



E2DOC Supervisor Meeting

December 1, 2023, Mats Bengtsson



Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of the programme
- Programme council
- Routines, regulations, practical issues
- Some statistics
- PhD student survey
- Group discussion 1
- Inspiration from other EECS programmes
- Group discussion 2
- Summary
- Lunch



Doctoral Programme in Electrical Engineering, E2DOC

- 200+ current students
- 68 Main supervisors
- 79 Co-supervisors
- 7 Research divisions
- Founded in 2010



Program Council



Mats Bengtsson



Martin Norgren



Mehrdad
Ghandhari
Alavijh



Henrik Sandberg



Göran Stemme



Tomas Karlsson



Mathias Ekstedt



Saumey Jain



Anubhab Ghosh



Emanuel Borg



Tracks, Representatives & Directors

- Track representatives within E2DOC
 - Energy and Electromagnetics, Martin Norgren (EME) & Mehrdad Ghandhari Alavijh (EPE)
 - Information Science and Engineering, Mats Bengtsson (ISE)
 - Microsystems, Göran Stemme (MST)
 - Plasma Physics, Tomas Karlsson (SPP)
 - Decision and Control Systems, Henrik Sandberg (DCS)
- "PA" Programme Director for E2DOC: Mats Bengtsson
- "FA" Director of 3rd cycle education at EECS: György Dán
- Deputy FAs: Lars Jonsson, Sarunas Girdzijauskas



Finding Information?

Mats Schedule Courses Programme Groups Services



KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Student Alumni Staff K

Mats Schedule Courses Programme G

School pages

- Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE)
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS)**
- Engineering Sciences (SCI)
- Engineering Sciences in Chemistry,

Quic

- AlbaN
- Webbr
- Cours
- KTH Li
- Exterr


Mats Schedule Courses

EECS

Internal pages for EECS

- Organisation >
- Rules and regulations >
- EECS' University administration – support och service >
- First and second cycle education support >
- Doctoral education support >**
- Research support >

Search the KTH v



Loads of Useful Information

– support och service

- First and second cycle education support >
- Doctoral education support

Doctoral education support

- Admission
- Doctoral programmes >
- Individual study plan (ISP)
- Courses >
- Ladok certificates
- Thesis
- Public defence of doctoral thesis
- Licentiate seminar
- Links and resources
- FAQ

Starting studies

- Admission
- Doctoral programmes
- Individual study plan (ISP)

During studies

- Courses (doctoral students)
- Courses (teachers)
- Ladok certificates

Finalising studies

- Thesis
- Defence of doctoral thesis
- Licentiate seminar

Useful links

- Links and resources

General information


- FAQ

Find us

- Contact

2024-02-02

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Electrical Engineering

Doctoral programme at the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS)

News

Newly adopted policy document containing recommendations on relieving unnecessary stress for doctoral students within the doctoral programme Electrical Engineering

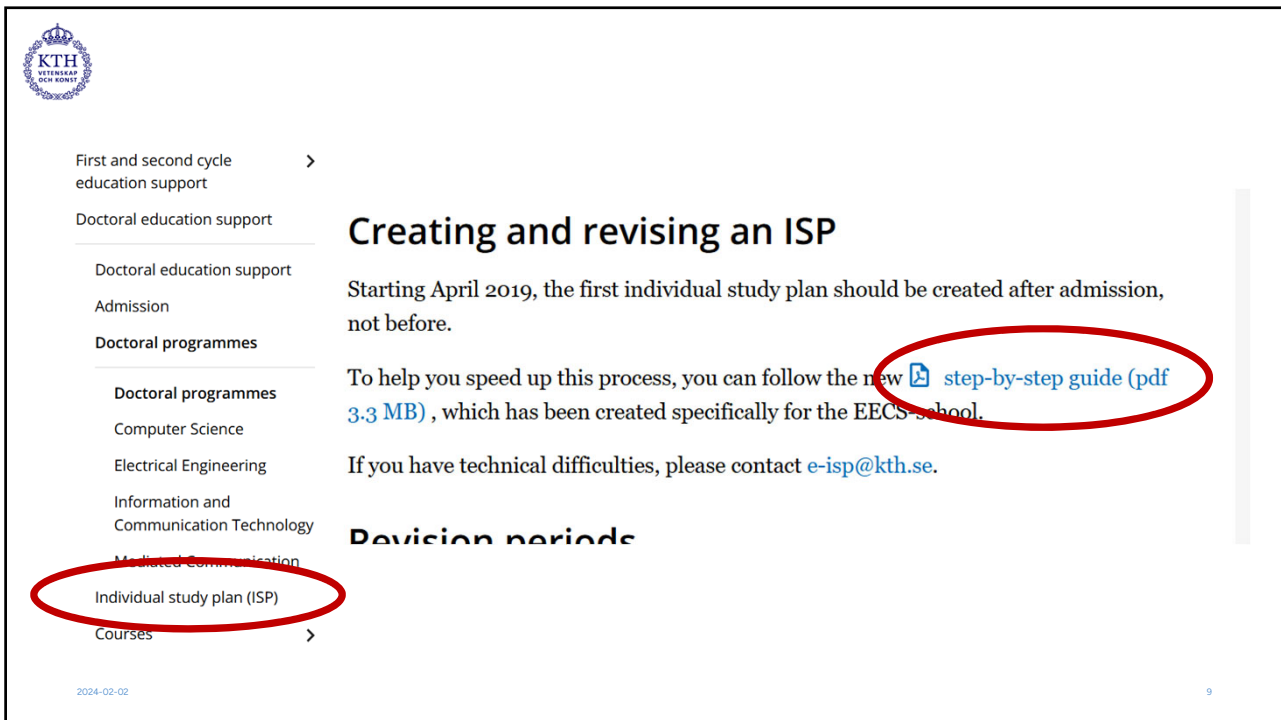
The following policy document contains recommendations on relieving unnecessary stress for doctoral students within the doctoral programme Electrical Engineering:

