence shall be public and preferably held in English, but Swedish is also acceptable. If the proceedings are very long, the chairperson may suspend them for a break. Under no circumstances may the defence proceedings be concluded until all opposition and discussions from the opponent, the Examination Board members and the auditorium have been dealt with.

Public defence proceedings

1. The chairperson will open proceedings and present the respondent, the title of the thesis to be defended, the opponent and the Examination Board
2. The respondent gives notice of any corrections to the thesis and may, if necessary, distribute a list of errata
3. The opponent or the respondent is invited to present a brief popular scientific introduction to the thesis and the field dealt with by the research.
4. The respondent or the opponent presents the main results and conclusions of the thesis.
5. The opponent discusses the thesis with the respondent, comments on its strengths and weaknesses, and poses questions which the respondent must answer to the best of their ability
6. The chairperson invites the Examination Board to pose questions
7. The chairperson invites the audience to pose questions
8. The chairperson concludes proceedings

If the opponent is unable to attend, the public defence may proceed with the Examination Board taking on the role of the opponent.

If one of the Examination Board's members is not present at the public defence, the chairperson must contact the Dissertation Committee administrator at the university administration so that a new member can be appointed. There must be three Examination Board members present for the public defence to proceed.

7.2.10 Examination Board meeting following the public defence

Following the public defence, the Examination Board is called to an immediate meeting to decide on the grade. The Examination Board appoints a chairperson from amongst themselves.

The Examination Board meeting is comprised of two parts:

1. In the first part, the public defence chairperson, supervisors and the opponent may be present for discussing the respondent's performance with the Examination Board.
2. In the second part of the meeting, only members of the Examination Board are present. The grade and the written justification for this are confirmed, after which the minutes are written up and signed.

If there are any remarks made during the public defence which were so extraordinary that the Examination Board considers it necessary to undertake specific investigations or consultations before a decision can be made, the Examination Board should adjourn the meeting. The adjournment must be short, two weeks at most.

7.2.11 Grade

The Examination Board shall assess the thesis and its public defence with regard to:

- the respondent's presentation of the thesis at the public defence, including the discussion with the opponent, and the ability to answer questions and discuss the significance of the results within the field of research
- the quality of the comprehensive summary
- the scientific content of the constituent papers
- the fulfilment of the objectives of the doctoral degree.

Against the background of this assessment, the Examination Board comes to a decision to award a grade of either pass or fail.

The decision of the majority applies. A single member may dissent from the Examination Board's decision on the grade, in which case specific justification must be given.

The Examination Board must provide a written justification when awarding a fail. The doctoral student will then have the opportunity to, at a later date, re-apply for a public defence of their thesis. However, there is no obligation on the part of supervisors, the department or KI, to cover the additional costs that result from a renewed defence of thesis, or to support the doctoral student after a failed doctoral examination beyond the expiry of the existing appointment.

7.3 Licentiate degree

The examination for a licentiate degree may be carried out following the equivalent of two years' full-time doctoral studies (120 higher education credits). For a doctoral student to receive a licentiate degree from KI, they are required to have:

- been admitted to doctoral education at KI
- completed at least half of their doctoral education at KI (as evidenced by their KI departmental affiliation in the articles which in the thesis)
- fulfilled the knowledge requirements for a licentiate degree in accordance with the general syllabus to which the doctoral student was admitted
- written a licentiate thesis that has been awarded a pass
- defended the licentiate thesis at a licentiate seminar which has been awarded a pass.

After the award of a licentiate degree, the doctoral student will have completed their doctoral education at KI. It is possible, however, to subsequently apply for admission to further doctoral studies with the aim of obtaining a doctoral degree.

7.3.1 Time and place of the examination

Same rules apply as for doctoral degree, see 7.2.1.

