Degree Projects 2020
Content

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What is a Degree Project

• It is often the largest, most important element of your educational programme

• The degree project is organized as an independent project course.

• The degree project course and its course code are listed in your program syllabus.

• Bachelor Thesis is 15 hp
  – Normally done in groups of two students

• Master Thesis is 30 hp
  – Individual thesis
The main actors in the degree project

KTH

Examiner

Academic supervisor

Company/Project Owner

External supervisor

Author/Authors
The main actors in the degree project

KTH

Examiner

Academic supervisor

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Author/Authors
Different Goals for KTH and Project Owner

• KTH
  – Course – Learning Outcomes
  – Report – Thesis
  – Grading
  – Public Result

• Project Owner / Company
  – A project– the task is the focus
  – IPR / confidentiality
  – Potential Employer?
The degree project and IPR / confidentiality

- A project owner may require that students sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA)
- The examiner will as a rule not sign an NDA
- Examination is on the report and the oral presentation – both are public
The degree project and IPR / confidentiality

• Check if IPR / confidentiality may affect your work
  – Agree early on what may and may not be published
  – Consult with your examiner and academic supervisor

• KTH prefers:
  – Degree projects with high quality
  – Good relations with the industry
The degree project and the academic year

Regular starting points

- Master 30 hp (20 weeks) start period 1 or 3
- Bachelor 15 hp (10 weeks) start period 4
- Bachelor 15 hp half-time (20 weeks) start period 1 eller 3
  - Half-time is an option if electable courses coincide with the degree project
Eligibility requirements

- Courses relevant to the degree project must be finished
- Bachelor (180 hp) – min. 120 hp
- Civil Eng. (300 hp) – min. 240 hp
- Master (120 hp) – min. 60 hp
- Course in Research Methodology or Methodology of Science is required for Master Thesis
Publication in DiVA

- DiVA – Digital Scientific Archive, KTHB

- Metadata on finished reports are stored in DiVA
  - authors, title, abstract/sammanfattning …

- Checkboxes on the degree project application form:
  - I accept publication – full text is stored
  - I do not accept publication – full text is not stored.

The report can be obtained as an official public document.
Examination – work and reporting

- Individual plan for degree project:
- Active attendance at two oral presentations (1st cycle for BSc and 2nd cycle for MSc)
- Pre-study, discussion of method choice and literature study.
- Written report with abstract in both Swedish and English.
- Written and oral opposition of another student's degree project (1st cycle for BSc and 2nd cycle for MSc)
- Self-assessment report.
- Oral presentation.
Course Codes

• Each program has a set of degree project course codes
• One course responsible for each program

Most programs has one course code

Exceptions:
• Different Grading Scales
  – ICT Innovation – EIT has degree projects with grading scale A-F
  – ICT Innovation – KTH has degree projects with grading scale P/F
• Master Programs with Two Majors
  – ICT Innovation
  – Communication Systems
  – Embedded Systems
    > Electrical Engineering / Computer Science and Engineering
  – Nanotechnology
    > Electrical Engineering / Engineering Physics
Degree project preliminaries

- Bachelors: find a co-author

3-2 months before:
- Find a degree project
- EIT Master: internship required

6-3 weeks before:
- Write a project proposal (use template)
  - Apply for eligibility (use form)
  - Retrieve your stamped form (eligibility approved)

3-1 weeks before:
- Proactively look for an examiner
- Your examiner signs the form
- Submit the scanned form to the UA via e-mail for registration

In case of problems contact course responsible
Degree project process: Bachelor

Week 1  Course code registration
         Academic supervisor
         Time plan

Week 4  Literature study, chapter 1 (draft)
Week 4-8 Practical work and report writing
Week 8  Preliminary report (complete draft)
Week 9  Report to opponent
         Active participations (2)
Week 10 Individual opposition
         Presentation seminar
Week 11 Final report and self reflection form
         Grading
Degree project process: Master

Week 1  
Course code registration, academic sup., time plan

Week 4  
Chapter 1 (draft)

Week 6-8  
Literature study and research methodology

Project Proposal Seminar

Week 13  
The main components of the report

Week 16  
Conclusions

Week 18  
Preliminary report (full draft)

Week 19  
Report to opponent, active participations (2)

Week 20  
Your opposition

Presentation seminar

Week 21  
Final report and self reflection form

Grading
In case of problems

- Delays
- Illness
- The co-author disappears
- The project owner aborts
- ...

- Always contact your supervisors, examiner and course responsible
- The time plan counts towards the grade (A-F)
- After one year from the start date, the examiner is allowed to fail (grade F) the degree project.
General advice

• Start writing immediately and continue to write every day
• It may take 2-4 weeks to understand the *actual* problem
• Estimate at most 3/6 weeks of practical work
• Plan to simultaneously work, write, and rewrite

• Avoid pitfalls:
  • Programming, technology change, waiting for a 3rd party
  • Keep your academic supervisor and examiner updated:
  • Time plan, recurrent report drafts (origin requirement)
Writing aids

Sort out the technicalities first

• LaTeX/Word/*, two authors, backup, managing sources
• Use tools
  – manage references, grammar and spelling checks
• Online tools and confidentiality
• It should be easy to generate a PDF of the whole report
Questions?