



Form 3: Individual study plan

The general syllabus and individual study plan

The *general* syllabus in medical science at KI describes the content, course requirements and general substance of the doctoral education for all doctoral students admitted into the subject.

The *individual* study plan provides the specific details of the education that each individual student intends to pursue.

Proposal for individual study plan

When preparing for an application to be admitted to doctoral education, you and your prospective supervisor are required to draw up a proposal for your individual course of study, using this form.

When completed, the form is submitted to the Admissions Board at the department which the doctoral student is to be admitted to as an appendix to form 2 (Application for admission).

At the time of admission and on the recommendation of the Admissions Board, the head of department approve the individual study plan and signs forms 2 and 3.

Follow-up and revision of the individual study plan

Your individual study plan and academic progress are followed up annually. This is done in writing by you and your supervisor(s) at the request of the department's director of doctoral studies.

The director of doctoral studies then checks the report and decides, on behalf of the head of department, if smaller amendments are to be made to the plan.

[Rules for doctoral education at KI](#)

[General information regarding doctoral education at KI](#)

Examples on how the doctoral student can reach the degree outcomes: please see last pages in this document

How to fill in the form

1. **Doctoral student**

If you do not have a full Swedish civil registration number, please just give your date of birth instead (yymmdd).

2. **Intended degree**

Select the degree you intend to take.

"PhD, latter part" may only be selected by students who have previously been registered for a licentiate and who now wish to continue towards a PhD.

Type of doctorate

Doctoral graduates at KI normally receive the Swedish title *medicine doktor*. The English academic title is always PhD in the subject for which you are registered. Indicate here if you wish to apply for the Swedish title of *filosofie doktor* or *teknologie doktor*. You will make the definitive application for this when applying to defend your thesis. If you intend to study at the Department of Odontology, you can apply for the Swedish title *odontologie doktor*.

3. **Research profile**

The title of the individual study plan is the same as that of the research plan.

Doctoral programmes

The doctoral programmes are thematic, span across department borders and reflect the major research areas studied at KI. The purpose of the doctoral programmes is to provide a comprehensive range of learning activities for doctoral students within the specific research theme and to give opportunities for networking. Such activities comprise primarily of taught courses, but are also designed to bring both doctoral students and their supervisors together in a variety of additional activities such as workshops, scientific retreats and seminar series.

By selecting one or several programmes in the form, you submit an expression of interest to take part of regular information about the activities arranged within the selected programme(s).

[Doctoral programmes](#)

4. **Supervision**

You must have at least two supervisors, one of whom is to be assigned the role of principal supervisor. The supervisors must hold at least a PhD and at least one of them must be a docent or professor.

5. **Departments**

If more than one KI department is involved: State how the different departments divide the responsibility between them, in percent.

6. **Mentor**

In addition to your supervisors, you will also be assigned an external person who will serve as your mentor during your studies.

[Mentors for doctoral students](#)

7. **Outcomes for degree of doctor**

The outcomes for degree of doctor and degree of licentiate are defined in the Higher Education Ordinance and represent generic outcomes for all doctoral education in Sweden. Doctoral studies are a very individually tailored form of education. How each doctoral student will reach the outcomes is described in the student's individual study plan. *For examples on how the outcomes can be reached, see below.*

[More information](#)

Instruction - Individual study plan

Doctoral education subject of medical science

8. **Compulsory modules and credits**

All doctoral students at Karolinska Institutet are required to attain a specific educational target equivalent to at least 30 (PhD) or 15 (licentiate) higher education credits of doctoral courses and course components as specified in the general study plan. State here how this target is to be achieved. The minimum and maximum credits stated on the form relate to the latest version of the general study plan in general science; if you were admitted into doctoral education with an older version of the general study plan, please refer to that version for the different credit thresholds.

[Doctoral courses](#) ; [General syllabus](#)

A. Attend the compulsory introduction course as soon as you can after admission, as you will benefit more from it the earlier you go. The course does not carry any credits, but shall, unless special grounds exist, be completed within the first year.

