

KI's doctoral programmes

Principles for starting, modifying and closing doctoral programmes

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**Karolinska
Institutet**

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Principles for starting, modifying and closing doctoral programmes

Karolinska Institutet's doctoral programmes are thematic inter-departmental networks that coordinate courses and other learning activities for doctoral students within defined research fields. To keep the standard of KI's doctoral programmes high, certain demands must be met. The regular quality assurance of ongoing doctoral programmes is important. Existing programmes that fulfil their assignment, comply with the instructions¹ and for which funding exists remain active until decided otherwise.

1. Principles for starting or modifying a doctoral programme

Requests to open or modify a doctoral programme can be made at any time. The following are to be taken into account when assessing such applications:

- A description of the research field
- The need for a doctoral programme in the research field and prerequisites at KI
- A description of what makes the programme distinct from other doctoral programmes and initiatives/activities²
- Goals, content and structure
- Organisation, scope, resources and funding
- A quality assurance plan.

2. Principles for closing a doctoral programme

If the circumstances so demand, the Committee for Doctoral Education can, after preparation by the Course and Programme Committee, decide to close a doctoral programme. As well as the annual reports, an investigation shall also be based on the aspects that the Committee for Doctoral Education took into account at the establishment of the programme, plus any subsequent additional aspects. In making its decision, the Committee shall weigh up the reasons for continuing the programme or closing it. An opportunity to remedy any deficiencies shall be given where possible. Consultation shall take place with the programme's steering group and department well in advance of any closure decision.

The following are to be taken into account when considering the closure of a doctoral programme:

- Quality evaluation
- The number of doctoral students
- Teaching capacity
- Financial matters (including funding opportunities and consequences)
- Strategic considerations (including consequences for research and doctoral education)
- Organisational, financial and staff consequences

¹ KI's doctoral programmes, responsibilities and instructions (ref. no 1-1013/2019) describes assignment, organisation, responsibilities and financial compensation principles

² e.g. research networks, strategic research areas, departments, research schools