Energy Technology

Study plan for third-cycle subject

The subject plan was approved by Fakultetsnämnden (Faculty Board) June 1, 2010. Valid from Autumn 10.

Subject title

Energy Technology (Energiteknik)

Subject description and programme outcomes

Scientific field

The energy supply has become a key issue for human existence: Under the latest 150 the years our energy supply has gone from being based on muscle force from people and draught animals to being based on stored, finite energy resources in the form of fossil fuels and uranium. This has facilitated a remarkable improvement of the living conditions for large parts of the population of the earth, but has at the same time led to problems: The us of fossil fuels has, together with other human activities, led to increased carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere and thereby to a warmer climate. The finite resources are also starting to run out, which inevitably will to lead higher prices on energy in all forms and thereby requirements on more efficient transformation and use of the energy. The research within the department of Energy technology aims at contributing to solve the abovementioned problems. The research can encompass a broad field, including both general system studies and development of components for parts of the energy system and studies of phenomena and processes that act at energy conversions.

The third-cycle subject area includes:
- technical as well as socio-economic studies of energy systems on both general (international, national) and local level
- methods, systems and components for energy conversions, both from primary energy to work, electricity and heat, and from work, electricity, heat to services that are requested in the society
- physical phenomena that act in connection with energy conversion processes
- methods for limitation of the impact on the environment caused by energy conversion processes, including use of flowing energy sources and methods for more efficient use of energy

The aim for education for third-cycle studies at KTH is described in general terms in the decision of the president of KTH no UF 0044-09*. In particular, the aim for the doctoral programme in Energy and environmental systems is to educate researchers with internationally recognised specialist competence within their profile areas, with an independent and systematic working method, being well aware of the importance of their own field for the energy system as a whole.
Description of possible specialisation

The subject has no specialisations.

Specification of how the programme outcomes are to be achieved

The basic third-cycle subject area is Energy technology. No prescribed specialisations are defined, but to the extent that KTH's regulatory framework allows, the specialisation of the thesis will be stated in the degree certificate.

The research is carried out within both individual fields and in collaboration across subject borders. Cooperation with researchers within other disciplines is encouraged.

The study plan for a third-cycle subject contains common courses for all doctoral students, while groups of students with similar specialisation are expected to follow specific advanced courses.

The aim for the postgraduate education in Energy technology is that the doctoral students should become independent researchers with expertise in the research area within their field, making it possible to be admitted to post-doc employments at well renowned universities anywhere in the world, with this postgraduate education.

The doctoral student should after completed studies be able to:

- formulate concrete research issues within the energy field.
- use scientific methods and provide new knowledge through own scientific studies
- critically analyse and evaluate applied methods and results from own and others' scientific studies
- present and discuss research results in the science community.
- describe and explain theories and empirical results within his/her research domain.
- identify the need for new knowledge
- initiate and lead research.
- present research in an pedagogical way outside the science community and in educational situations
- assess ethical aspects of his/her own research and act from these.

Current research

Ongoing research deals with:
- increased efficiency in different energy conversion systems,
- primary energy flexible polygeneration processes of different sizes,
- heat-driven energy conversion and distillation plants,
- gasification, combustion and conversion of biofuels,
- aerodynamics and aeroelasticity in turbomachines,
- development of fuel cells and its connection to energy conversion systems,
- improvement of energy efficiency in buildings,
- design of the heat pump systems,
- the city as an energy system,
- calculations of heating and cooling needs in buildings,
efficiency improvement of the heat transfer in heat exchangers,
energy storage,
alternative refrigerants,
alternative cooling processes etc.,
cooling of electronics,
development of bioenergy systems and integration of such in the energy system as a whole,
electrification in rural areas with centralised and decentralised electricity production,
energy and climate policies to support sustainable development both in industrialised countries and
developing countries,
infrasstructure and market development for renewable energy options,
low energy houses, net-zero energy houses etc.,
modelling energy need and indoor climate in buildings with BIM tools,
efficient shops, hotels and restaurants,
user behaviour and visualisation of energy use in buildings.

Programme structure

The doctoral students of the programme follow an established individual study plan, which includes joint
courses at KTH, school and department level. These courses are intended to give a common basis for
knowledge building within each doctoral student's speciality. It however is important to establish that the
education of the programme is a specialist education where the predominant part of the credits are specific
for a certain specialisation within the programme.

The Ph.D. education is carried out under the guidance of a principal supervisor together with one or
several assistant supervisors. The principal supervisor should be a professor, a visiting professor or an
adjunct professor, that is employed at KTH. If an adjunct professor is the principal supervisor, he/she
should also be docent at KTH. Other individuals that are docents and have permanent posts at KTH can
also be appointed principal supervisor. Assistant supervisors are appointed partly to meet requirements of
supplementary specialist competence that can be required for the research specialisation, partly to obtain a
supplementary discussion partner for the doctoral student. The assistant supervisor should have a Ph.D.
degree, or have equivalent skills. The division of responsibility between principal supervisor and assistant
supervisor should be established in the study plan.