[Policy document containing recommendations on relieving unnecessary stress for doctoral students \(pdf 172 kB\)](#) .

The programme recommends that the principal supervisor and doctoral student

2024-02-02

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OCH KONST

First and second cycle education support >

Doctoral education support

Doctoral education support

Admission

Doctoral programmes

Doctoral programmes

Computer Science

Electrical Engineering

Information and Communication Technology

Mediated Communication

Individual study plan (ISP)

Courses >

Creating and revising an ISP

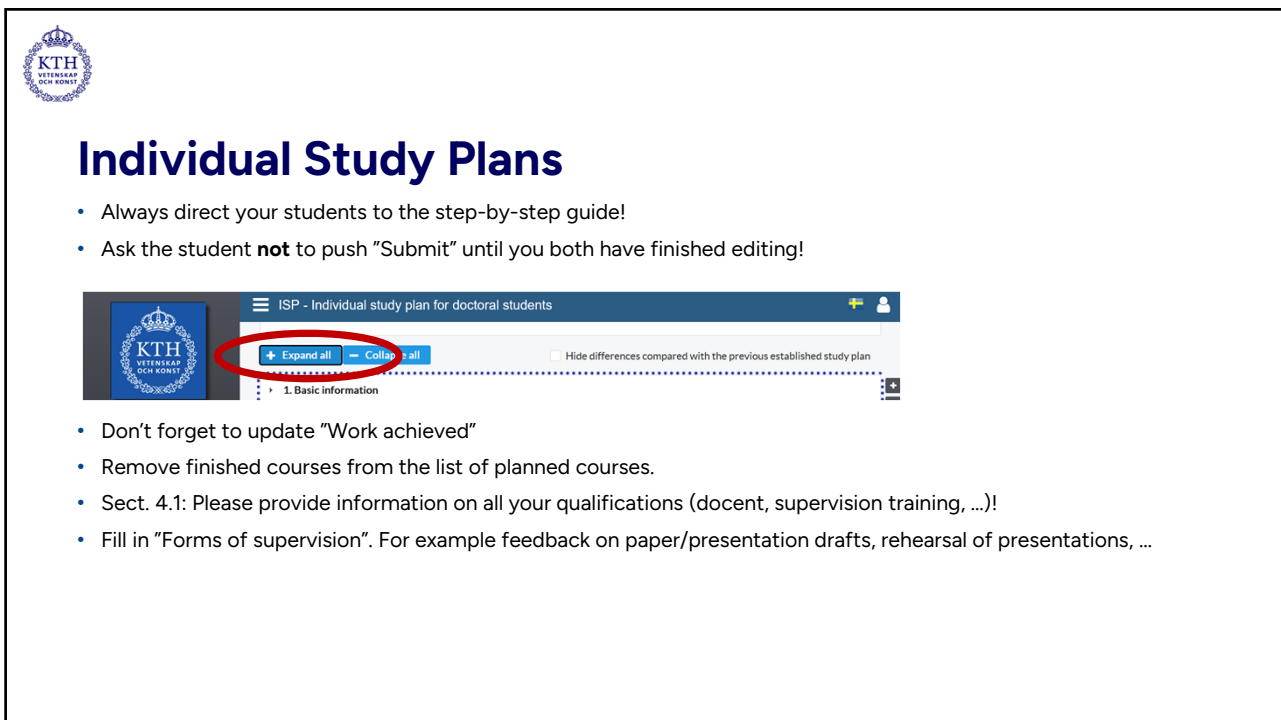
Starting April 2019, the first individual study plan should be created after admission, not before.