[More information about the introduction](#)

B. General science courses: the course requirement must have been met before your half-time review.

9. **Time plan and other activity**

Doctoral education at KI can be pursued full-time, or part-time alongside other work. Altogether, a PhD corresponds to 240 HECs (four years) of full-time study, and a licentiate degree to 120 HECs (two years). You are to outline here how you plan to schedule your studies in order to attain these credit requirements. State in per cent of full-time how much time you intend to devote to your education (max 100%) per term, and describe any activity you plan to pursue in parallel with your studies.

10. **Ethical permits**

You are required to comply with all ethical rules and guidelines, as approved by the KI vice-chancellor and published on the KI intranet, in all aspects of your studies.

11. **Attachments**

If you are to be working at a clinic, a proof-of-funding document must be signed by the clinical manager.

Your research plan must explain clearly how the project is relevant to your studies.

Doctoral students with scholarships

Scholarship holders have no formally regulated vacation as employed doctoral students have. Therefore, the extent and time of leave should be regulated in the individual study plan. It can be written down in the time plan above or as a separate attachment.

[Doctoral students with scholarships](#)

Outcomes for the degree of doctor Knowledge and understanding	Examples of what a doctoral student can do to achieve these outcomes (if possible, state when: e.g. in year 1, before the half-time review, every other week, annually or continuously)
1) For the degree of doctor 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read X relevant books in the research field (e.g. the latest edition of “The Principles of Neuroscience”, “Epidemiology: An Introduction”, “The Biology of Cancer”), if such exist. • Keep abreast of the scientific literature in research field X, specifically within X. • Gain greater knowledge of X by doing X. • Take active part in laboratory meetings and research seminars arranged by X (e.g. the research group, division, department, doctoral programme X and/or graduate school X). • Take active part in journal clubs (name the organiser). • Take active part in scientific conferences and symposia (give examples). • Demonstrate broad knowledge and a systematic understanding of the research field X and up-to-date specialist knowledge in this field when writing the literature review of his/her half-time seminar and thesis.
2) For the degree of doctor the doctoral student shall demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become familiar with the relevant methodology through discussions with his/her supervisor, research group members, senior researchers and statisticians, and by taking part in seminars and journal clubs. • Learn statistics by taking course(s) in statistics and applying the skills learned to his/her research project in consultation with his/her supervisor(s) and co-authors, and with statisticians. • Learn a particular method by taking the relevant course, and applying the skills learned to his/her own research project. • Learn methods X, Y and Z by taking part in courses and doctoral activities held under doctoral programme X or research school X and by ... • Learn method X through the instruction of postdoc/ supervisor/collaborator X and then applying and developing this method. • Learn method X on a study visit to X (name of lab, place, time plan). • Discuss the methodology of his/her thesis in connection with its composition.

<p>Outcomes for the degree of doctor</p> <p><i>Competence and skills</i></p>	<p>Examples of what a doctoral student can do to achieve these outcomes (if possible, state when: e.g. in year 1, before the half-time review, every other week, annually or continuously)</p>
<p>3) For the degree of doctor the doctoral student shall demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take active part in research seminars and journal clubs for the entire duration of his/her doctoral studies (if possible, state how often he/she is expected to give a presentation), at which he/she contributes to the critical analysis of his/her/other students' research and discusses constructive ideas and solutions relating to it. • Learn to draw relevant conclusions from the results of his/her research on consultation with his/her supervisor(s) and other partners. • Make an important contribution to the writing of his/her own articles, particularly the discussion section. • Write a systematic literature review with or without meta-analysis (applies only to certain projects). • Write a literature review of the research field ahead of his/her half-time review and thesis ahead of its defence.
<p>4) For the degree of doctor the doctoral student shall 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute well-considered proposals for new points of inquiry, hypotheses, methodological choices and/or research projects through personal reflection and discussion with his/her supervisor(s) and other collaborators on the basis of his/her own research experience/results, other's research and by keeping abreast of the scientific literature. • Take part in all or as many research project phases as possible: planning, execution, analysis, writing and journal correspondence. • Develop his/her project leadership skills by taking course X and by helping to arrange events (e.g. student-initiated activities or symposia). • Learn peer-review under supervision. • Participate as a doctoral student representative in work groups, committees and boards at the university, such as his/her department's admissions board, drafting committees, work groups under the Board of doctoral education and/or steering committees for doctoral programmes and graduate schools. • Critically review earlier studies in the field when writing his/her own scholarly articles and thesis. • Take active part in the publication process by, for example, maintaining a dialogue with journals (including after article revisions).
<p>5) For the degree of doctor the doctoral student shall demonstrate through a dissertation the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her own research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to his/her constituent papers to ensure that this material is of a total scope and quality corresponding to four years of full-time doctoral studies. • Place his/her own research in a context of the research currently published in the field when composing his/her thesis.

