



# Language Policy for KTH

(Approved by the University Board April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, appendix 4.1.6)

The overarching objective and strongest driving force of KTH is to achieve excellence in education and research. This objective requires KTH to act wisely and with insight in all of its work whether it be at local, national or international level. KTH intends to be a prominent Swedish and international university.

Therefore, the language policy at KTH emphasizes parallel language competence. Within research, English is a *lingua franca* for communication between people with different mother tongues. Most researchers use English daily for international contacts and publication. In education, KTH uses mainly Swedish in the first three years of study. To harmonize the education with the Bologna process and promote internationalization, the teaching during the subsequent two years is principally conducted in English.

The language policy at KTH is intended to raise linguistic awareness in students and staff and to be an aid in KTH's efforts to develop into a multilingual university. This document is a shortened version of the Language Policy, drawn up by the Language Committee which was appointed during the autumn of 2010. The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the Language Policy in the activities of KTH, and its work is described and can be followed at <https://www.kth.se/social/group/sprakkommitten>, where also the complete version of the language policy can be found.

# Summary of Language Policy for the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)

## *Overarching objectives and standpoints*

### **High linguistic quality and parallel language competence**

- KTH's contacts with students, researchers and the community must maintain high linguistic quality.
- KTH's choice of language at work must be related to the intended target group.
- Important information, such as legally binding documents, must be available in both Swedish and English.
- KTH's websites must provide plain, clear information in both Swedish and English.
- Degree projects and theses must have Abstracts in both Swedish and English.
- KTH must provide a balanced range of Swedish and English course offerings and degree programmes at all levels.

### **The language competence of students and staff**

- All students (first- and second-cycle) and research students must develop specialist language competence in English. Students admitted with Swedish as an entry requirement must also develop such competence in Swedish.

- KTH's teachers and researchers must be able to communicate effectively and at a high level orally and in writing in either Swedish or English and preferably in both languages.

### **Multilingual education and language training**

- Students must be given the opportunity to practise written and oral communication in both Swedish and English.
- Students must be encouraged to learn other foreign languages.
- Students (first- and second-cycle), doctoral students, researchers and teachers must be given qualified, needs-based support in their use of language.

### **Swedish and English language for special purposes**

- Swedish language for special purposes must be created and maintained within all of the research and educational fields at KTH alongside English for special purposes.