7.3.2 Licentiate thesis

A licentiate thesis is normally written in the form of a summary and discussion of separate constituent papers, a compilation thesis. A licentiate thesis may, alternatively, be presented in the form of a monograph. For a licentiate thesis to be considered a compilation thesis, at least one of the constituent papers must have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

A licentiate thesis that is based on constituent papers in the form of a manuscripts, where none of the constituent papers have been accepted for publishing, will be treated as a monograph thesis. In which case, special review regulations apply, see 7.2.3.

7.3.3 Examination Board for licentiate degrees

A special Examination Board, but no opponent, is appointed to assess a licentiate thesis and seminar. The same regulations apply to the Examination Board for licentiate degrees as apply to those for doctoral degrees, see 7.2.5.

7.3.4 Preliminary review

The regulations regarding preliminary review in the case of licentiate degrees are the same as apply in the case of doctoral degrees, see 7.2.6.

7.3.5 Graphic rules

The graphical rules for licentiate theses are the same as for doctoral theses, see 7.2.7.

7.3.6 Public notification – "nailing"

The regulations governing the nailing process for licentiate theses are the same as for doctoral theses, see 7.2.8.

7.3.7 Licentiate seminar

The respondent will, during the public licentiate seminar, describe the research project which constitutes the basis for the licentiate thesis, including its background, methods, results and conclusions. Following the seminar, the Examination Board will pose questions in order to assure themselves that the respondent has achieved the outcomes for licentiate degree. Others in the audience will also be given an opportunity to ask questions.

7.3.8 The Examination Board meeting

The regulations governing the Examination Board meeting for licentiate degrees are the same as for doctoral degrees, see 7.2.10.

7.3.9 Grade

The Examination Board will assess:

- the respondent's licentiate seminar and answers to questions
- the quality of the comprehensive summary in the licentiate thesis
- the scientific content
- the fulfilment of the objectives of the licentiate degree.

Against the background of this assessment, the Examination Board comes to a decision to award a grade of either pass or fail.

The decision of the majority applies. A single member may dissent from the Examination Board's decision on the grade, in which case, specific justification must be given.

The Examination Board must provide a written justification when awarding a fail, and the doctoral student will have the opportunity to, at a later date, re-apply to defend their licentiate thesis in order to achieve a licentiate degree. However, there is no obligation on the part of supervisors, the department or KI to support the doctoral student financially after a failed licentiate examination beyond the expiry of the existing appointment.

7.3.10 Differences between the licentiate examination and the half-time review

Differences between the licentiate examination and half-time review:

- the licentiate degree comes with an academic title "Degree of Licentiate of Medical Science"
- a preliminary review must take place in advance of a licentiate examination
- the licentiate examination is based on a licentiate thesis (for a half-time review, a short summary is sufficient)
- the licentiate thesis is "nailed"
- the licentiate degree means that the student has completed their doctoral education at KI. This is not the case for the half-time review.

7.4 Degree Certificate and Diploma Supplement

A doctoral student who is awarded a pass for a licentiate or doctoral degree at KI will upon request receive a degree certificate. The degree certificate, including the Diploma supplement, is an original document issued in only one original. All degree certificates at

KI are issued in both Swedish and in English. The Diploma supplement is issued in English and describes the education and its place in the Swedish educational system.

8 Study funding

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7 – Admission to doctoral education – General regulations

Section 36. A higher education institution may only admit applicants to doctoral education that are employed as doctoral students. The higher education institution may, however, admit applicants who have some other form of funding for their studies, if it considers

1. that the funding can be guaranteed throughout the entire period of study and
2. that the applicants can devote enough time to their studies to enable their completion, within four years in the case of a licentiate degree or eight years in the case of a doctoral degree.

It is the responsibility of the Head of Department to assess whether a doctoral student, upon admission, can be ensured financial support during the entire period of their doctoral education.

8.1 Employment of doctoral students

Employment as a doctoral student (*i.e.* “doctoral studentship”) is regulated in Chapter 5, Sections 1-7 of the Higher Education Ordinance:

Those appointed to doctoral studentships shall primarily devote themselves to their studies.

Within the scope of a doctoral studentship, the student may work to a limited extent in teaching and other department duties up to 20 per cent of a full-time post.