Outcomes for the degree of doctor Competence and skills	Examples of what a doctoral student can do to achieve these outcomes (if possible, state when: e.g. in year 1, before the half-time review, every other week, annually or continuously)
6) For the degree of doctor the doctoral student shall 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn oral communication skills by attending courses on presentation techniques, communicating (popular) science, presenting his/her own research and results to his/her group, at seminars, national/international conferences, and teaching or presenting research and research results to master's students, patient associations and other public arenas (e.g. at the Annual General Meeting of the Swedish Society of Medicine and other national conferences, and at international conferences in his/her own academic field). • Learn written communication skills by attending courses on scientific writing/popular scientific writing, writing academic articles under supervision and becoming autonomous as a writer (he/she is the sole author of his/her thesis), writing popular science articles or press releases under supervision, taking part in a thesis-writing seminar, learning peer-review under supervision, and producing conference posters. • Write a popular-science summary of his/her thesis.
7) For the degree of doctor the doctoral student shall demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge	Identify the need of further knowledge in connection with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • his/her dialogue with supervisor(s) and other collaborators, • annual follow-ups and revisions of his/her individual study plan, • the half-time seminar when presenting and discussing plans for his/her remaining studies, • the writing of research grant applications, • the writing of his/her thesis (e.g. proposals for continuing studies), and • his/her thesis defence.
8) For the degree of doctor the doctoral student shall 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in courses on academic teaching and learning. • Teach on courses at bachelor and master levels (if possible). • Interact with the society in general (e.g. by holding classes for school students or the general public). • Contribute to the development of his/her research group and KI. • Take part on courses on innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g. as arranged by the UBE) or in career planning activities (e.g. as arranged by KI's Career Service). • Make early preparations for a postdoc career. • Demonstrate social commitment and an awareness of sustainable development. • Discuss his/her future career with a mentor.

<p>Outcomes for the degree of doctor</p> <p><i>Judgement and approach</i></p>	<p>Examples of what a doctoral student can do to achieve these outcomes (if possible, state when: e.g. in year 1, before the half-time review, every other week, annually or continuously)</p>
<p>9) For the degree of doctor the doctoral student shall demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read “Good research practice” by the Swedish Research Council and discuss its implications with his/her research group. • Take the online course “Avoiding plagiarism”. • Attend the research ethics course (at least 1.5 credits) and, if necessary, the courses on laboratory animal science and “Good clinical practice” (GCP), etc. • Help to write the ethical application for study X. • Develop an open-minded, investigative and inquisitive approach. • Attain intellectual autonomy through critical reflection and creative thinking. (This will be promoted by his/her supervisor in conversation and through formative assessment, and by exploiting all opportunities for development as an independent researcher – see above).
<p>10) For the degree of doctor the doctoral student shall 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part on courses on research ethics and scientific theory. • Take part in research seminars. • Take part in discussions and follow debates at his/her department and in larger contexts (e.g. in dialogue with the society in general). • Reflect on and discuss relevant material in and outside his/her research field.