To help you speed up this process, you can follow the new [step-by-step guide \(pdf 3.3 MB\)](#), which has been created specifically for the EECS-school.

If you have technical difficulties, please contact e-isp@kth.se.

Revision periods

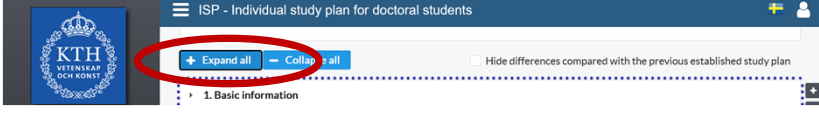
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Individual Study Plans

- Always direct your students to the step-by-step guide!
- Ask the student **not** to push "Submit" until you both have finished editing!



- Don't forget to update "Work achieved"
- Remove finished courses from the list of planned courses.
- Sect. 4.1: Please provide information on all your qualifications (docent, supervision training, ...)!
- Fill in "Forms of supervision". For example feedback on paper/presentation drafts, rehearsal of presentations, ...



"Recent" News

- All PhD and Licentiate defences must be digitally accessible for spectators.
- For licentiate degrees, the supervisor may not be the examiner!
- The count-down time table before PhD defences has recently been revised. Always check on-line!
- At the grading committee meeting, the opponent and supervisor(s) must leave the meeting before the board makes a decision!

- EECS organized summer schools for PhD students.
 - Lunch-to-lunch.
 - First round 2022.
 - From 2024: Three summer schools, for 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year students
- Bi-annual retreat for all E2DOC students, 2024, 2026, ...



E2DOC Policy document, on relieving unnecessary stress for doctoral students

- Appoint a local mentor for each new PhD student
- Discuss expectations early – Use the Expectation form
- Frequent discussions of the ISP
- Insight into departmental duties
 - What did you do last year that counts as departmental duties?
 - What is planned for next year?
 - Document in the ISP
- Criteria for the salary ladder



Expectation form

- Use early!
- Supervisor and student fills in separately
- Meet, compare and discuss together
- Mostly no right or wrong
- The discussion often more important than the questions



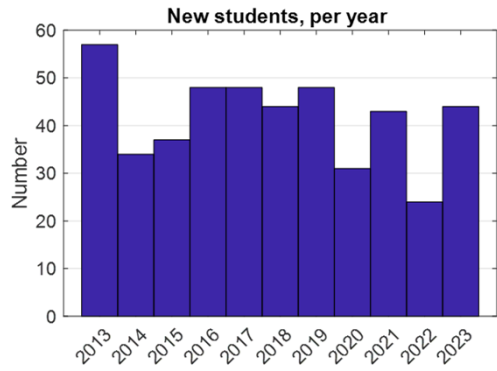
Salary Ladder

- Salary levels
 - Initial salary: 30 800/month
 - "After 30%": 31 600/month
 - "After 50%": 33 800/month
 - "After 80%": 35 100/month
- Two main options
 - Agree on criteria. **Document these in the ISP**
 - If no explicit and objective criteria in the ISP: **Salary based purely on time!**
- Recommendation to organize seminars at 30%, 50% (if no licentiate), 80%

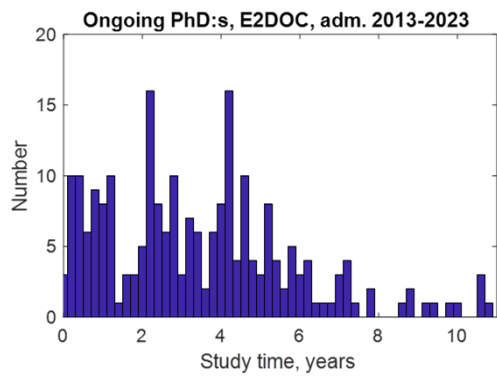
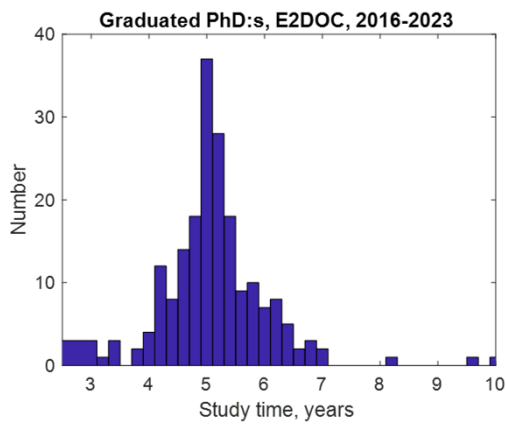


Some Statistics, Students Admitted 2013-2023

- 458 Admitted
- 197 Graduated with PhD, whereof 63 (32% with Licentiate)
- 97 Licentiate Degrees
- 35 Discontinued (whereof 8 after licentiate)
- ~40% monographs, 60% collection of papers, for PhD theses.
- ~65% monographs, 35% collection of papers, for licentiate theses.