A doctoral studentship shall be a full-time post. If a doctoral student so requests, the appointment may be a part-time post but for no less than 50 per cent of a full-time post.

A person may be appointed to a doctoral studentship for a total of eight years. The total employment period may, however, not exceed the time corresponding to full-time doctoral studies for four years. The total period of employment may, however, exceed that if special grounds exist. Such grounds may comprise leave of absence because of illness, leave of absence for service in the defence forces or an elected position in a trade union or student organisation, or parental leave.

8.2 Other types of appointment

Doctoral education may be combined with other types of employment or appointment at another employer, e.g. in healthcare or industry. This should be made clear in the individual study plan. In some cases, this can involve assistance in funding or even the provision of time for their doctoral education. This is permitted, provided that the rules and guidelines of KI are adhered to, and that the process of doctoral education, as

specified in the general syllabus and the individual study plan, is not hindered as a result of restrictions that stem from requirements associated with the other form of funding.

8.3 Scholarships / stipends

A doctoral student with a scholarship shall be employed at the latest when the remaining time, according to the individual study plan, is equivalent to three years of full-time doctoral education. (Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 5, Section 4).

According to Higher Education Ordinance (Chapter 5, Section 4 a), a doctoral student whose scholarship funding consists of a scholarship does not need to be employed if the scholarship is awarded within the framework of:

- a *national or intergovernmental aid and capacity building program* in which scholarships constitute a recognized form of financing and the university have insight into the stipend conditions and how the scholarship is paid.

The definition at KI of *aid and capacity building program* is: Programs from countries included in list from the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) /OECD, which applied at the time of the student's admission to doctoral education, and is capacity building according to Sida's definition: "Capacity development is a process in which individuals, groups and organizations develop their ability to identify and manage the challenges they encounter during the development process".

- a *European Union-funded program or other collaborations*, where scholarships with reasonable stipend conditions constitute a proven financing form, and where requirements for funding through employment are an obstacle to the acceptance of the university's participation.

The definition at KI of *other collaborations* is: 1) funding from international scholarships organisations⁸ which KI has a university-wide collaboration agreement with, including national agreements within the framework of international scholarship organisations, or 2) formalised doctoral education collaborations⁹ (a collaboration university-wide agreement must exist) where scholarships form a recognized form of financing (often with a double or joint degree) in which doctoral students participate with home university outside Sweden.

Please note that the provisions above only applies to doctoral students admitted from 1 July 2018. Other scholarship regulations apply to all doctoral students.

⁸ See KI's web for current scholarship organisations: Staff>Doctoral education>Employment and scholarships

⁹ See KI's web for current collaboration agreements: Staff>Doctoral education>Employment and scholarships

8.3.1 Income level and supplementary funding

When KI admit doctoral students with scholarships as study funding, the funding is considered secure if the level of the scholarship corresponds to the salary level for employed doctoral students, see Chapter 7, 36 § HF.

In cases where an external scholarship or Sida allowance is awarded and the funding is lower than the salary level at KI, additional funding must be offered through a KI-established scholarship for doctoral students, or by supplementary employment, in order for KI's salary level to be reached.

Please note that scholarships cannot be financed via government grants. Please see *Scholarship regulations at Karolinska Institutet* for more information.

No other scholarships than these complementary doctoral scholarships can be issued at KI for doctoral students.

8.3.2 Insurance

According to the Higher Education Ordinance (Chapter 1, section 11c), KI shall provide insurance cover at *Kammarkollegiet* for doctoral students whose studies are funded through a stipend. The insurance shall apply when the doctoral student's stipend is reduced due to absence from studies in the case of illness or parental leave.

8.4 Faculty funds for financing doctoral students

The following conditions apply to the advertisement of KID funding (block grants for the partial financing of doctoral education) or similar financing programmes:

A person may only be awarded faculty funds as principal supervisor for one student per KID call.

A person who has applied for funds as principal supervisor under two or more KID calls may only be awarded funds under one of them.

