



Local Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology

concerning first- and second-cycle education

The BTH Degree Ordinance was approved, on 18 June 2018 by the vice-chancellor of Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) and replaces the previous degree ordinance, reg. no BTH-1.2.1-0090-2016 (dated 8 April 2016). Students who began their studies before 1 July 2007, and have completed all the courses that are to be included in their degree by 30 June 2015 at the latest, can apply to be awarded a degree in accordance with the degree ordinance that applied at the time.

The appendices of the Degree Ordinance are jointly approved by the deputy vice-chancellor and the deans.

1. Introduction

This document regulates which degrees can be awarded at BTH. The Degree Ordinance is based on current general rules and regulations (see section 2).

Once a student has satisfied the established requirements, BTH can award them one of the degrees available (see sections 4, 5 and 6).

This document also includes information about the main fields of study at BTH (see section 3), rules on the issuing of degree certificates (see section 7), and how to appeal (see section 8).

The present Degree Ordinance also includes the following appendices:

- Appendix 1a: List of the main fields of study which lead to a general degree at BTH
- Appendix 1b: List of professional degrees at BTH
- Appendix 2: Math requirements associated with a degree in Science in Engineering
- Appendix 3: Criteria for main fields of study at BTH

The above appendices may be revised separately from the main document.

2. General rules and regulations

The Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology concerning first- and second-cycle education is governed by the following Swedish national rules and regulations: the Higher Education Act (1992:1434) and the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100). Annex 2 of the Higher Education Ordinance (Qualifications Ordinance) states which degrees may be awarded in the first and second cycles, and the requirements to be satisfied for each degree.



At BTH, the Rules of Procedure regulate which bodies are to make decisions, including those related to the Degree Ordinance.

3. Main fields of study

In the current Higher Education Ordinance of 1 July 2007, 'main field of study' or 'principal field' is used to describe the main subject area of the degree. The main field of study can be a traditional subject field, or broader or more specific than what is usually defined as a subject. The main fields of study at BTH are listed in Appendix 1.

The level of study of each course is to be determined as either first or second cycle. Second-cycle education is to build on first-cycle education. The level of study is to be determined based on the learning outcomes, course design and forms of assessment, the required reading, specific admission requirements, or placement in the education system. Furthermore, compared to first-cycle courses and study programmes, second-cycle education is different in that second-cycle students are required to have the capacity to manage greater complexity with a higher degree of independence. The learning outcomes in the Qualifications Ordinance of the Higher Education Ordinance state the requirements for degrees at different levels.

General degrees are to include progressively specialised study in the main field of study. This is expressed in the following manner, in accordance with the codes recommended by the Association of Swedish Higher Education (SUHF):

- G1N – first cycle, requiring only an upper secondary school qualification for admission
- G1F – first cycle, requiring less than 60 first-cycle credits for admission
- G1E – first cycle, including a specially designed degree project for a Higher Education Diploma
- G2F – first cycle, requiring at least 60 first-cycle credits for admission
- G2E – first cycle, requiring at least 60 first-cycle credits for admission, and including a Bachelor's degree project
- GXX – first cycle, depth of study relative to the degree requirements cannot be classified
- A1N – second cycle, requiring only first-cycle credits for admission
- A1F – second cycle, requiring second-cycle credits for admission
- A1E – second cycle, including a Master's (60 credits) degree project
- A2E – second cycle, including a Master's (120 credits) degree project
- AXX – second cycle, depth of study relative to the degree requirements cannot be classified

The criteria for main fields of study at all degree levels can be found in Appendix 3. These criteria are to be understood as guidelines when establishing or evaluating a main field of study at a particular level. Main fields of study are established by the BTH Board.

4. General degree

The outcomes and requirements for general degrees are stated in Annex 2 of the Higher Education Ordinance. BTH awards the following general degrees:



Higher Education Diploma (Högskoleexamen)

From the Qualifications Ordinance of the Higher Education Ordinance:

“A Higher Education Diploma is awarded after the student has completed the courses required to gain 120 credits with a defined specialisation determined by each higher education institution itself.”

“A requirement for the award of a Higher Education Diploma is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) in the main field of study.”

A Higher Education Diploma requires at least 60 credits within the defined specialisation/main field of study, of which at least 7.5 credits are comprised of an independent project (degree project) (level G1E). Higher Education Diplomas are only awarded in accordance with the programme syllabi adopted by BTH or as general degrees in accordance with Appendix 1a.

Degree title: Higher Education Diploma with a specialisation in....

Degree of Bachelor (Kandidatexamen)

From the Qualifications Ordinance of the Higher Education Ordinance:

“A Degree of Bachelor is awarded after the student has completed the courses required to gain 180 credits in a defined specialisation determined by each higher education institution itself, of which 90 credits are for progressively specialised study in the principal field (main field of study) of the programme.”

“A requirement for the award of a Degree of Bachelor is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 15 credits in the main field of study.”

A degree of Bachelor requires at least 30 credits (level G2) in the main field of study, of which the independent project (degree project) is to comprise at least 15 credits (level G2E). Bachelor's degrees are only awarded in accordance with the programme syllabi and plans for qualification adopted by BTH or as non-professional degrees in accordance with Appendix 1a.