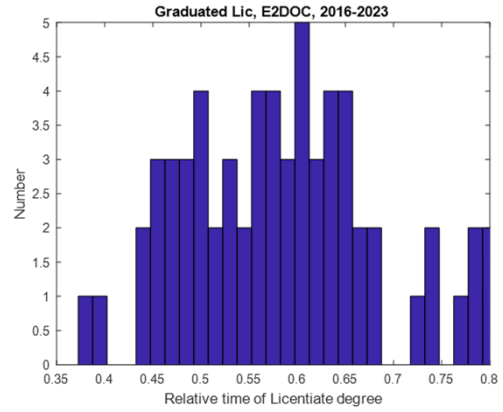
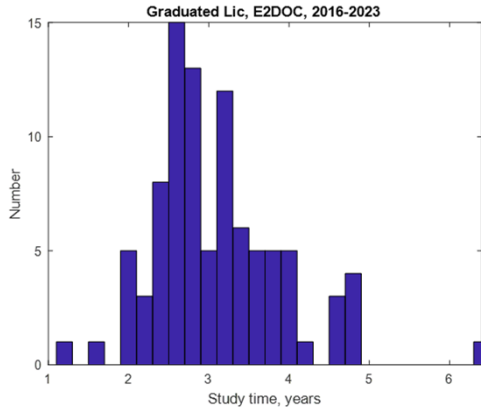


Spent Calendar Time

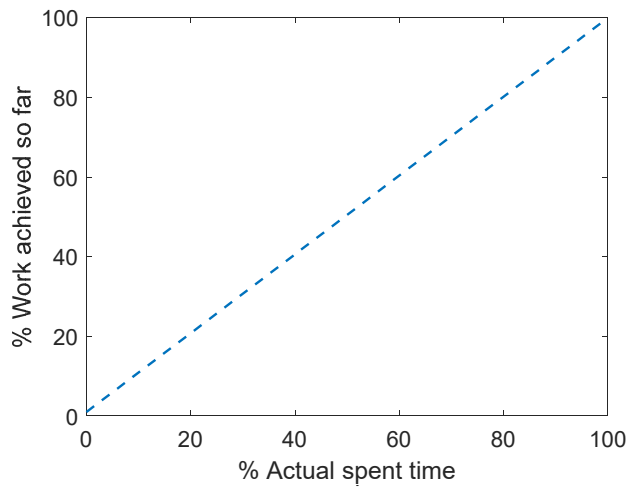




Statistics, Licentiate Degrees



Statistics from this year's approved ISPs





Doktorandsektionen (Dr)
EECS:s Doktorandråd

Results of the PhD Chapter's Survey (focus on EE)

December 1, 2023

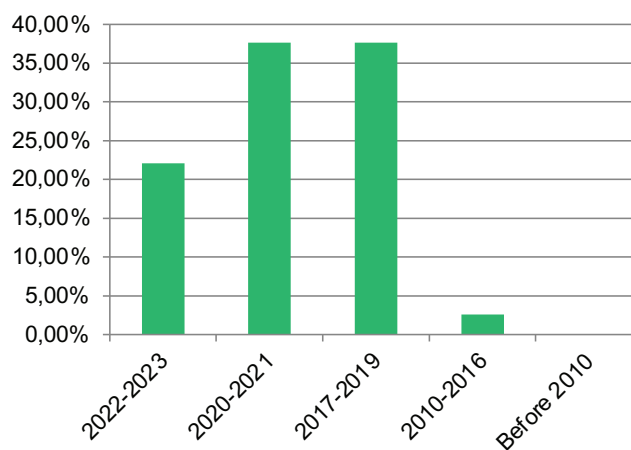
Background and Basic Information

- Open from May 8, 2023
- Sent to doctoral-students@eecs.kth.se
- Questions: 106
- Responses: 211 (30 not employed by KTH) (\cong 44%)
- Responses in EE: 77

[Access the whole survey.](#)



Q: When did you start your doctoral studies?