A person who has been awarded funds as principal supervisor is barred from applying for KID funds as principal supervisor under another call in the same or following year.

The purpose of these conditions is to ensure the more diverse distribution of faculty funds.

9 Dealing with problems, withdrawing resources and expulsion

9.1 The Doctoral Students' Ombudsperson

The Doctoral Students' Ombudsperson at KI is an independent expert, employed by the student union with the task of supporting doctoral students who need help during the time they are studying. The Doctoral Students' Ombudsperson also operates as a representative for doctoral students in conflicts with the department. Cases handled by the Doctoral Students' Ombudsperson are confidential.

9.2 Dealing with problems

Employer and educational responsibility for a doctoral student is delegated to the Head of Department/departmental level. Consequently, the Head of Department, the department's Director of doctoral education, and the Head of Administration or HR Manager, must always be contacted first and as early as possible.

The Doctoral Students' Ombudsperson, the Faculty Office or Human Resources Office can be contacted for advice, but the responsibility for dealing with issues, in most cases, rests with the department.

Some types of case are, however, dealt with in specific regulations:

- Reports of (suspected) discrimination or/and harassment (parts of the Discrimination Act).
- Reports of (suspected) cheating, plagiarism etc. (case sent to the Disciplinary Committee, Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 10, and KI's guidelines for the management of cheating).
- Reports of (suspected) cheating/fraud in research.
- Withdrawal of resources from the doctoral student (Vice-chancellor's decision, Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6, Section 30). (*see below*)

If the department, supervisor(s) or student think that the matter needs to be discussed or reviewed by an expert outside of the department, either party may request the help of the Committee of Doctoral Education, once the relevant people at the department have been informed. The case is then prepared by the Faculty Office and the decision is made by the Deputy Vice-president of doctoral education. The case may also be submitted to the Faculty Board and/or referred to the President.

9.3 Withdrawing a doctoral student's resources

Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6 – Right to supervision and other resources

Section 30. If a doctoral student substantially neglects their undertakings as specified in the individual study plan, the President shall decide whether the doctoral student will no longer be entitled to supervision and

other educational resources. Before such a decision is made, the doctoral student and the supervisors shall be given an opportunity to submit statements. The case shall be considered on the basis of their reports and any other records available. The assessment shall take into account whether the higher education institution has fulfilled its own undertakings in accordance with the individual study plan. The decision should be set out in writing and include justification.

Resources may not be withdrawn for any period during which the doctoral student has been employed as a doctoral student or is receiving a doctoral grant.

Section 31. If study resources have been withdrawn pursuant to Section 30, the doctoral student may, on application to the President, recover his or her entitlement to supervision and other resources. The doctoral student must then demonstrate convincingly, by presenting prospective study results of considerable quality and scope, or in some other way, that they can fulfil their remaining commitments as stipulated in the individual study plan.

If a doctoral student seriously neglects their commitments, as described in the individual study plan, the University President is empowered by Chapter 6, Section 30 of the Higher Education Ordinance to decide whether or not they are entitled to further supervision and other resources necessary for doctoral education. The decision is taken upon receipt of a report from the relevant Head of Department. Before a decision to withdraw resources is taken, the student and their supervisors will be given an opportunity to submit statements. The student is entitled, according to the Higher Education Ordinance, to have their right to supervision and other resources restored if proof can be provided of good forthcoming study results.

See *Rules and instructions: withdrawal of resources for doctoral student at KI*, ref.no 1-434/2014.

9.4 Expulsion

Higher Education Act, Chapter 4

Section 6 The Government may issue regulations on the expulsion of students until further notice in cases where the student

1. suffers from a mental disorder,
2. abuses alcohol or drugs, or
3. has been found guilty of a serious crime.

A further condition for expulsion is when a palpable risk is deemed to exist wherein, as a result of the circumstances set out in 1-3 above, the student may harm another person or damage valuable property during her or his studies.