Degree of Master (60 credits) (Magisterexamen)

From the Qualifications Ordinance of the Higher Education Ordinance:

“A Degree of Master (60 credits) is awarded after the student has completed the courses required to gain 60 credits with a defined specialisation determined by each higher education institution itself, of which at least 30 credits are for specialised study in the principal field (main field of study) of the study programme. In addition the prior award of a Degree of Bachelor, a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts, a professional or vocational qualification of at least 180 credits or a corresponding qualification from abroad is required.”

“A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master (60 credits) is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 15 credits in the main field of study.”



A degree of Master (60 credits) requires at least 30 second-cycle credits in the main field of study, of which the independent project (degree project) is to comprise at least 15 credits (level A1E). A maximum of 15 first-cycle credits can be included in the degree. Master's degrees (60 credits) are only issued in accordance with the programme syllabi and plans for qualification adopted by BTH or as general degrees in accordance with Appendix 1a.

The degree of Master (60 credits) may not include courses from the qualifying programme. This applies to all students admitted as of autumn semester 2014.

Degree of Master (120 credits) (Masterexamen)

From the Qualifications Ordinance of the Higher Education Ordinance:

“A Degree of Master (120 credits) is awarded after the student has completed the courses required to gain 120 credits with a defined specialisation determined by each higher education institution itself, of which at least 60 credits are for specialised study in the principal field (main field of study) of the study programme. In addition the prior award of a Degree of Bachelor, a Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts, a professional or vocational qualification of at least 180 credits or a corresponding qualification from abroad is required.”

“A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master (120 credits) is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 30 credits in the main field of study. The degree project may comprise less than 30 credits, however no less than 15 credits, if the student has already completed an independent project in the second cycle for at least 15 credits in the main field of study or the equivalent from a programme of study outside Sweden.”

A degree of Master (120 credits) requires at least 60 second-cycle credits in the main field of study, of which the independent project (degree project) is to comprise at least 30 credits (level A2E). A maximum of 30 first-cycle credits can be included in the degree. Master's degrees (120 credits) are only awarded in accordance with the programme syllabi and qualifying plans adopted by BTH or as general degrees in accordance with Appendix 1a.

The degree of Master (120 credits) may not include courses from the qualifying programme. This applies to all students admitted as of autumn semester 2014.

5. Types of academic degrees

Bachelor's degrees and Master's degrees (60/120 credits) are awarded with one of the following titles, which are described in the relevant programme syllabus adopted by BTH, as well as in appendices 1a and 2.

For Bachelor's degrees:

- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Science in Business and Economics
- Bachelor of Social Science
- Bachelor of Arts



For Master's degrees (60 credits):

- Master of Science (60 credits)
- Master of Science in Business and Economics (60 credits)
- Master of Social Science (60 credits)
- Master of Arts (60 credits)

For Master's degrees (120 credits):

- Master of Science (120 credits)
- Master of Social Science (120 credits)

6. Professional degrees

The outcomes and requirements to obtain a professional degree are stated in Annex 2 of the Higher Education Ordinance.

The professional degrees awarded by BTH are listed in Appendix 1b. Professional degrees are defined by the learning outcomes stated in the relevant programme syllabus.

In addition to the outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, BTH requires that a degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering (*högskoleingenjörsexamen*) must include at least 15 credits in mathematics or applied mathematics, and at least 15 credits in courses with a clear focus on skills training. This includes courses based on projects and group work. The degree must also include a first-cycle independent project (degree project) of 15 credits.

In addition to the outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, BTH requires that a degree of Master of Science in Engineering (*civilingenjörsexamen*) must include at least 30 credits in mathematics or applied mathematics, and at least 15 credits in courses with a clear focus on skills training. This includes courses based on projects and group work. The degree is also to include a second-cycle independent project (degree project) of 30 credits.

In addition to the outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, BTH requires that a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing (*specialistsjuksköterskeexamen*) must include an independent project (degree project) of at least 7.5 credits.

Professional degrees are only awarded in accordance with the programme syllabi adopted by BTH.

7. Issuing of degrees and degree certificates

The Higher Education Ordinance states that students who meet the qualification requirements shall be awarded a degree certificate from the higher education institution upon request.

Degree certificates are to be issued promptly after the student has submitted a written and complete application, and fulfilled the qualification requirements, and no later than 40 working days after the complete application has been received by BTH. Applications for degree certificates are made on a designated form.



Degree certificates are issued in a manner determined by the vice-chancellor.

Certificate matters are processed and finalised in Ladok by BTH's degree administrator.

The degree certificate is to state the name of the degree, number of credits, grade, date, grading scale and, if applicable, previous studies or experience credited towards the degree.

Only completed courses may be included in the degree. Modules or course components can only be included in a degree if they are clearly definable.

Courses with overlapping content can be credited towards the same degree, with the total number of credits remaining after deduction of credits for identical content.

Courses that are eligible for a credit transfer towards a degree are to be equivalent to the level of Swedish higher education.

Degree certificates from BTH are to include a translation into English, which is the only language in which BTH issues a translation of the certificate.

8. Appealing a rejected application for a degree certificate

Students who have had their application for a degree certificate rejected can appeal to the Higher Education Appeals Board (ÖNH). The appeal is to be sent to:

Registrar

Blekinge Tekniska Högskola

371 79 Karlskrona

Note: The Higher Education Appeals Board is a government authority that is responsible for trying cases of appeals against certain decisions made within higher education and post-secondary vocational education and training. The Higher Education Appeals Board is the final instance in these cases, that is, the board's decisions cannot be appealed.