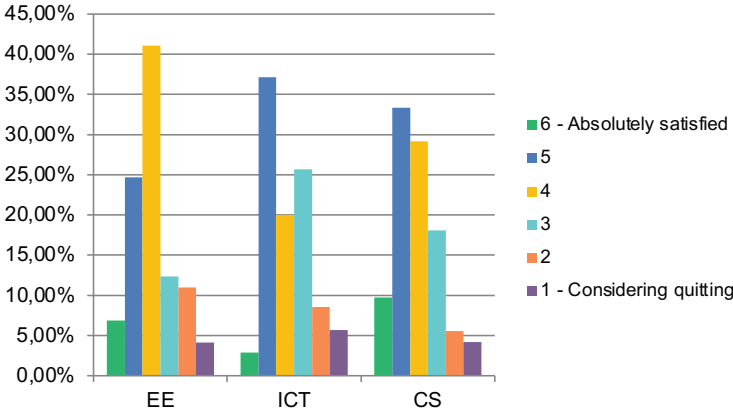


Education

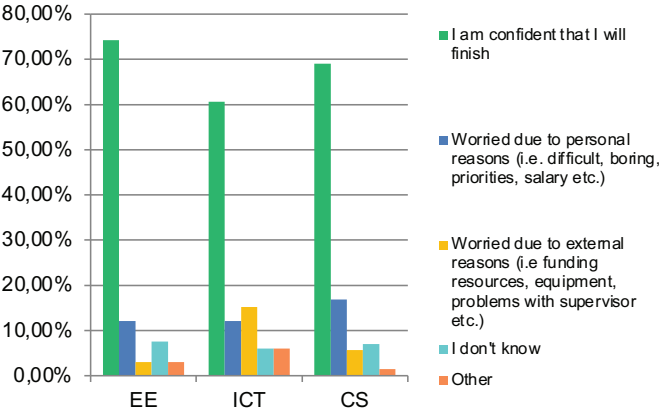
Courses and Supervision

Satisfaction

Q: How satisfied are you in general with your third-cycle studies over the past year?

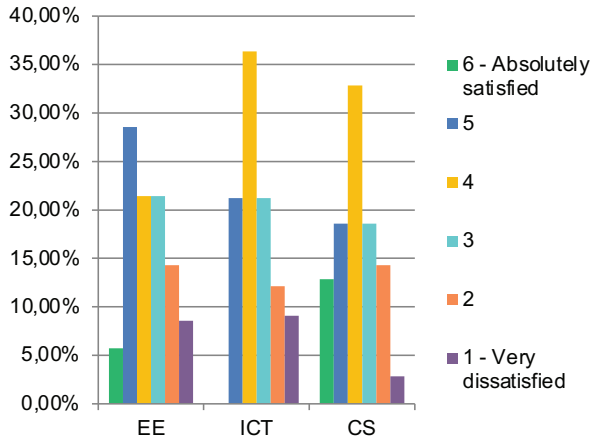


Q: How confident are you that you will continue your third-cycle studies until completion?

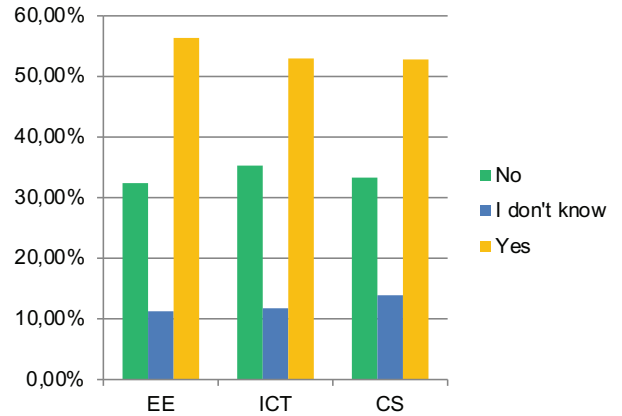


Courses

Q: How satisfied are you with the quality of the third-cycle courses (provided by KTH) you have taken during the last year?



Q: Have you been able to find suitable third-cycle courses for your studies in a timely manner suitable to your study plan?