Log over decisions and earlier revisions of the rules

Date, revision	Section	Update	Decision
2019-01-10	Chapter 2	Revision of the entire chapter 2 (and minor revisions in chap 5 and 6) due to a new admission procedure.	FUS 2018-10-03, §12 University Board 2018-06-11 DB 2018:66
	1.4	A doctoral board at each department.	FUS 2018-10-16, §12
	6.1	A principal supervisor to doctoral student at KI must be either employed by, or affiliated to, KI.	FUS 2018-12-11, §10
	6.6	Clarification that a mentor is chosen by the doctoral student and not appointed by another part.	
	General	As a consequence of new management organisation at KI 2019-01-01, minor revisions have been made at several places. Section regarding Ladok (previously 2.8) has been removed, except the paragraph regarding activity reporting which has been moved to chapter 5.	
2018-07-01	Chapter 2	Revisions due to new admission process (ref.no. 3-1621/2018)	FUS 2018-05-07, §11 University Board 2018-06-11
	5.1	Revisions due to the new process regarding the establishment of ISP	See above
	8.3	New Scholarship rules due to revisions of the Higher Education Ordinance (5 kap. 4-4a §§, 7 kap. 36 §, 1 kap. 11c, HF)	President's decision (ref.no. 1-174/2018)
	Chapter 8	Updated to better reflect the Higher Education Ordinance	

2018-02-01	2.2	Clarification: green light decision is taken by the department of the doctoral student	Dean's decision 2017:40
	3.3	The Head of department appoints examiners of doctoral courses	FUS 2017-06-12 §13
	4.1 (1.2, 1.3)	New version of general syllabus in Medical science is established	FUS 2017-09-11, §8
	5	Introduction of a digital system for individual study plans (ISP)	FUS 2016-04-15 §7
	5.1	Establishing an ISP can/should be delegated to the director of doctoral study	FUS 2017-09-11 §7
	7.2.2	Sentence has been removed concerning exceptions for theses with one published (or accepted) paper	FUS 2017-10-09, §14
2017-08-15	2.3	New section: "Green light" – pre-project approval scheme for doctoral supervisors	FUS 2017-03-06, §13
	6.1	Updated rules concerning relationships between supervisors and between supervisor and doctoral student	FUS 2017-03-30, § 11
	8.4	New section added concerning rules when applying for doctoral student funding	FUS 2013-05-06, and 2016-06-13
2016-07-01	6.1	A passing score on the web course for supervisors cannot be older than 5 years	FUS 2015-11-09, §8
	7.2.2	Changed rule regarding the number of published papers in a doctoral thesis.	FUS 2016-02-01, §15
	8	Doctoral grants is no longer an option at KI	Vice-chancellor ref. no: 1-15/2015
2015-07-01	2.2	The section on provisional regulations for entry requirements is removed. The regulation is not applicable anymore.	Higher Education Ordinance
2015-04-01	5.3.3 5.3.4	Half-time summary	FUS 2014-10-06, §9
	7.2.5	Minor revision in text regarding examination board (point 2 and 8)	FUS 2015-03-03, §9

	7.2.6	The examination board should not make any decisions at the pre-review, only assess if the thesis has enough quality	FUS 20140-10, §10
	8.4	New scholarship regulations: complementary scholarships for doctoral students	Vice-Chancellor, ref. 1-125/2014
	9.3	Rules for withdrawing of resources for doctoral students	Vice-Chancellor, ref. 1-434/2014
2014-01-01	2	New admissions regulation at KI	The University Board ref.no 1-563/2013
	2.3	Specification of requirements for advertisement of doctoral positions	FUS 06/11/2013, ref. no. 1-586/2013
	3.4	General selection criteria for courses have been changed	FUS 06/05/2013 ref. no. 1-258/2013
	8.1	New regulations with regard to doctoral grants	Vice-Chancellor, ref. no. 1-501/2013
2013-07-01		The document “Rules of doctoral education” was approved in full. Replaces an earlier document ref. no: 5431/10-500.	FUS 2013-03-07, ref. no 1-33/2013

FUS = Board of doctoral education
ISP = Individual study plan
KFU = Committee for doctoral education