Compulsory and recommended courses

Compulsory courses: Introductory course for new doctoral students 1 credit The epistemology of
engineering, science and Innovation (course at ITM) 2 credits KTH's pedagogical course for doctoral
students (compulsory for doctoral students who should participate in the teaching) 3 credits Research
seminars within Energy technology 5A5002 3 credits Writing Scientific Papers F9E5100 3 credits
Introductory course in Research philosophy F1N5111 (or the corresponding) 4.5 credits Energy systems
course, e.g. national course of Swedish Energy Agency 7.5 credits

Exception from obligations may be done under certain circumstances. Transfer of courses from the first
and second cycle programmes may take place according to KTH's regulatory framework.

Recommended courses Literature study course 4A5004 15 credits Writing popular science 4A5007 3
credits

It is a ambition that each doctoral student within the program should spend one semester at another
university.
Thesis

Licentiate thesis

A licentiate thesis should contain an application of existing scientific knowledge within a new field that the student has developed via theoretical or empirical research. It should also contain an overview of previous research within the chosen subject area and position the doctoral student's contribution in relation to previous research.

Whether the licentiate thesis is presented as a monograph or as a compilation thesis of scientific articles, it should be of such quality that it is assessed to correspond to at least two articles published in internationally recognised scientific magazines with referent review. For a compilation thesis, the doctoral student should be sole author of at least one article.

After approval from the principal supervisor, the licentiate thesis is presented at a public seminar with an external reviewer/opponent.

Doctoral thesis

Theses can be written as a monograph or a compilation thesis. Unless special reasons exist, the thesis should be written in English.

A thesis should contain new theoretical and/or empirical research results within the field that the doctoral student has chosen to develop, via theoretical and empirical research. The thesis should contain an overview of relevant previous research and position the doctoral student's contribution in relation to previous research.

Whether the thesis is presented as a monograph or as a compilation thesis of scientific articles, it should be of such quality that the doctoral student's contribution is assessed to correspond to at least four articles published in internationally recognised scientific magazines with referent review.

Entry requirements and selection

General and special admission requirements and prior knowledge

General admission requirements according to Higher Education Ordinance (HF), chapter 7, section 39 has those that have
1. been awarded a second-cycle qualification,
2. satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second-cycle, or
3. acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

Doctoral students should be able to read and write scientific English and be able to speak English fluently.

No specific entry requirements are applied. At the selection, the applicants are assessed from the requirements in the specific project.

Selection rules and procedures
The program is primarily directed towards recruiting Swedish and foreign Master of Engineering/M. Sc. graduates with energy engineering specialisation (or the equivalent). Due to the multi-disciplinary nature of the subject, students with other technical or non-technical background could be considered in certain projects. The selection takes place based on the applicant's academic and personal qualifications and the student's ability to benefit from the postgraduate education. The selection is governed by HF, chapter 7, section 41.

Admission takes place continuously throughout the year. Doctoral students admitted anytime during an academic year are regarded as belonging to the same school year.

The programme’s degrees and examinations

Degree of Licentiate and Degree of Doctor (PhD)

For Degree of Licentiate, 120 credits are required, of which the course module should comprise at least 30 credits.

For Degree of Doctor, 240 credits are required, of which the course module should comprise at least 60 credits.

The doctoral students of the program are normally expected to take a licentiate degree, even if a doctoral degree is the final goal. In the case the principal supervisor and the doctoral student agree that Degree of Licentiate should not be taken, an intermediate seminar should be held when the doctoral student has reached half of the requirements for a Degree of Doctor. To this seminar, an external expert should be invited as reviewer. At the seminar should both achieved results, and planned specialisation for the continued work be presented. The reviewer should give a statement about the completed work and a recommendation about the planned continuation.

No later than three months before the public defence of doctoral thesis an open final review is held, where the doctoral student presents his/her work. At the seminar, an internally appointed external expert participates as a reviewer. After presentation and interrogation the supervisor assembly meet. At the meeting, the contents and quality of the thesis are discussed. The principal supervisor explains that the thesis is ready to be defended. The external expert the reviewer give his/her approva as an internal quality auditor, possibly with certain reservations concerning changes in the thesis. The supervisor also presents proposals for opponent/reviewer and examination committee. If the supervisor assembly finds that the thesis satisfies the quality standards, the supervisor is asked to bring the process further to the public defence of the doctoral thesis.

These rules are subordinate to KTH's joint regulatory frameworks.

The programme’s examinations

No general tests apart from examination of courses.