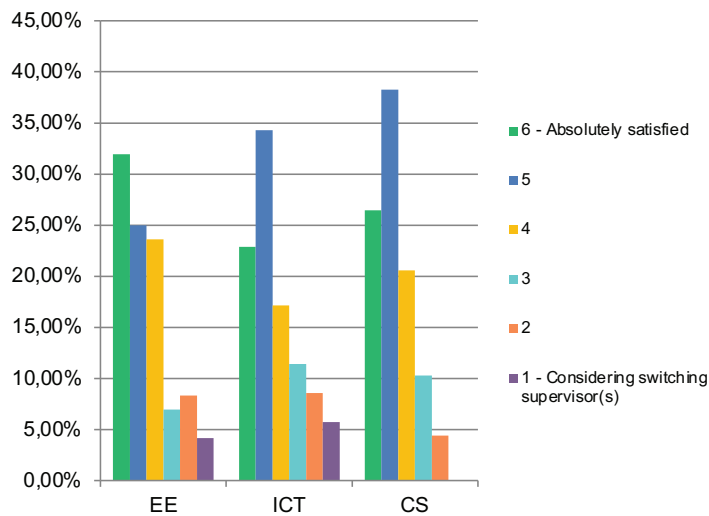


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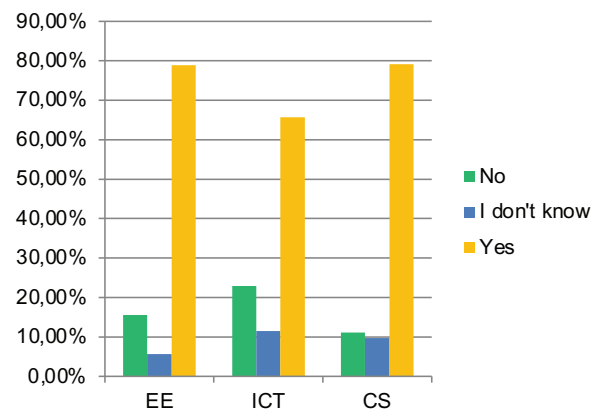
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Supervision

Q: How satisfied are you with your KTH-supervisor(s)?



Q: Do you feel that at least one of your supervisors is sufficiently engaged in your research and your topic to give you supervision at an adequate scientific level?



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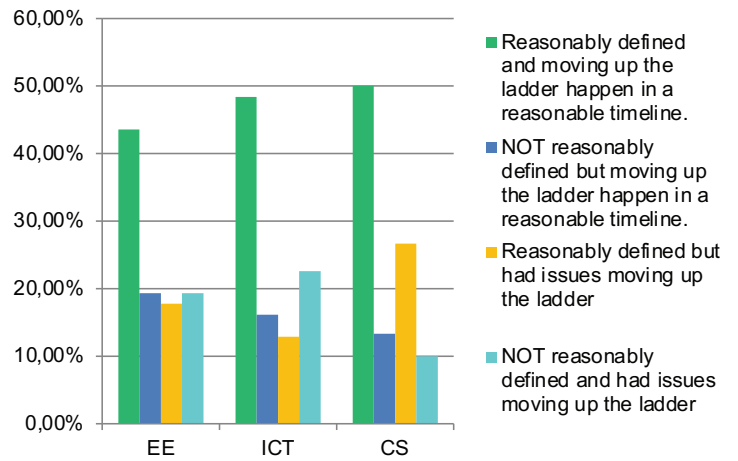
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Supervision

Q: Has the progression in the salary steps (30%-50%-80%) been defined reasonably (what research output constitute each stage) in eISP and moving up the ladder took place in a reasonable time line (roughly one step every 12-15 months)?

Many think that supervisors lack insights into:

- The guidelines on doctoral studies,
- the expectation form,
- the general syllabi of the doctoral programs, and,
- the collective agreements on doctoral candidate salaries.



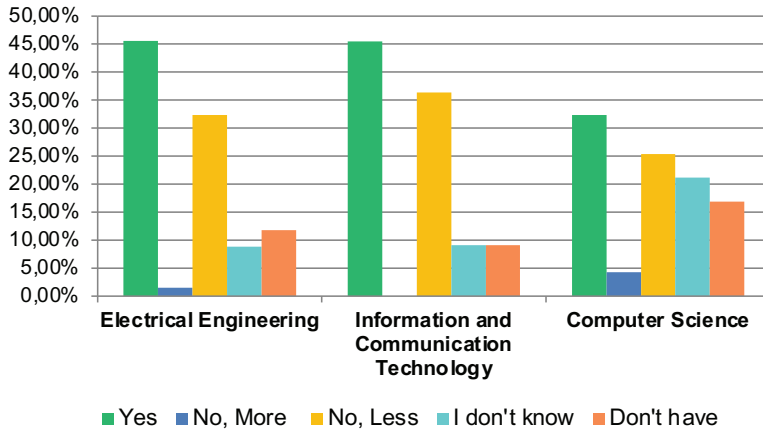
Employment

Departmental Duties and Occupational Health

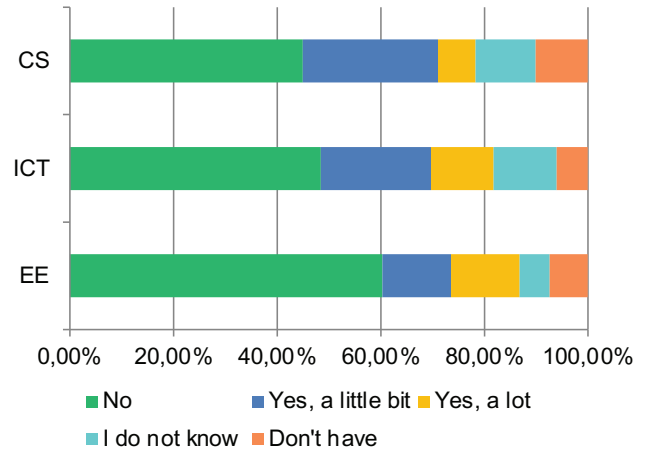
Departmental Duties

As per the Higher Education Ordinance (Ch.5.) - Departmental duties is defined as: Work to a limited extent ($\leq 20\%$) with education, research, artistic research and administration

Q: Does your eISP include the right percentage of time you spend doing departmental duties?



Q: On average, did you spend more than 20% of your time doing departmental duties up to now?

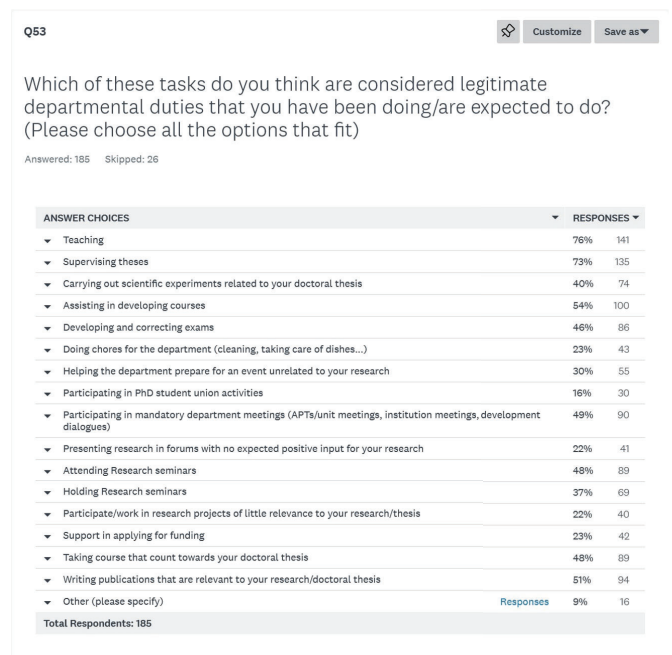


Dec 1, 2023

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Departmental Duties

- There seems to be confusion about what counts as departmental duty.
- As shown by the survey done in 2023, students aren't familiar with the terms and conditions of their employment.

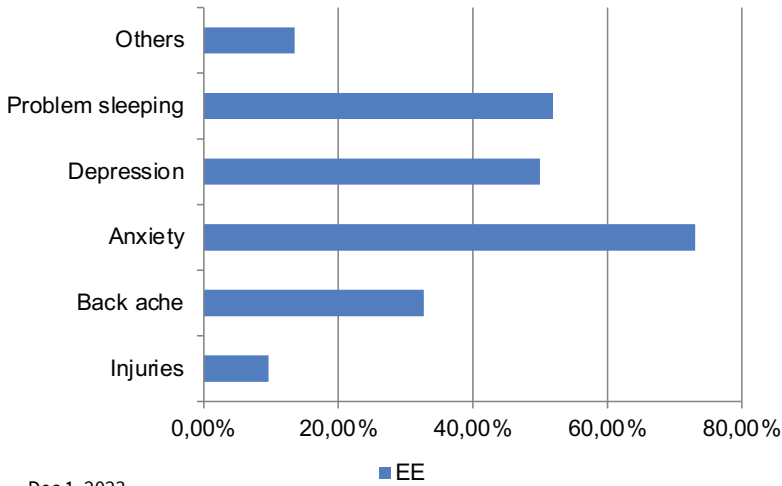


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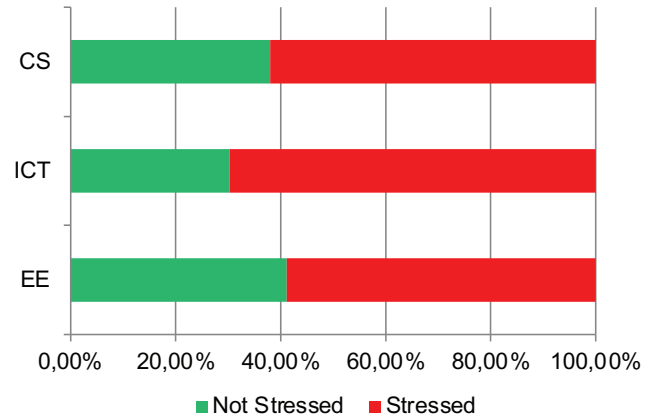
Occupational Health

Q: Have you experienced any of these health issues listed below during the last year caused by your doctoral studies?



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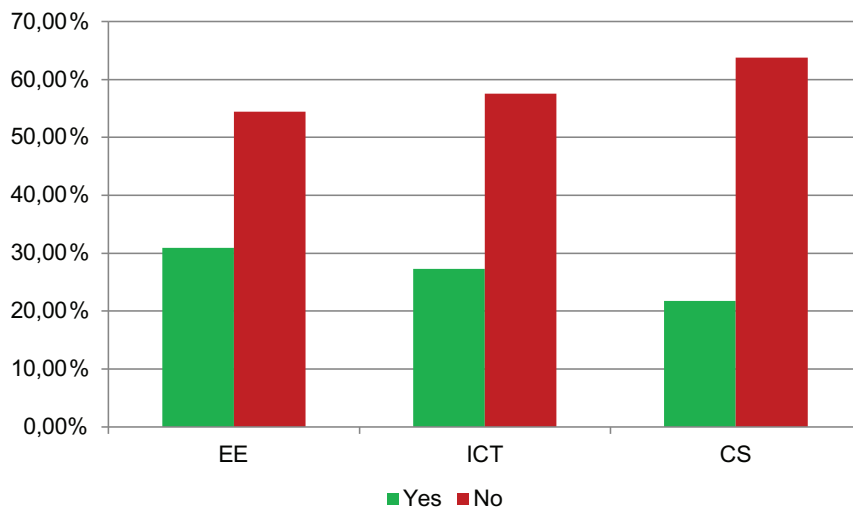
Q: Have you experienced unhealthy levels of occupational stress during the last year as a doctoral student?



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Occupational Health

Q: Have you sought professional help to deal with any of the above mentioned health issues during the last year (2023)?



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Summary

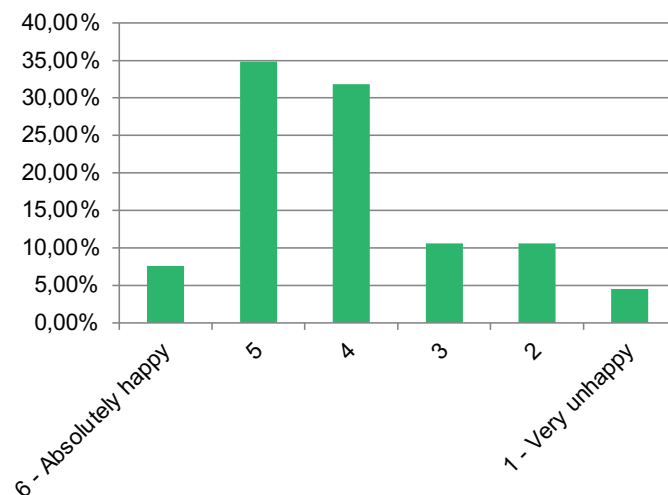
- Majority of the students are satisfied with their doctoral education, but **there is room for improvement**
- **26% of students** in EE feel that they will not be able to finish their degrees
- Courses: course offerings still remain an issue
 - **More high-quality courses at PhD level**
 - **More structured course offerings so students can plan ahead – big source of stress**
- Need to ensure that the **students and supervisors** are aware of the current guidelines and regulations
- Mental Health: **Most of respondents** from the EE program indicated that they had **unhealthy levels of stress**
 - Causes may include lack of structured course offerings, lack of awareness of expectations and regulations, lack of clear definition of responsibilities (e.g., departmental duties)

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To Conclude

Q: How would you rate your overall happiness with your position as a third-cycle student at KTH?



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Group Work 1

- How work with 30%, 50%, 80% salary levels
- How work with 30%, 50%, 80% seminars? Format? Organization?
- Have you used the expectation form? Experiences?
- Document and report back!



Activities of other doctoral programs at EECS

- Advisory panels. Presentation by Dilian Gurov, PA for the Computer Science programme.
- Thesis proposal (both for licentiate and PhD)
- Summer retreat



How Supervisory Group Meetings are Organized at TCS (brief summary of Dilian's oral presentation)

- Once a year, usually in connection with the ISP updates
- Every PhD student meets two faculty member different than their supervisor(s)
 - Not necessarily the same every year
 - The student can suggest names
 - Matching done by the PA
- Explicitly stated purpose: Not to put pressure on the student, but to help
- Basis for discussion: a "self declaration" with 12 questions
- The supervisory group informs the PA about the outcome of the meeting
 - May take own actions
 - Typically "everything is fine"
- PA keeps track and tries to push meetings that didn't happen



Group Work 2

- How work with advisory panels?
- Other ideas to improve for our students?

- Document and report back!



Planned Changes, New General Study Plan

- Introduce official specializations. Will be printed on the degree diploma.
 - Electromagnetics, 60cr courses
 - Electric Power, 60cr courses
 - Information and Signal Processing, 75cr courses
 - Micro Systems, 60cr courses
 - Plasma Physics, 60cr courses
 - Decision and Control Systems, 75cr courses
- Required #course credits reduced 75cr → 60cr for most of the specializations.
- Relaxed admission requirements 120cr → 60cr at master's level.

- Currently under revision after feedback from KTH Utbildningsnämnd.